

**Board of Supervisors Meeting  
MINUTES**

March 13, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Jim Brownlow and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present:** Supervisors: Karen Bedics, Jim Brownlow, Chuck Halderman, and Rob Zisko. (Rod Wieder was absent.) Also present: Terry Clemons, Solicitor; Sandy Everitt, Secretary/Treasurer; Scott Huber, Police Chief; and Rich Schilling, Township Manager.

Jim Brownlow noted that the Supervisors had an executive session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel matters.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chuck Halderman **moved** that the February 27, 2007, minutes be approved as corrected. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. (The February 13 meeting was cancelled because of inclement weather.)

**Approval of Bills**

Rob Zisko **moved** to accept the bills for payment as listed on the February 24 – March 13, 2007, bill summary. Jim Brownlow **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

**Reports**

**Road Department Report** – Posted for public review.

**Code Enforcement Report** – Posted for public review.

**Police Report** – Chief Huber reported that in February, the department responded to 80 incidents. There were 6 accidents involving 8 vehicles with one injury and no fatalities. There were 8 traffic arrests and 1 non-traffic arrest with 3 traffic warnings issued during the month. The State Police investigated 26 incidents during February. (The entire police report can be viewed on the Police Section of the Township website.)

Karen Bedics reported that she received a call on a Saturday morning from a resident whose daughter was attacked by a loose dog while she was walking her dog on Stony Garden Road. They had difficulty reaching anyone to address this problem on Saturday. Karen instructed the family to contact our department during the week, as this appears to be a problem which has also happened in the past. Karen asked that the Dog Warden's name and phone number be placed on our Township Directory.

**Township Manager's Report** – Rich Schilling advised that on February 22, he attended the Regional EAC meeting where Ken Simmons was awarded the *Every Day Hero Award*. On March 2, Rich and representatives from the Springtown Water Authority met with State Representative Paul Clymer; John Fabian, Chief of Technical Services of DEP; and Vickie Johnson, a PennVest Project Specialist, to discuss grant and funding opportunities for the Water Authority through PennVest. Although not optimistic about receiving further grants, the Water Authority is hopeful that they will be able to secure a low-interest loan through PennVest.

The police contract is an ongoing process. The negotiators have met seven times to date. The March 8 pension advisory committee was postponed and will be rescheduled.

A letter was mailed to State and Federal representatives advising of the township's need for a FEMA mobile home. Rich also spoke directly to Representative Clymer and assistants to Congressman Murphy and Senator Wonderling about this need. Congressman Murphy forwarded a letter on the township's behalf to the Department of General Services.

The March 7 meeting with the By Way Coordinator and Springfield Township was cancelled due to inclement weather and is rescheduled for March 14.

Regarding the Rolling Hills (and Mandarino) Subdivisions, the Planning Commission is requesting that the Board of Supervisors to:

1. Hire a soil scientist to do testing and monitoring at the Rolling Hills Subdivision site because of a change in soil classification.
2. Have the Carbonate Geology Report forwarded to SAIC for their review and comment for both the Rolling Hills and the Mandarino Subdivisions.
3. Authorize a wetlands study for the Rolling Hills Subdivision.

Rob Zisko **moved** to implement the recommendations of the Planning Commission as listed above. In the interest of time and the ongoing submissions coming in from Rolling Hills, Bob Wynn and Terry Clemons will select the appropriate firm to do the soil testing and wetlands study. Karen Bedics **seconded** the motion; it **passed** unanimously.

Chuck Halderman expressed concern that our professional staff is again reviewing items related to Rolling Hills with no Planning Commission involvement. Terry Clemons stated that Rolling Hills classification of wetlands and soil types on their property differ from the Township's understanding of the soils and wetlands contained on the parcel. It is for this reason that the Commission is requesting that the Township hire an appropriate engineer to validate the information being supplied by the applicant so that when the plan is reviewed, it can be reviewed with accurate information in hand as to wetlands and soils. Terry further stated that the Planning Commission requested that Rolling Hills be placed on the April 7 Planning Commission agenda to discuss design issues.

Chuck felt the Township should hire a professional to do a traffic impact study. Terry said this was also a concern of the Planning Commission, but they did not feel now was the appropriate time to conduct that study.

Chuck Halderman **moved**; Rob Zisko **seconded** that Terry Clemons be authorized to send a letter to DEP to set a new time period for public comment to review the Sewage Planning Modules for Rolling Hills beginning from March 13, when the modules were actually received by the Township. The motion **passed** unanimously.

RFP for Act 537 Monitoring / Sewage Consultant was advertised and the deadline for submissions is March 26.

Richland Township submitted information on Ag Security additions that they have authorized by resolution. The Jay Saddington property was not included in that resolution. Rob Zisko **moved** that we only accept Springfield Township properties for inclusion into the Ag Security District. Chuck Halderman **seconded** the motion. Rob feels that the time involved in screening properties is prohibitive and the benefits available to property owners in Ag Security are the primary reasons for excluding properties in other townships. After some discussion, Rob withdrew his motion and it was decided that future applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Terry Clemons revised resolution 2007-05 to include only the four Springfield Township properties (42-5-2, 42-5-6, 42-9-134-5 and 42-20-14) in the Ag Security District. Rob Zisko **moved**; Karen Bedics **seconded** that we accept the revised Resolution 2007-05 listing only the four Springfield Township properties. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Rob Zisko has five additional requests that need processing and he has personal time constraints which are making it difficult for him to process these requests. Chuck encouraged Rob to delegate the preliminary work to other members of the Ag Security Committee.

Rich Schilling noted that although current money earned from the paper recycling bin is small (11.47), the Township has cut the amount of other trash considerably and ultimately, there will be greater costs savings. There will be an article in the spring Township Newsletter notifying residents of the recycling bin now available which will promote greater use and help earnings to grow.

Rich distributed copies of the 2006 Auditors' Reports to the Board. They will review this report and adopt it at the March 26 meeting.

### Public Comments

**Charlie Mease** asked how requests from neighboring townships to be included the Ag Security District will be handled. He wondered if the five million dollars authorized for conserving land in Springfield Township could be used for properties from other townships in the Springfield Township Ag Security District. Rob Zisko assured him those funds would only be used to conserve Springfield Township parcels and any follow up of nuisance complaints would be assumed and handled by the township in which the parcel was located.

**Hans Reimann**, referring to the New Business item relating to the part-time zoning officer, stated he felt that individual, in addition to having building and code enforcement knowledge, should also have general knowledge and expertise in enforcing environmental codes.

### Old Business

**1. Fire Department Commitment for Fire Truck** – Jeff Mease, presenting for the Springtown Fire Company, stated they received documents from the State Fire Commissioner and from the PA DCED. All documents were submitted to Rich Schilling, Terry Clemons and the Board. Several decisions will need to be made by the Board regarding whether the Township will either guarantee the loan or issue a general obligation note. Terry Clemons feels the Township might become involved in a number of legalities by becoming co-owner of the truck. The Board asked the solicitor to review the documents and advise them at a future meeting.

Jeff reviewed that the cost of the new fire truck is \$525,000. A \$150,000 will be made by the Fire Department, made possible in part from a grant the fire department received. The fire department is seeking additional grant options which, if obtained, may reduce the loan balance. Jeff noted, however, that replacement of aging equipment is a continual process.

Rob Zisko **moved** that the appropriate township official(s) be authorized to execute the *Co-Signature Document* to guarantee the loan after the documents have been reviewed by the solicitor. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

The Springtown Fire Company will supply their audit as soon as it is available.

**2. Springtown Water Authority** – Ken Simmons presented the first formal report for the Authority (established September 12, 2006). Actual control of the system began on January 1, 2007. The packet provided to the Board included a copy of the March 12, 2007, letter mailed to users; a non-scale map of the water system; and an organization chart of the Authority. Of special note, Ken mentioned the Authority has system consultants who are specialists in various fields and a citizens' committee of water users to be the eyes and ears for the Authority in the community, reporting any problems that need to be addressed. The seven members of the Authority Board have been divided into four sub-committees: Construction, Water Quality, System Monitoring and Repair and Finance.

Dick Cernok, member of the System Monitoring and Repair Committee, reported that all water meters will be replaced over a three- to four-year period, as part of the full system upgrade. Six water meter companies were contacted and made presentations to the Authority. The meters were put out for public bid and the bid has been awarded. The new meters will be read by remote control from a vehicle driving by the properties, thus no meter readers will be going onto private properties. Meter installation will begin in three to four weeks.

Ken introduced Dennis Steskal who is heading up the five-year \$700,000 capital program of the Authority. Dennis noted that the Zoning Hearing Board gave approval for the new tank. The bid package for this tank is being put together and they hope to have the new tank installed by the end of the summer season of 2007. The lines from New Hill to Greenwood streets will be the first to be upgraded. Walnut Street is also scheduled for upgraded lines. The pump house will need to be expanded so that there is room to access the building. Dennis noted that \$140,000 of the capital program is partly fire protection. They will be seeking possible grants to obtain these improvements that are specifically for fire protection.

Rich Schilling thanked Sandra Kugler of Walnut Street, Springtown, for her comments at the last Board meeting. As a result of her comments about the condition of Walnut Street, the Township will be coordinating repair of

Walnut Street with the proposed upgrade of the water lines. Sandra also alerted the Township about a vacant home that should be checked. Jeff Mease checked this home the following day and there was water running in the home, so Jeff turned the water off.

A document will be included in the next mailing to water customers indicating that the water quality has been tested for four consecutive quarters and that it is good. Ray Janus has prepared a schedule for implementing required water testing.

Aimee Douglas, treasurer and CPA, was commended for her work getting things up and running. The first billing got out late, but future billings should be mailed on schedule. A bank account has been established and funds currently held by the Township will be transferred into this account.

Ken asked whether a report could be made on a semi-annual basis to the Board. Jim Brownlow stated that the Board will work with the Authority to set up a written report format to be submitted on a quarterly basis, with the verbal report being made semi-annually.

**3. Re-Zoning Process** – Chuck Halderman does not feel we should establish a Central Business District before we revise the Township’s Act 537 plan. Chuck concluded that he will not vote for a Zoning Ordinance revision that contains any district changes prior to revision of the Township’s Act 537 plan. He also feels that ½ acre and ¾ acre cluster option needs to be removed from the Zoning Ordinance until the Act 537 plan is rewritten to cover these cluster options. Chuck feels the only cluster option that should be in the draft Zoning Ordinance is the one-acre cluster.

Rob Zisko feels that we should follow the Comprehensive Plan, which recommends that the 309 corridor should be changed to Central Business District. He agrees that it is important to revise the Act 537 and perhaps it should be put on a fast track.

Jim Brownlow stated that the Supervisors have charged the Planning Commission to spearhead revising the zoning ordinance, and the Supervisors are officially part of that group, so these concerns should be discussed at those meetings.

Terry Clemons stated it is his understanding that the Central Business District will not be included in the revised Zoning Ordinance being proposed, but rather, will be included at a later date as a revision to the Zoning Ordinance. Rich Schilling stated this is also his understanding from attending the meetings.

Chuck feels it is important that minutes be taken at all meetings (Zoning Revision, etc.) and provided to the Board so that they are fully informed. Rich Schilling will ensure that supervisors receive minutes from future Joint Zoning Ordinance Revision meetings. He will also see that supervisors receive the minutes taken by Bob Wynn at the last meeting.

Jim Brownlow requested a timeline for implementing a revised Act 537. Rich Schilling will obtain that information from Bobb Carson, Pete Lamana and Bob Wynn to obtain the timeline.

**4. E-Meeting Discussion Board** – Discussion on this topic was deferred until the March 27 work session.

#### **New Business**

**1. Award Bid for John Deere Backhoe** – Rich Schilling stated three bids were received:

Halden Ballek Farms	-	\$10,414.00
Hazleton Equipment Co	-	\$ 4,791.00 (does not meet bid specifications)
Dan Shimp	-	\$ 9,275.00

Rob Zisko **moved** that the bid be awarded to Halden Ballek Farms for \$10,414. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

**2. Adams Outdoor Advertising** – Karen Bedics shared some information from the Zoning Hearing Board meeting with the Board. The proposed LED sign is not a large billboard like the one currently in Coopersburg along Route 309. The proposed sign is much smaller, lower to the ground, with a rustic appearance.

Terry Clemons mentioned there are other legal issues involved in this case. The existing sign is 300 square feet, which is a non-conforming size, according to our current ordinance. The applicant wants to replace that sign with a 250 square foot sign, which is also non-conforming. The sign is closer to the road than our ordinance permits and they want to put the new sign in the same non-conforming location.

**3. Bucks County West Nile Virus Spraying** – Jim Brownlow indicated Bucks County would like Township approval to spray municipal properties for mosquito control. Karen Bedics asked what Township property was proposed for spraying. Rich Schilling was not certain, but felt it might be road right-of-ways and municipal properties. Rich offered to obtain additional information. Rob Zisko **moved** that we authorize Bucks County to spray municipal properties. Jim Brownlow **seconded**. Chuck Halderman requested more information before voting. Jim Brownlow called for the vote. Voting **No:** Karen Bedics, Chuck Halderman; Voting **Yes:** Jim Brownlow, Rob Zisko. Motion **failed**.

**4. Part-Time Zoning Officer** – Jim Brownlow reported that the candidates that applied for this position did not meet the qualifications; therefore, no one will be appointed to this position at this time.

**5. CDL Hire for Road Department** – Rich Schilling stated that Roadmaster Rich Pursell would like to promote the current part-time employee to full-time status. This was budgeted for in this year's budget. A fourth man is often required when road work is done; two men to do the actual road work and two to do traffic control. When police are available, they are utilized for traffic control, but they are not always available. Prior to hiring this individual, Rich would like to institute a policy requiring a physical examination to ensure that the individual will be able to perform the duties of the position. In addition, he would like to institute a probationary period for new employees. Rich Pursell is suggesting a six-month probationary period. Karen Bedics felt that the time the individual has already worked for the road department should be considered. Rich Schilling agrees that six-months is too long and will discuss the issue with Rich Pursell. Terry Clemons questioned whether a probationary period is really necessary, in that this employee will be an "at will" employee.

Rich Schilling will prepare draft policies and this topic will be discussed again at the March 27 work session.

### Correspondence

Jim Brownlow noted the correspondence received and distributed to the supervisors:

- Miscellaneous correspondence from the Township Solicitor and Township Engineer
- Letter from Heritage Conservancy
- Letter from PA Historical Museum Commission
- Bucks County Open Space Information Map
- PA Planning Association Invitation

### Public Comment

**Rose Strong** – Rose questioned the Silver Creek Athletic Association insert that was approved for insertion in the next Township Newsletter at no cost to Silver Creek. Rose stated that Silver Creek Association has turned down the request for a discounted price for the Township to use their facility for Community Day on September 29. Rich clarified that the Board had authorized the Silver Creek insert to be part of our Newsletter at no cost. It was his idea to contact Silver Creek to see if they might be willing to reciprocate by offering a reduced rental for our event. Rose is concerned with the precedent of offering free mailing to a privately run organization. Rich reminded the Board that the determination to provide this service was based upon the extensive service provided by Silver Creek to youth with baseball programs, etc. Rich also noted that various fees had been waived for other agencies, i.e., Springtown Water Authority.

Chuck Halderman asked whether there would be an insert for the Rod & Gun Club and was advised that no request had been received from them.

**Charlie Mease** suggested Pleasant Hollow Farm as a possible location for the Community Day event.

Other sites suggested for the Community Day event were Passer Community Center, Springfield Elementary School, and the Rod & Gun Club.

Rob Zisko **moved** to establish a \$500 budget to permit the Community Day committee to secure a facility for this event. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

**Dennis Steskal** asked whether residents could put cardboard in the container marked “cardboard” next to the Abitibi Paper Retriever. He was advised that was only for Township use and that the Township had to pay to have that picked up. Rich Schilling indicated that he was looking into possible cardboard recycling for the community.

**Hans Reimann** asked about the putting revising our Stormwater Ordinance on the “fast track” to bring it into compliance with the new PA DEP manual that was recently put out. Hans referred to Bob Wynn’s synopsis in his March 1, 2007, letter of the seminar he attended regarding this issue. Hans felt these things should be regulations backed by enforcement tools to see that they are followed.

**Pete Jones** asked when the next Zoning Revision meeting would be held and was advised it would be held on Thursday, March 15.

**Karen Bedics** read the letter received from Paul Clymer indicating that the Jacob Funk house and barn in Springfield Township was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on February 7, 2007.

### Supervisors Comments

**Karen Bedics** suggested that a policy should be developed for all the committees in the Township stating whether or not minutes are required, when they are required, preparation of agendas and who should receive these items. The Board authorized Rich Schilling to prepare such a policy. Rob Zisko asked that printed copies of material be provided for him, as he frequently does not review his emails.

**Karen Bedics noted** that the EAC has requested money to help them purchase a velocity meter to monitor the water quality of Cooks Creek. They have an opportunity to join with Cooks Creek Watershed and Durham EAC to acquire this piece of equipment. The cost to Springfield would be approximately \$300. The EAC is budgeted \$500, and Karen would like to authorize this cost out of their budgeted amount. Hans Reimann stated that the equipment would be kept in the rear of Scott Douglas’ property. Jim Brownlow felt it might be better to give the donation to the Cooks Creek Watershed Association so that someone would be responsible for monitoring the equipment. Jim felt it would be best to have a formal request from Cooks Creek Watershed Association before the Board acts on this request. Hans will bring this up to the Association at their next meeting.

**Karen Bedics** received remarks from a resident about the number of realtor signs that are littering various Township intersections. She understands that permits are required to post such signs, and wondered if this has been taking place. These signs sometimes create a dangerous situation when they obstruct the view of a driver attempting to pull out onto a highway.

Rich Schilling will review this issue with Jeff Mease (Zoning Officer), Rich Pursell (Roadmaster) and Chief Huber.

### Adjournment

At 10:00 p.m., Jim Brownlow **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt  
Secretary

Next meeting: March 27, 2007