

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

May 11, 2010

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, Volker Oakey, Rob Zisko **Absent:** Jim Brownlow, Barbara Lindtner
Also present: Sandy Everitt, Secretary/Treasurer; Mark Laudenslager, Police Chief; Scott MacNair, Co-Solicitor;
Rich Schilling, Township Manager

Volker Oakey **nominated** Rob Zisko as acting chair. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. Rob Zisko called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Rob Zisko **moved** to adopt as presented the minutes of the April 27, 2010, meeting. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Bills for Approval

Karen Bedics **moved** to approve the following bills paid from April 28 – May 11, 2010:

1. General Fund	\$16,672.30	4. Subdivision & Escrow	\$ 617.64
2. Liquid Fuels	\$20,134.15	5. Farmers Market	\$ 1,392.25
3. Highway Capital Improvement	\$ 60.00		

Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Reports

Road Report - (Posted)

Police Report - (Posted on website) In April, the Springfield Police handled 113 incidents. They handled 5 accidents involving 10 vehicles with 2 injuries. Chief Laudenslager continues to review different Town Watch set-up systems.

Township Manager/Zoning Officer - DEP completed review of the Township's draft Act 537 Plan, made comments and recommendations, which they forwarded to the township and to Lombardo & Associates, the township's consultant. Because of DEP's early review, some of the funding for completion of this plan could come in 2010.

Barbara Lindtner is reviewing the draft Recreation & Park RFP, which could be on the next agenda for Board action.

Work on the CDBG grant for 2009 is moving ahead. There is an agenda item to appoint a firm to produce the engineer sealed plans that are required for the work.

Township revenue will now permit the purchase of the Arc View program required to manipulate the GIS data.

Rich Schilling expects resale Use & Occupancy permits to increase until the end of June, which is the deadline for settlements to qualify for the tax incentive for homebuyers.

Rich received a letter from Martha Harhigh, 2066 Richlandtown Pike, Coopersburg, PA, indicating that the Harhigh family will accept the Open Space Committee's offer for preservation of their 47.566-acre property. Because there is an estate trust involved, a declaratory judgment may be required from Bucks County Court House. Our solicitor will review the trust and advise the family of the proper actions to take.

Rich presented a letter written by Rose Strong on behalf of the Community Day Committee to the middle school and high school principals of Palisades School District. The letter requests essays from various groups in the schools who need funds. Rose would like the Board to judge these letters using criteria given to the student groups. The winning group will operate the Dunk Tank at Community Day and keep the funds for their group. It was the consensus of the Board that they would be willing to judge the entries.

Pertaining to a resignation from the Historic Commission, Karen Bedics **moved** to accept Armand DiYenno's resignation from the Historic Commission effective April 13, 2010, and authorize the Manager to advertise for applicants for the vacant position. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Rich noted that the Springtown Farmers' Market opens on Thursday, May 20, with the new hours of 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Steve Doncevic asked for addresses and locations for the Harhigh property and Spear Products.

Hans Reimann expressed thanks that the Bucks County Conservation District selected James Douglas as *Conservation High School Student for 2010*. He also thanked Rich and the Conservation District for following up on the PPL clear-cutting violation on a sloped area on a property adjacent to his. There was discussion about planting native plants in PPL right-of-ways. There was Board consensus that Karen could suggest to the EAC that they discuss options about this and present them to PPL by letter, keeping in mind that they would need to contact every property owner for permission to access their properties for planting on PPL right-of-ways.

Public Hearing on Ordinance Amending Police Pension Plan

Rich Schilling opened the public hearing. The ordinance amends the Springfield Township Police Pension Plan Resolution 2009-020 to restate Section X: Killed in Service Death Benefit. This change will move the death benefit insurance coverage for an officer killed in the line of duty from the township to the state as outlined in Act 51. Advertisements for this hearing appeared in The Morning Call on May 4, 2010, and proof of publication is on file. There being no public or supervisors comment, Rob Zisko **moved** that Ordinance 157 amending the Police Pension Plan be adopted. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Planning Matters

Spear Products Land Development Request – Gerald Spears, owner of Spear Products, would like to make a contribution of \$12,000 to the township instead of the agreed upon \$12,000 escrow fund. Scott MacNair noted that the conditional final approval for this land development included a section indicating the applicant would be required to put in a sidewalk at a point in time when the Board felt it was appropriate. If the Board approves the contribution in lieu of the escrow, Scott will prepare a revised agreement for signature by the applicant and by the township. Karen Bedics **moved** that the solicitor be authorized to prepare a revised agreement permitting Spear Products to give a \$12,000 contribution to the Highway Capital Improvement Fund in lieu of establishing an escrow. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Old Business

1. Cooks Creek Conservation Grant Funding - The Township received an April 20, 2010, letter from the US Dept. of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service, indicating that funding for the Cook's Creek proposal through the Highlands Conservation Act Grant Program was increased from the original \$600,000 to \$725,000. Because this is a matching fund (Resolution 2009-16 committed the township to matching the original amount of \$600,000), Volker Oakey **moved** to adopt Resolution 2010-12, increasing the amount of matching funds by \$125,000, to a maximum of \$725,000, to be paid from Open Space Funds. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. Rich Schilling will obtain a copy of the guidelines to select properties for this funding.

Rich will also secure a list of properties Heritage Conservancy is monitoring in the Township as well as a sample of the report format the township will receive when Heritage inspects easements annually.

2. Act 32 Discussion – By consensus. the Board agreed that Springfield Township would be willing to begin centralized collection of Earned Income Tax funds as early as January 1, 2011. This is not a binding decision; it simply enables the Tax Collection Committee to prepare the final agreement for submission to RFP tax collection finalists.

3. Resolution for *Fee-in-lieu-of* for Stormwater Exemptions – Bob Wynn suggested some changes regarding “rate control” after the draft resolution was prepared for the Board. Rob Zisko requested additional information about whether agricultural buildings are exempt from the fees in this resolution—in part or completely. Action was tabled until a full Board is present to vote.

4. Budget Update – Although the revenue through April was low, the May Earned Income Tax was \$170,000 (\$8,000 over last May's EIT) and significant real estate tax has also come in, so May's report will be significantly better. Karen requested information about why cell phone costs are so much over budget. Sandy Everitt will review these expenses and provide that information to the Board.

New Business

1. Road Department Request to Purchase a Dump Truck – Rob Zisko **moved** to authorize the purchase of a 1995 International dump truck from Milford Township for \$15,000 to be taken from Liquid Fuels money. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. Rich thinks the two old dump trucks the township is replacing will bring between \$6 – 10,000 total. (Last month, the Board approved the purchase of another used dump truck for \$35,000.)

2. Appointment of Architect/Engineer for CDBG Grant – Karen Bedics **moved** to appoint A & E Drafting Solutions to prepare the required engineer-sealed plans for the handicapped bathroom and door replacements (funded by a CDBG Grant) for a total cost of \$2,000, with a \$1,000 retainer due up front. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

3. Resolution for Fee Schedule Update – After some discussion, Rob Zisko **moved** to table further discussion and action on the fee schedule until the next Board meeting. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. Of particular concern to Rob Zisko is the tripling of fines for people who do work without first obtaining a permit. Karen Bedics suggested a compromise be considered, whereby double fees would be charged if the applicant obtains and pays for the required permits within two weeks of the date he is notified of the infraction. If he does not come into compliance in two weeks, the triple fee would be charged. Karen asked if the police charged anything for multiple calls for false alarms. Rich Schilling will follow up with the Police about whether they are following Ordinance 47.

Public Comment

Steve Doncevic would like property addresses, zoning districts and parcel size to be included on the agenda for any planning matters or property issues on the Board agendas.

Hans Reimann thanked the Board for authorizing the Township to join the Cooks Creek Watershed Association. Scott Douglas will shortly provide the first report on the initial monitoring of township test wells. Hans will be starting a new program on Saturday morning, July 17, pertaining saving native plants and curtailing the spread of invasive plants. He is looking forward to the EAC working with Volker Oakey on renewable energy. The discussion will begin on an upcoming EAC meeting date to be determined when Volker responds to an earlier phone call from the EAC.

Willard Weierbach needed some clarification on the false alarm responses our Police Department makes, which Rich answered for him. Karen also clarified that the false alarms referred to are electronically generated; they are not called in by property owners.

Supervisors Comments

Karen Bedics noted that one of the property owners whose land is being preserved is opening their property to host some Palisades Middle School students doing a stream study. Second, Karen requested clarification about why the Board was against offering a voter referendum to permit residents to express if they would support a dedicated tax to fund emergency services and the fire departments. Following lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to place this topic on a future agenda for additional discussion when the full board is present.

Adjournment

At 9:30 p.m., Rob Zisko **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt
Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: May 25, 2010
Approved: June 22, 2010