

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

May 13, 2009

Barbara Lindtner, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, Barbara Lindtner, Volker Oakey and Rob Zisko **Also present:** Terry Clemons, Township Solicitor; Sandy Everitt, Secretary/Treasurer; Mark Laudenslager, Police Chief; Rich Schilling, Township Manager; and Bob Wynn, Township Engineer.

Barbara Lindtner noted that the Board held an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss real estate acquisition.

Special Presentation

Karen Bedics presented Certificates of Achievement to teens who have contributed volunteer hours over the past year and a half on various township projects. Some of these projects included but are not limited to: two roadside cleanups, invasive plant removal and branch cleanup, Tire Recycling Day, Community Day, and building and mounting birdhouses for the township property's bluebird trail on Peppermint Road. Present to receive their certificates were Morgan Frome, Tyler Rothermel and Carrie Shortall. Certificates will also be given to Paul Alimecco, Mitchel Bain, Corrine Hickman, Andrew Kratz, Tim Leichliter, Nick Morency, Hailey Nelson, Danny Potts, Shane Rodenbaugh and Billy Strickland who could not attend this meeting. The youth group mentor received a gift certificate to treat the teens to pizza.

Approval of Minutes

Karen Bedics asked that a statement she read at the April 28 meeting be appended to the minutes. Following comments by Terry Clemons, Township Solicitor, Karen withdrew her request to have her statement added to the minutes. Volker Oakey **moved** to adopt the minutes of the April 28, 2009, regular meeting as presented. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Bills for Approval

Rob Zisko **moved** to approve the following bills paid from April 9 – May 13, 2009.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. General Fund | \$26,306.95 | 3. Liquid Fuels Fund | \$11,677.20 |
| 2. Subdivision & Escrow | \$ 9,560.27 | 4. Springtown Farmers Market | \$ 130.24 |

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

Reports

Road Department (posted) – Karen asked that a copy of the recent Township News article about an environmentally friendly soy bean oil alternative for bituminous seal coating be given to Rich Pursell for his comment. Bob Wynn noted that PennDOT will test the product before permitting its use for projects to be funded by Liquid Fuels funds.

Police (available on the website) – The police investigated 137 incidents in April, which included 14 criminal offenses, 1 ordinance violation, and 3 accidents involving 4 vehicles with 2 injuries and no fatalities. \$41.00 worth of property was stolen with no recovery. Officers attended various training activities available free of charge to the Township. Chief Laudenslager noted that a number of daytime burglaries have occurred throughout Springfield Township as well as neighboring townships during April and May. Chief Laudenslager noted that having a Town Watch program would help with this type of crime, and he plans to look into establishing such a program. Aggressive sounding dogs in the home are a good deterrent to home burglaries. Chief Laudenslager encouraged residents to notify police anytime they see suspicious cars or people in their neighborhoods.

Township Manager / Zoning Report - (Zoning Report is posted) – Rich Schilling noted various activities he participated in during the past month. The township received a check for \$10,113 (Dirt & Gravel Road Grant) from the Bucks County Conservation District and Rich Pursell will begin work on Freeh Lane shortly. The COPS Grant application for \$426,980 to hire two entry-level officers was submitted after the April 8 Board approval.

On zoning issues, 25 permits were processed during April including 12 Use and Occupancy permits for homes being sold that will generate real estate transfer tax when the properties are sold.

Planning Matters

Cross Creek Subdivision – Bob Wynn notified the Board that there is a deed restriction on the 33-acre Lot 1 of this subdivision. Lot 1 is the consolidation of three of the lots of the prior Cross Creek Subdivision. Richard Brooks plans to attend the next meeting of the Board to answer questions the Board might have about this plan, which received preliminary/final approval from the Board on May 11, 2004. (The Board granted an extension until June 11, 2009, at the April 28, 2009, Board meeting.) Bob Wynn suggested that the Board table granting a further extension until the May 26 meeting when the applicant will be present to answer questions.

Lizar Enterprises – Terry Clemons updated the Board on an appeal filed by the Township on a Zoning Hearing Board approval for an undersized lot containing significant natural features. Following negotiations with the applicant, an agreement was reached which Terry Clemons asked the Board to approve. Rob Zisko **moved** to approve the Stipulated Settlement Agreement that reduces the amount of disturbance for woodlands from 44% to 42% and reduces disturbance of steep slopes from 37% to 35%. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Willard Weierbach asked Chief Laudenslager for additional information about the type of vehicle used and other details about the daytime burglaries taking place in the township. The Chief could not provide such information because of the ongoing investigation underway, but he advised residents to report any suspicious vehicles which do not appear to have a purpose. Generally, two people will be involved—a driver and another person who approaches the home. Sometimes, the driver may leave the home and communicate with the second person by cell phone during the burglary.

Old Business

1. Draft Stormwater Ordinance - Bob Wynn provided the Board with a May 8, 2009, letter containing information they requested. He outlined possible procedures to simplify compliance with the draft stormwater management procedures for single-family home projects that involve a limited amount of new impervious surface up to 2,000 square feet. It would also greatly reduce the cost for design. He provided language from another municipality where additional impervious surface was permitted on larger tracts that are preserved which could be revised by Springfield Township to include conservation easement parcels as well as large properties where deed restrictions are in place. Bob will provide the Board with some cost estimates for applying tenets of the new ordinance on sample projects. The Board is interested in doing the needed protection while still making projects cost-effective for residents.

Bob recommended that the Board consider changing the draft ordinance so that impervious surface is not cumulative from the date the 2002 Stormwater Ordinance became effective, but rather, from the date of adoption of the revised Stormwater Ordinance. It was the consensus of the Board that the footage requirement for stormwater management be changed from 1,000 square feet to 1,200 square feet to comply with the Act 167 Plans for North Delaware and Tohickon.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board asked Bob to enter the changes he suggested in his letter into the draft document in a manner that will make them easily identifiable for discussion at the May 26, 2009, Board meeting.

(Bob Wynn and Terry Clemons were excused at 9:20 p.m.)

2. Policy for Waiving Permit Fees – Tabled until the May 26, 2009, Board meeting.

3. Budget Review – Barbara is still unclear from the Balance Sheet how to determine exactly what is in the Reserve Fund in the General Fund. Cheri Freeh will most likely be attending a Board meeting when the audit report is finalized and she will be asked how to easily determine from the Balance Sheet what the actual reserve amount is. Sandy Everitt will request whatever journal entries need to be made in the Quickbooks program to bring Township records up-to-date with audit changes before that meeting. Rich noted that the revenue to date is at 102.82%, but that a more accurate picture will be available by the end of June or July. Permits (building and zoning) are surprisingly high, with the total revenue to date almost at the total anticipated annual revenue for 2009. The Board appreciates the new budget report format. Rob Zisko asked for a listing of Open Space checks paid out in 2009.

(Karen Bedics and Chief Laudenslager left at 9:35 p.m.)

New Business

1. Summer Schedule – Barbara Lindtner **moved** to approve the summer schedule as two meetings in June—June 10 (based on Bob Wynn’s availability) and June 23. One monthly meeting will be held in July and August—July 28 and August 25. If Bob cannot attend a meeting on June 10, only one meeting will take place on June 23. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. Rich Schilling will notify the Board by email if Bob Wynn is available for the June 10 meeting.

2. Upper Saucon Township: Request to Share in Appraisal Cost for Locust Valley Golf Course for Open Space
The Open Space Committee recommended that Springfield Township contribute \$1,500 towards the appraisal. Rob Zisko **moved** to accept the recommendation of the Open Space Committee and contribute \$1,500 from Open Space funds to Upper Saucon Township to be used toward the appraisal cost for the Locust Valley Golf Course, contingent upon their application to the Springfield Township Open Space program and a site visit by a representative from Springfield Township’s Open Space Committee. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

3. Bucks County Request for Spraying for West Nile Virus – Rob Zisko **moved** to give written permission to the Bucks County Department of Health to treat Township owned properties for mosquito control to help reduce the spread of the West Nile Virus. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Correspondence

Barbara Lindtner acknowledged receipt of two resumes indicating interest in being appointed to open township auditor positions. One applicant is interested in a six-year term and the other is interested in the two-year term. These resumes will be placed on the June 23, 2009, agenda for discussion.

Public Comment – None

Supervisors Comments

Barbara Lindtner tabled discussion about information she gathered at the PSATS Conference until the full Board is present.

Adjournment

At 9:50 p.m., Rob Zisko **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt
Secretary/Treasurer

Next meetings: May 26, 2009
Approved: May 26, 2009