

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

March 22, 2011

Volker Oakey, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board held an Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss real estate matters.

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, Barbara Lindtner (arrived 8:30 p.m.), Dave Long and Volker Oakey. Absent: Rob Zisko. Also present: Scott MacNair, Co-Solicitor (left at 9:55.); Sandy Everitt, Secretary/Treasurer; Mark Laudenslager, Chief of Police (left at 9:25) Rich Schilling, Township Manager and Bob Wynn, Township Engineer.

Approval of Minutes

Karen Bedics moved to adopt the February 22, 2011, minutes as presented. Dave Long seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Bills for Approval

Dave Long moved to approve the following bills paid from February 23, 2011 – March 17, 2011:

1. General Fund	\$ 48,225.88	4. Subdivision & Escrow Funds	\$ 6,465.02
2. Liquid Fuels	\$ 10,530.16	5. Open Space EIT Fund	\$ 3,475.63
3. Special Fees Fund	\$ 4,296.79		

It was noted that \$8,716.50 was paid to UBREMS, our local EMS unit. Karen Bedics seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Road Department – Salt borrowed from PennDOT was returned to them. The Police Department gave the road departments of the township and PennDOT a list of roads with pot holes that need to be repaired.

Police Department – In February 2011, the Township police handled 129 calls and the State Police investigated 22 Township incidents. Property valued at \$2,062 was stolen with \$1,500 worth of property recovered. One burglary occurred on Route 212 between State and California Roads. One crash occurred, involving one vehicle and no injuries.

Chief Laudenslager noted that Officer Mike McDonald mounted two LED lights on the speed trailer, which greatly enhances the effectiveness of the unit. Officer McDonald was also instrumental in keeping the repair costs down on the police vehicle that hit a deer, by assisting with the bodywork. This permitted the department to have the vehicle re-stripped with new design. Karen asked for an update on the three DUI checkpoint options that Chief Laudenslager presented several meetings ago. He noted that the Springfield Police would be participating in one in June in another municipality. Chief Laudenslager noted that if any of our officers elected to participate in an April DUI checkpoint, this would include a checkpoint in Springfield Township.

Volker Oakey asked for an update on the meeting Rich Schilling recently had with Senator Mensch with regard to making the use of radar possible in local Pennsylvania police departments. Rich said passage of this bill does not look promising. Chief Laudenslager feels the resistance to this is because of concerns that local police would use this as a revenue-producing tool. Volker suggested we follow up on this with our legislators, in that Pennsylvania is the only state where radar cannot be utilized by local police departments.

Township Manager – Rich Schilling shared the draft solar power regulations that the Planning Commission prepared for the Board's review. Rich attended a March 10 meeting with Senator Mensch and provided notes from that meeting for the Board's review. Rich updated the Board on the Coopersburg Kenworth oil spill. He noted that the Township switched from AT&T to Service Electric Cable for landline phones, which will save the Township approximately \$170 a month. The Township is also switching to Reiss Brothers for trash pickup. They are providing a container for cardboard recycling large enough to permit township residents to bring their flattened household cardboard cartons for recycling. The monthly cost to the Township will increase only \$15. Preliminary census figures indicate the Township's population increased to 5,026. The official figures will be released in June. A number of mandates will affect the township if the population exceeds 5,000, one of which Rich believes is

mandatory recycling by residents. Karen asked that a link be placed on the Township's website to access the final census information when it is received. The Board discussed gas drilling, what a township can require of drillers and what is in the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Act. Volker would like to review the PA Act to determine if it sufficiently regulates drilling and if regulating the PA Act at the local level would be sufficient.

Finally, Rich provided the PSATS resolutions that will be considered for adoption at the April conference. He asked the Board to review them and forward any comments to him. Rich will share these comments with Dave Long, the Board's voting delegate.

Rich noted that the Extreme Spa on Route 309 closed their business.

Governmental Matters

Rich shared letters received from Representative Paul Clymer and Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick in response to the letter the Board wrote to them about Marcellus Shale Gas drilling concerns. Volker Oakey asked Scott MacNair to prepare a brief update on the Nockamixon Township litigation against gas drilling companies within that township.

Public Hearing – Addition of Properties to the Agricultural Security Area

Martin and Robin Staff have applied to have three parcels—42-12-5, 42-12-6 and 42-12-12—included in the Springfield Township Agricultural Security Area. The properties comprise 172.97 acres and are located at 2510 Old Bethlehem Road. The Board acknowledged receipt of the application at their February 22 meeting. Public notice of a 15-day comment period was in *The Intelligencer* on February 25 with proof of publication on file. No public comments were received during the 15-day period. On March 14, the Bucks County and Springfield Township Planning Commissions as well as the Ag Security Committee received copies of the application. These groups offered no objections to the addition of these parcels to the Ag Security District. On March 16, notice of this hearing was advertised in *The Intelligencer* and posted on the property. There was no public objection during the comment period of the hearing. Karen Bedics moved to adopt Resolution 2011-04, accepting TMP's 42-12-5, 42-12-6 and 42-12-12 into Springfield Township's Ag Security District. Dave Long seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- 1. Appointments to Springtown Water Authority Board** – Due to an oversight, Ray Janus was not reappointed to the Water Authority Board in January. In addition, a Board position is open due to Dennis Steskal's resignation. Karen Bedics moved to appoint Ray Janus to a four-year term on the Water Authority. Dave Long seconded; the motion passed unanimously. There were two applicants for the open position. Joseph Millen provided a letter and resume to the Board. Bruce Strock was initially interested in an appointment to the position, but stated he felt Mr. Millen would be a good addition to the Water Authority Board and thus withdrew his name from consideration. Mr. Millen presented his engineering and management credentials. Ken Simmons noted that Mr. Millen was influential in steering the Springtown Water Authority toward installation of the stainless steel water tank. After a profitable period of discussion, Karen Bedics moved to appoint Joe Millen to the Springtown Water Authority for a four-year term. Volker Oakey seconded; the motion passed unanimously.
- 2. Pension Fund *Statement of Investment Policy*** – The investment policy for the police and non-uniform pension plans required updating, in that the current policy is not attainable in the current market. Morgan Stanley/Smith Barney, the pension plan's investment firm, provided a draft that the Township's solicitor reviewed, edited and presented for Board review prior to this meeting. The major changes made by the Township solicitor were to bring the investment policy into agreement with the governing documents for both plans. In addition, the primary responsibility for dealing with pension fund issues was placed with the Pension Committee rather than with the Board of Supervisors. After discussion, Volker Oakey moved to adopt Resolution 2011-05, the revised Police and Non-Uniform Pension Plans *Statement of Investment Policy*. Karen Bedics seconded; the motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Towne Watch** – The Township posted a question on the PSATS discussion group website regarding whether Town Watch programs were run independent of townships or under township authority. Each of the three responses received indicated their town watch programs operated independent of the Township. An online search of approximately 12 town watch programs found that none were under a township's authority. Pertaining to insurance, there was no cost difference if a town watch program was under the township unless a significant claim caused insurance rates to increase. Another negative to having the town watch under the township is that all of their meetings would need to be advertised and would be open for anyone to attend, which would not be advantageous, due to the nature of their service. Barbara Lindtner asked how the township would be involved with the program if the town watch functioned independently. Chief Laudenslager stated that the liaison to the town watch would be from

the police department. Police involvement is critical to the success of a Town Watch, because they provide helpful information to those involved in patrols. At this time, Officers McDonald and Sepulveda are the police liaisons.

The name selected by Springfield's group is "Towne Watch," and about 12 individuals (mostly from the central part of the township) are presently attending Towne Watch meetings. Jim Nilsen stated that the first priorities of this core group after obtaining Board permission to constitute independently, were: 1) obtaining status as a non-profit, 2) obtaining insurance and 3) obtaining and placing signage in the Township. After that, they would solicit for additional volunteers to provide patrol service throughout the township. Another Towne Watch goal will be to educate the public about what they need to do to keep their properties safe. Debbie Yerger, President of the Towne Watch, presented a sample of the sign the group was recommending for placement throughout the Township, which the Board liked very much. Chief Laudenslager contacted PennDOT about sign regulations. PennDOT will put their sign requirements in writing. The Towne Watch plans to have a booth at Community Day and an article in the next Township Newsletter. The Board agreed that the Road Department can assist the Towne Watch in putting up signs. \$1,500 in donations has come in for the Towne Watch, largely from Chief Laudenslager's outreach into the community. Barb Lindtner suggested that the Newsletter article solicit both recruits and contributions. Bruce Strock suggested that the group should place a phone number on the signs. Jim Nilsen said that the main purpose for signage was to make people aware that people in Springfield Township watch out for each other. It was the consensus of the group that the only number someone should call with concerns about criminal activity is 911.

Volker Oakey moved to authorize the Towne Watch to incorporate as an entity separate from the Township. Dave Long seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Barbara Lindtner moved to authorize the transfer of the funds originally donated to the Farm Market to the Towne Watch after they receive their status as a non-profit organization. Karen Bedics seconded. Karen asked if the Towne Watch would need to submit reports to the Township of how they are spending the money. This will not occur, since they will be a separate organization. Debbie Yerger asked that the motion be revised to permit the funds to be transferred as soon as they are established as a legal entity with a legal name, in that to obtain a non-profit status, the group will be applying for 501.C.3 status, which can take a long time. They want to order the signs before they obtain the 501.C.3 status. Barbara Lindtner revised the motion to: "moved to authorize the transfer of Farm Market funds to the Towne Watch after they are legally organized. Karen Bedics seconded the revised motion. The group is meeting the first Thursday of each month. Debbie Yerger introduced the officers of the Towne Watch who were present to the Board: Debbie Yerger, President; Brian Flack, Vice President; Jim Nilsen, Treasurer and Cherie Vieczorek, secretary. Volker Oakey asked for clarification about what the Towne Watch would be doing. Debbie Yerger said they would be organizing, incorporating and then going for their 501.C.3 status. Volker clarified that until the 501.C.3 status is obtained, there would be a time during which gifts to the Towne Watch would not be a tax write off. The Towne Watch group is talking with four potential legal consultants about when they should actually accept the transfer of funds from the Township. Scott MacNair said the Township could pay for the signs out of the Farm Market account (not utilizing the funds donated specifically for the Towne Watch) ahead of the funds being transferred to the Towne Watch. Barbara called for the question. The revised motion passed unanimously.

Barbara Lindtner moved to authorize the Towne Watch to proceed with the purchase of the signage as presented to the Board (with the noted spelling correction made). Bob Wynn suggested that the signage should be high quality or diamond grade material for best wear, although he is not certain the regulations for road signs apply to the Towne Watch signage. Volker Oakey seconded; the motion passed unanimously. There was discussion about the Open Space Committee and the Towne Watch working together to develop clearer artwork for the logo that could then be used by both groups for signage.

4. Draft Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance – Discussion held until after New Business

New Business

1. Eagle Scout Work Project – Tyler Daly, a Life Scout of Springfield Township Troop 81, requested permission to install two signs for the Springfield Township Historic Commission as his Eagle Scout project. His work would include clearing out the brush in the signage areas, spreading mulch around the sign bases, and after obtaining landowners' permission at the sign sites, planting bushes and/or plants that are indigenous to this area. Karen Freeh, Historic Commission chairperson, has permission from the Methodist Church for the sign installation on their property. The second site under consideration is where the Farm Market sign is now located (near the Springtown Fire Department), since the Farm Market will not be reopening. Rich Schilling will require a liability waiver from Tyler prior to commencement of the work. Mrs. Daly stated that the Boy Scouts' insurance plan fully insures this activity. Other members of the troop will assist Tyler with the project. Rich will assist as needed with PennDOT issues and the police will offer safety support as needed for those working along the road. Karen Bedics moved to authorize Tyler

Daly to proceed with the installation of the Springtown Historic District signs as described to the Board. Dave Long seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Community Day Committee Vacancies** - The Board appointed Dolores and Willard Weierbach to the Community Day Committee at the re-organization meeting. Rich overlooked that he did not have an official letter from them requesting reappointment. Since that time, Dolores Weierbach indicated she does not want to serve again on this committee. For that reason, Rich requested authorization to advertise for candidates to fill this vacancy. Karen Bedics moved to authorize advertisement for the vacancy on this and other Township committees. Dave Long seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business (continued)

4. **Draft Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance** – Rob Zisko could not make the meeting tonight and requested that discussion on this topic be tabled until the next meeting. Because of the lateness of the hour (9:30 p.m.), it was the consensus of the Board to table discussion on the draft SALDO until the April 26 meeting. The solar draft ordinance will not be discussed until the Board review of the SALDO is completed.

Public Comments

John Oehler suggested that the Towne Watch should have insurance before the funds are transferred to them. Jim Nilsen said that the Towne Watch has investigated insurance, as well as several other issues, but was waiting for Board authorization to operate independently before moving ahead on these issues.

Rich Schilling noted that the April 2 Cooks Creek Roadside Cleanup was missed in the *Dates of Interest* listing. He and the police department will be working all day for this event.

Jim Nilsen asked for township help in getting utility poles on his property repaired/replaced that were damaged in vehicle accidents. Rich Schilling will work with Jim to get Verizon to make these repairs.

Supervisors Comments

Barbara Lindtner stated that the Board would hold an Executive Session following this meeting to discuss real estate acquisition.

Karen Bedics said the Ad Hoc Committee to review ways to bring more business to the Township was going to continue functioning. She had previously stated that this Committee was dissolving; however, several individuals have since volunteered to work with her. Karen also asked that Rich Schilling try to find out who had cleaned up the litter by the roadway going up Ghost Mountain so that the Township can send a thank-you letter. Karen recently completed work online through the Penn State University Master Well Owner Network training. She committed to educating 100 people over the next year in how to care for their wells. She will have access to all of Penn State's materials and she plans to have sessions at the Springtown Fire Department where she can show Power Point presentations that were extremely helpful to her.

Volker Oakey discussed the Bucks County letter on spraying for West Nile Virus. He asked Rich Schilling to find out the name of the product the County uses.

Rich Schilling stated that the Township has a new software program that enables conversion of any pdf document to Word, Excel and various other types of documents.

Adjournment

At 9:45 p.m., Dave Long moved to adjourn the meeting. Volker Oakey seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt
Township Secretary

Next meeting: April 26, 2011
Approved: April 26, 2011