

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

March 9, 2010

Jim Brownlow, Chairman, 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 land acquisition.

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, Jim Brownlow, Barbara Lindtner, Volker Oakey and Rob Zisko.

Also present: Sandy Everitt, Secretary/Treasurer; Mark Laudenslager, Chief of Police; Terry Clemons, Solicitor; and Rich Schilling, Township Manager.

Minutes

Barbara Lindtner **moved** to adopt the February 9, 2010, minutes as presented. Volker Oakey **seconded**. Voting **Yes:** Karen Bedics, Jim Brownlow, Barbara Linter and Volker Oakey. **Abstaining:** Rob Zisko (not present for the 2/9/10 meeting.) The motion **carried**.

Karen Bedics **moved** to adopt the February 23, 2010, minutes as corrected. Rob Zisko **seconded**. Voting **Yes:** Karen Bedics, Volker Oakey and Rob Zisko. **Abstaining:** Jim Brownlow and Barbara Lindtner (not present for the 2/23/10 meeting) The motion **carried**.

Bills for Approval

Karen Bedics **moved** to approve the following bills paid from February 24 through March 9, 2010:

1. General Fund	\$14,919.52	4. Open Space	\$ 7,561.97
2. Liquid Fuels	\$19,991.07	5. Subdivision Escrow	\$11,455.24
3. Highway Capital Improvement	\$ 403.42		

Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Reports

Road Department – (Posted) Barbara Lindtner commented on the 657 hours spent by the Road Department on winter maintenance in one month. During the same one-month period, 322 hours were spent maintaining the road equipment.

Police Report – (Posted on website) During February 2010, Springfield officers handled 122 incidents, with the State Police handling 31 incidents during the same period. \$32,022 of property was stolen with \$135 recovered. Chief Laudenslager noted there were several nighttime burglaries during February. The Chief encouraged residents who are out at night to make their house appear like someone is home.

Township Manager – Rich Schilling met with Fire Chief Will Helm on February 12 to discuss Fire Department issues.

He attended an informative Right-to-Know Seminar held at Richland Township on March 1.

The township received a donation of \$13,000 to fund the Farmers Market. Rich is working with the Farm Market Advisory Board to get Management Agreements in place for the two individuals filling the Manager and Development Associate positions.

Rich forwarded the Act 537 Plan Resolution 2010-004 (accepted by the Supervisors at their last meeting) to Lombardo Associates, who then submitted the draft Act 537 plan to DEP for their review.

Implementation of the GIS system will occur when tax revenue begins coming in, usually in April.

Rich anticipates an income in March of between \$10 – 12,000. U & O inspections should increase because of the tax rebate to homebuyers for settlement agreements signed by April 30.

Rich is working to establish a UCC Appeal Board to hear appeals by individuals who do not agree with a decision made by a Building Code Enforcement Officer. He will put a request to advertise for qualified individuals

(plumber, electrician, etc.) to serve on the Board on a future Board meeting agenda.

Jim Brownlow requested that Rich maintain a listing of open items from Board minutes and provide a copy of that listing to the Board.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

James Nilsen is concerned about the night burglaries, two occurring in the area in which he lives. He mentioned that he had not reported the theft of several trail cameras that were taken by hunters from his property. Chief Laudenslager will discuss these thefts further with him.

He was on the scene when the township snowplow went into the ditch. He noted that the driver of the township plow could not have avoided the accident.

Government Matters

Jim Brownlow thanked Rich Schilling for providing the list of Acts signed into law by the governor of Pennsylvania. He also commented on a recent bill introduced by Representative Paul Clymer proposing a \$5 per person tax for people attending adult entertainment establishments. Terry Clemons said the Springfield Township Planning Commission will ask the Board if they are satisfied with the adult entertainment provisions now in the Zoning Ordinance or whether the Board wants the Planning Commission to prepare further ordinance revisions. The Board will discuss at a future date whether to task the Planning Commission to work on a revision of that section.

Old Business

1) Open Space Committee Update – Laura Baird, Heritage Conservancy, reviewed the draft Open Space Plan that is still under the 30-day period for public review and comment. She said that updated maps were included in the draft given to the Board at this meeting. The revision of the 1999 Open Space Plan was required by the Bucks County Municipal Open Space Program in order for the township to submit applications to use the \$626,000 available through the County program for Springfield Township. Laura pointed out that over the past ten years, Springfield Township has progressed from having 220+ acres of preserved land to a current total of almost 1,900 acres preserved. Additionally, Springfield Township's Open Space Committee is currently reviewing about 30 conservation applications, while many other townships Heritage Conservancy works with are fortunate to have three applicants. The updated Open Space plan contains a revision of the priorities by which properties will be reviewed. When the Board moves the Open Space Plan forward, Bucks County Open Space Board will review it. If they approve the plan, the Township can submit applications to utilize some of the County funding available for Springfield Township. The Township must use the allocated \$626,000 of County funds by the end of 2014. Applications submitted to the County must conform with the criteria in the new Open Space Plan. Terry Clemons suggested that the evaluation criteria used by the Township Open Space Committee be added to the draft Open Space Plan as an addendum so that the BCPC approval includes the evaluation criteria. Rich Schilling pointed out that the error noted at the February 9 Board meeting (located on page 16, B, ¶ 2) which refers to the Township's 1991 Park & Recreation plan has not been corrected. The entire second paragraph needs to be deleted, as no Parks & Recreation Plan was ever adopted. Terry Clemons suggested that the Open Space Plan (page 21, B.) should reference the Riparian Buffer Ordinance recently sent to the Springtown and Bucks County Planning Commissions for review. (Terry would like the March 23 Board agenda to contain a request for authorization to advertise the Riparian Buffer Ordinance.)

Rich Schilling asked Terry Clemons if the draft Open Space Plan was advertised as being available for public review, as authorized by motion of the Board at their February 9 meeting. Terry said that there is no requirement to advertise the Open Space Plan. Scott MacNair was not aware of this at the February 9 meeting. Because the public has not had an opportunity to review the draft plan, Terry Clemons suggested that it (with suggested changes made) be placed on the Township website as well as being available at the Township building for public review until the March 23 meeting. Laura will make the changes and provide a revised document to the Township by the end of this week. Jim Brownlow asked that the website also state that the Board expects to adopt the Open Space Plan at the March 23 meeting. It was the consensus of the Board that the list of properties under consideration by the Township for preservation should not be included in the Open Space Plan, but that the criteria for evaluating properties should be in the draft plan. Laura Baird feels the ranking criteria used by the Open Space Committee are consistent with the Goals and Objectives of the Draft Open Space Plan.

Rich Schilling will include Heritage Conservancy in the RFP he will be preparing to obtain a consultant to assist in drafting the township's Parks & Recreation Plan.

Pertaining to the use of County Open Space funds for preparing the Township's Park & Recreation Plan, Rich retained a voice mail message he received from Chris Kern stating that County Open Space funds can be used for this purpose. Terry Clemons thinks there is a \$10,000 cap on how much can be used to complete Open Space and/or Parks & Recreation Plans. Rich will confirm that money from the County Open Space allotment can be utilized to prepare a Parks & Recreation Plan in conjunction with an Open Space Plan as well as any parameters involved in such a use.

New Business

1. Open Space Acquisition – The Board reviewed a resolution authorizing the acquisition of a conservation easement on 46.9 acres comprising Tax Map Parcel 42-05-89. Rob Zisko **moved** to adopt Resolution 2010-005 authorizing acquisition of a conservation easement on TMP 42-5-89 at cost of \$296,804 from Open Space Funds. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

2. Authorization for Appraisals for Open Space Acquisitions – David Long, chairperson of the Open Space Committee, requested Board authorization for additional appraisals required. Karen Bedics **moved** to grant authorization for three additional second appraisals and two additional primary appraisals for properties under consideration. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

3. Letter to Congressman Patrick Murphy about \$700,000 in federal funding for the Cooks Creek Watershed conservation project in the Highlands region of Upper Bucks County - On September 22, 2009, the Board passed Resolution 2009-016 committing \$600,000 of matching funds from the township's Open Space Funds toward this announced \$700,000 of federal funding. As a follow up to that action, Barbara Lindtner **moved** to authorize that the Board send a letter to Representative Murphy to determine when the federal funding will be forthcoming. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

4. Letter to the Bucks County Commissioners – Fire, Police and EMS departments in Bucks County will be required to upgrade their emergency service radios. The emergency service organizations would like the Bucks County Commissioners to seek funding from gaming money to pay for the required new equipment, thus avoiding a major impact on municipal budgets. Rob Zisko **moved** to approve the letter to support the Commissioners in their efforts to secure gaming money to pay for updated radios for emergency service organizations. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

5. Planning Commission 2009 Report – The Planning Commission submitted a report of their 2009 activity: 1) Subdivisions they reviewed, 2) Direction the PC requested of the Board, and 3) Board prioritization of responsibilities assigned to the PC for the upcoming year:

- Revision of the Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance
- Consideration of adding a Central Business District to the Zoning Ordinance
- Revision of the ZO Use C-11, Private Organizations

The Board reviewed the report. They noted that they did not recall agreeing to appoint an ad hoc committee to determine ways to protect, rehabilitate and enhance villages, hamlets and existing housing stock within the township [page 2, (1) (b) (iii)] at the November 25, 2009, joint PC/BOS meeting. Rich Schilling will review the minutes for this meeting. They also did not recall stating that two Planning Commission members would be included in any subdivision negotiation that involves a conservation easement [page 2, (1) (a)]. Their recollection on this matter was that they would invite members of the Planning Commission to attend any Board meetings where a negotiated settlement involving an easement would be discussed.

The Board thanked the Planning Commission for their complete report and for their efforts on behalf of the Township.

Public Comment

Steve Doncevic expressed concern about pollution of the groundwater resulting from fracking associated with gas drilling. Karen Bedics feels the best way to handle this concern is to educate township residents with drilling leases (and their neighbors) to find out if the company plans to use the fracking method. If so, they should have their wells baseline tested before the drilling takes place. Terry Clemons said that the PA Supreme Court has stated that

municipalities have the authority to determine a zoning district in which the use is permitted. Springfield's Zoning Ordinance permits a quarry in the PI and the HC Districts. He suggested that extraction of minerals such as oil and gas be added to that section of the Zoning Ordinance, thus limiting it to the PI and HC Districts. It was the consensus of the Board to request that Terry Clemons prepare wording to add this to the Zoning Ordinance in a future revision as well as the changes discussed pertaining to adult entertainment.

Supervisors Comments

Karen Bedics said that UBREMS planned to approach the Board concerning the voter referendum being discussed for the November ballot pertaining to a possible tax dedicated to EMS support. They would like the amount of one mill established for EMS services. In exchange for that, they would provide ambulance coverage for all township residents without having to request annual donations from the residents. At a future meeting, the Board will determine whether to establish a referendum question and if so, the wording; what tax millage will be requested and how it would be divided among the emergency responders that provide services to the township.

Karen previously requested the Board to either donate to the Cooks Creek Watershed for the EAC to use their monitoring equipment or to purchase Township equipment for monitoring observation wells. The Board will hold discussion about this at a future meeting.

Adjournment

At 9:22 p.m., Jim Brownlow **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt
Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: March 23, 2010
Approved: March 23, 2010