

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

May 24, 2011

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

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, Barbara Lindtner and Dave Long Absent: Volker Oakey and Rob Zisko.

Also present: Terry Clemons, Solicitor; Sandy Everitt, Township Secretary/Treasurer; Mark Laudenslager, Chief of Police (left at 7:50 p.m.); Rich Schilling, Township Manager and Bob Wynn, Township Engineer.

Approval of Minutes

Dave Long moved to adopt the April 26, 2011, minutes as presented. Karen Bedics seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Bills for Approval

Karen Bedics moved to approve the following bills paid from April 22 – May 20, 2011:

1. General Fund	\$ 38,380.43	4. Subdivision & Escrow Funds	\$ 19,436.67
2. Liquid Fuels	\$ 41,055.66	5. Open Space EIT Fund	\$ 9,024.27
3. Special Fees Fund	\$ 2,772.15	6. Town Watch	\$ 2,861.50

Barbara Lindtner seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Road Department – Posted. Karen Bedics asked that Rich Pursell check Pullen Station Road, just off Route 212. It is badly rutted just before the Haycock Township line.

Police Department – Karen asked the Chief to provide his report to them by Monday so they have time before the meeting to review it. She asked if either the Town Watch or the township could purchase two engraving tools to loan to residents to use to identify their belongings. Rich Schilling will research the cost and determine the best option. Karen also asked whether the Township could purchase a permanent Medication Return Collection box. Chief Laudenslager and Rich Schilling will review this. Finally, she noticed that the pine tree branch obscuring sight distance at Pleasant View Road and Richlandtown Pike had not been trimmed back. Chief Laudenslager will work with the property owner to accomplish this. The police apprehended two local juveniles who committed numerous burglaries and thefts in the Round House Road-Winding Road-Oak Lane area, with approximately 80% of the stolen property recovered.

Township Manager – Rich Schilling reported that the GIS plotter is now fully functional. The owner of the old dairy on Drifting Drive received a letter regarding cleaning his property and will do so within 45 days.

Public Comments on Agenda Items – None

Special Announcement

The Springfield Township Open Space Committee will be awarded the 2011 Heritage Partnership Award for Land Preservation on Thursday, June 9, 2011, at the Aldie Mansion, Heritage Conservancy's Doylestown headquarters. This award recognizes individuals and organizations that have made significant and profound contributions to land conservation and quality of life initiatives. Rich Schilling noted that approximately 3,400 acres of land have been preserved in the past several years. The Board congratulated Dave Long, chairman of the Open Space Committee in 2010, and the committee for their work to accomplish this.

PennDOT Presentation

Viola Gaudiosi, Project Manager/Designer; Mital Patec, Designer; and John Markus from PennDOT presented information about the Route 412/Hellertown Road bridge replacement project and the related Cooks Creek stream mitigation project. Ms. Gaudiosi presented numerous maps and plan sheets for the Board to review. The new bridge will widen the bridge to two lanes instead of the current single lane. The road approaching the new bridge will have two 12-foot lanes with 4-foot shoulders, which will extend approximately 300' on both sides of the bridge. The existing guide rails will be replaced, and the PPL and Verizon utility poles near the project will be moved. The Walking Purchase monument will not be moved and upon completion of the project, should be more visible than it currently is. An orange construction fence will be placed around the monument during construction to prevent

inadvertent damage. Because Cooks Creek is an Exception Value stream, DEP required PennDOT to include stream mitigation for a badly eroded stream bank on the south side of the bridge. A stream mitigation consultant is preparing the plans for PennDOT to do the actual work. PennDOT will contact Rich Schilling if that consultant will entertain suggestions from the Township's Environmental Advisory Council. The township will receive a copy of the final stream remediation plan. The proposed new bridge will be 24' wide and 8'6" from the stream base center to the crown. It is designed to handle a 25-year storm event (and more) without flooding the roadway. The bridge will have a wider under span (approximately 24') allowing a natural stream flow. The roadway over the bridge will be 6" higher to allow for the increased hydraulic opening. The concrete bridge will be faced with cobble stone after final approval by the Historic Commission. If the vantage point of the Walking Purchase monument is not good upon project completion, PennDOT will contact the PHMC (Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission) or the appropriate agency in PennDOT about relocating the monument.

The project will be bid out and the low bidder should be available by December 15. The actual work would likely start near the end of February or early March 2012, and will likely take between 9 to 12 months to complete. However, the road may not be closed for that entire time. The proposed official detour will be approximately 7½ miles, going off Route 412 to Flint Hill Road, left onto Richlandtown Pike, left onto State Road and left onto Route 212. Local traffic can use whatever roads they wish. The detour route can accommodate the approximate 6,000 daily cars (including approximately 300 trucks) that normally utilize Route 412.

The Board asked whether PennDOT would improve the badly deteriorated, unnamed macadam stub road between Route 212 and Old Bethlehem Road to accommodate local car traffic, which will use that road during the detour period. Neither the township nor PennDOT have any documentation indicating ownership of the stub road, although there is currently a PennDOT stop sign at the end of the stub road on Route 212. PennDOT will research this further.

Another Board concern with the official detour is that large trucks will be turning right from State Road onto Richlandtown Pike, which is already a dangerous intersection.

The discussion was opened for residents in attendance who wished to comment.

Tony Kmetz (Old Bethlehem Road) suggested putting a temporary stop light at Richlandtown Pike and State Road during the detour, including putting a stop line further back to permit trucks to have room to make the turn. Ms. Gaudiosi will ask PennDOT's traffic unit to evaluate this suggestion.

Thomas Smith (Old Bethlehem Road) shared concerns about the one and a half-lane state bridge on Old Bethlehem Road that is in bad repair, as well as Old Bethlehem Road itself, both of which are part of the planned detour. He suggested that a ban be placed on commercial vehicles using that bridge, other than local carriers that must use it. The bridge does not have a posted weight limit. The use of this narrow bridge by those unfamiliar with it could create a hazardous situation during the detour period. Rich will request that the Township police enforce a "no commercial vehicles" ban during the detour. PennDOT will review the bridge inspection report and the feasibility of the suggestion to ban commercial travel over it during the detour.

Barbara Lindtner asked PennDOT to research the concerns regarding Old Bethlehem Road, improving the stump road, determining the truck turn radius onto Richlandtown Pike, consider placing a traffic light and extended stop lines during the detour period at Richlandtown Pike and State Road and other suggestions raised by residents. Ms. Gaudiosi requested that the township write a letter to PennDOT identifying the township's issues of concern.

Karen said several residents told her that utility poles were replaced but that the old poles were never removed. Rich Schilling will contact PennDOT's Utility Unit regarding this.

The Board thanked PennDOT for their willingness to work with the township, both in matters of concern related to the detour and in facing the bridge with stone that will enhance it.

Governmental Matters

1. **Fire Insurance Escrow Ordinance** – A law passed in 1994 allows townships to have a lien on fire insurance proceeds where the proceeds exceed \$7,500 to cover delinquent taxes on the burned property and other fire-related expenses incurred. However, townships must have an ordinance in place and filed with the Governor's Center for Local Government Services. Barbara Lindtner moved to authorize our solicitor to draft a fire insurance escrow ordinance. Dave Long seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Planning Matters

1. **Reed Lane Subdivision Maintenance Period Completion** – This 3-lot subdivision on Reed Lane has completed all public improvements and they remain in satisfactory condition. Bob Wynn recommended release of improvement escrow guarantee funds held in a Letter of Credit by First Savings Bank of Perkasie with the exception of \$3,250 being retained for the storm water management facility on Lot 1. Karen Bedics moved to accept completion of the Reed Lane Subdivision public improvements and to release the improvement escrow with the exception of \$3,250 that would be retained for completion of the storm water management facility on Lot 1. Barbara Lindtner seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Reed/Schnell Subdivision Release of Escrow Request** – Grant Reed requested a return of his escrow guaranteeing completion of improvements, because he has no plans at this time to sell any of the lots. Although the Board is agreeable to returning the escrow, any future builder would need to reestablish an improvement escrow, These TMP's will be flagged in the Township's permit program. In May 2007, Springfield Township also enacted Ordinance 138 (available online) requiring sellers to disclose to buyers a plan for the lot being purchased and provide a disclosure statement. After discussion, Barbara Lindtner moved to return the Reed/Schnell improvement escrow funds to Grant Reed conditional upon receiving a letter certifying that the pins and monuments have been installed on the property and upon payment of all township charges. Karen Bedics seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. **Ag Security Liaison** – Rob Zisko indicated in January that he wished to step down as Ag Security liaison. Barbara Lindtner moved to appoint Dave Long as Ag Security Board liaison. Karen Bedics seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Town Watch Resolution** – The Second Class Township Code permits townships to appropriate funds toward a neighborhood crime watch. The Township wishes to accept contributions from interested persons for the Springfield Township Town Watch program being established. Karen Bedics moved to adopt Resolution 2011-06 established to set up a line item within the general fund budget for receipt and disbursement of Town Watch contributions and requiring quarterly reports from the Town Watch on disbursement of the funds. Dave Long seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Barbara Lindtner moved that the Township treasurer pay costs incurred for research and production of Resolution 2011-06 from the Town Watch account. Dave Long seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

3. **Covered Bridge Protection Resolution** – The Board authorized the solicitor to prepare a resolution similar to 2011-06 for preservation of Knecht's Covered Bridge for the June 28 Board meeting.

4. **Draft Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance Review** – The Board completed the review of the draft SALDO from the rewritten Section 520 through Section 703. Bob Wynn and Terry Clemons will together review Section 606, Item 1, which proposes that *'financial security is not required for an improvement in which financial security is required by, and provided to, PennDOT in connection with the issuance of a highway occupancy permit.'* Bob Wynn will make all the Board changes to the SALDO and provide the Board with clean copies of the changed pages as well as a CD of the entire clean document with revised page numbers. The Board tabled a vote to forward the revised draft ordinance to the Township's and Bucks County's Planning Commissions until the June 28 meeting.

New Business

1. **Acknowledgement of Ag Security Application** – Barbara Lindtner moved to acknowledge receipt of the Ag Security application received for the Bates property located on Cooks Creek Road comprising Tax Map Parcels 42-17-134 and 42-12-142 and to authorize advertisement for a hearing. Dave Long seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Resolution Establishing Maximum Speed Limits for Ebert, Moyer & Winding Roads** – The Township adopted a prior omnibus ordinance permitting 25-mph speed limits to be set by resolution on residential local streets. This resolution will set the speed limits at 25-mph on the referenced roads, part of the Rennie, Curry and Solteck Subdivisions, where the developers will pay the costs associated with speed limit postings. Barbara Lindtner moved to adopt Resolution 2011-07 that establishes 25-mph speed limits for Ebert, Moyer and Winding Roads. Karen Bedics seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

3. **Bid Specifications Approval for Garage Repair** – Karen Bedics moved to accept the proposal from A/E Drafting Solutions for developing roof specifications for a rubber roof and rolled roofing to replace the township garage roof for a cost of \$1,500 to be paid from the Highway Capital Improvement/Special Fees fund. Barbara Lindtner seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. **Light Replacement Project** – The Township can utilize PPL lighting rebates through May 31 to retrofit the lighting in the offices. The current lights will be phased out beginning in 2012. Rich Schilling presented a price quotation from the CoStars

company STOUCHLIGHTING out of Aston, Pennsylvania. The \$2,148.39 quote is for retrofitting the office area from T12 to T8 fixtures using Optalume. The bonus incentive of \$1,236 will leave only \$912.49 to be paid by the Township. Barbara Lindtner moved to authorize the Township Manager to negotiate the lighting replacement project at a cost not to exceed \$4,000, to be paid from the Highway Capital Improvement/Special Fees Fund. Dave Long seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

5. Resolution Authorizing the Acquisition by Gift of a Conservation Easement – John Stoneback, is gifting a conservation easement (appraised value of \$341,000) to the Township on his property located on Haupt's Bridge Road and Dogwood Lane. Dave Long moved to adopt Resolution 2011-08 authorizing the acquisition by gift of a conservation easement on 31,4411 Acres Comprising TMP's 42-17-'08, 42-17-109, 42-17-97 and 42-17-99. Karen Bedics seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments - None

Supervisors Comments

Karen Bedics reminded residents and the Board of the free 3-session well owners seminars at 7:30 p.m. at the Township building on June 8, 15 and 22. Flyers are available and the sessions are advertised in the Penny Power with session agendas posted on the Township's website. Jim Nilsen asked if the series would apply to livestock water supplies. Karen said it would not, but she will copy sections of interest and give him a copy of the brochures.

Adjournment

At 10:07, Dave Long moved to adjourn the meeting. Karen Bedics seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt
Township Secretary

Next meeting: June 28, 2011
Approved: July 26, 2011