SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
JUNE 14, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chairman Rod Wieder. Members present were: Vice Chairman Pete Lamana, Chuck Halderman, Rob Zisko and Jim Brownlow. Solicitor Jim McNamara was present.

Minutes of May 24, 2005

Chuck Halderman moved to approve the minutes with a grammar correction on page 5. Seconded by Rob Zisko. Vote was four supervisors – YES. Rod Wieder abstained.

Bills for Approval

Rob Zisko moved to approve the Bills from May 20 through June 10, 2005 as presented. Seconded by Jim Brownlow. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS

Road Department and Code Enforcement Reports are posted on the bulletin board.

Police Report – Chief Huber reported a total of 114 incidents during the month of May. There were 9 traffic accidents resulting in 3 injuries. There were a total of 33 traffic arrests.

Chief Huber announced Project ChildSafe Firearm Safety Kits are available to interested residents. Project ChildSafe is a program developed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation and is funded by a U.S. Department of Justice grant, with additional funding provided by the firearms industry.

Each kit contains a safety curriculum and a cable-style gun lock. The locks fit on most types of handguns, rifles and shotguns. The goal is to prevent a child or any other unauthorized person from accessing a firearm in the home.

Solicitor's Report – Jim reported he received a telephone call from the attorney representing McGrath Homes, the developer of the Locust Valley Golf Club. The project involves building an active adult community on a portion of the golf club, with 88 units in Springfield Township.

Each of the Board members received a letter encouraging Springfield Township to contact Upper Saucon Township and request public water and sewer. Jim stated he does not believe the Board is ready to make this request tonight. However, a meeting between the two townships might be a good idea.

Jim Brownlow stated a supervisor from Upper Saucon Township attended the last planning commission meeting and requested a meeting with the Township Supervisors. Jim suggested she contact the Township Manager.

Jim McNamara reported in the Bodder-Haupts vs. Springfield Township (Evergreen Estates) the parties are presently filing briefs with the Bucks County Court over the petition by several

intervening neighbors to challenge the approvals given by the Board of Supervisors for the development. Jim will be joining in defending the decision of the Board of Supervisors.

Memo from Jeff Mease regarding a water leak at the Rutherford Property in Springtown
Rod Wieder referred to a memo from Jeff regarding a water leak. The leak has been located in the middle of the Springtown Fire Company parking lot. The line runs through the Fire Company property and the Rutherford property. The line is approximately 600 feet long. A decision needs to be made quickly as to how the Board wants to proceed. The leak is causing chlorination problems in the system. Do we fix the leak at the point of origin or connect the Rutherford property to another main off 212? This property is a flag lot situation. To run a new line would cost a lot of money. To complicate matters there is no easement through the fire company property.

Mrs. Rutherford was present and asked who will pay for the repairs. She does not feel it is fair that she and her husband should have to pay for a leak on someone else's property. The Board agreed. The Board agreed the least expensive option should be pursued as soon as possible. It was the consensus of the board that the parking lot should be dug up and the leak fixed.

Pete Lamana moved to authorize the parking lot to be dug up and the leak repaired. Seconded by Rob Zisko. Vote was unanimous.

PLANNING

Christ Subdivision – The Meyle easement paperwork will be executed this evening.

Letter from McGrath Homes requesting Springfield Township to contact Upper Saucon Township regarding providing water and sewer to the project.

Jim Brownlow stated the Upper Saucon Township Supervisor who attended the planning commission meeting stated the Upper Saucon Authority has sewer capacity. Jim feels there is a lot of bad information going around. The Supervisors need to focus on what they want for Springfield Township. This project is located in the Development District which would allow for 6 units per acre. The Comprehensive Plan allows for age restricted housing. Jim understands that if the 88 restricted housing units are not approved, the developer will propose condominiums. Jim is not opposed to a joint meeting with the Upper Saucon Supervisors. If public water and sewer are not extended to the Springfield side of the project, it will mean another private water and sewer system. Pete Lamana agrees.

Jim Brownlow moved to authorize a letter to the Upper Saucon Township Supervisors to schedule a work session to discuss the Locust Valley McGrath Homes project. Seconded by Rob Zisko. Vote was unanimous.

Chuck Halderman stated he has a letter from the Upper Township Authority that states they do not have capacity to extend sewer into Springfield. Rod Wieder asked Chuck to provide copies to the Board members.

Thornton Land Development – Jim Brownlow moved to grant final approval to this 2.13 acre parcel located on Mine Road is proposed to be developed for use as an automotive repair shop. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended final approval subject to outstanding items contained in the May 24, 2005, engineering review from Wynn Associates. Seconded by Rob Zisko. Vote was unanimous.

Solomon Asser Subdivision – Jim Brownlow moved to grant preliminary/final approval to the 27 acre parcel located on Lehnenberg Road. The Planning Commission voted 3-2 with two abstentions to recommend preliminary/final approval for subdivision of the site into three lots subject to items listed in Wynn Associates letter dated January 26, 2005. Seconded by Chuck Halderman. Vote was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

Richard Cernok, Zoning Hearing Board Chairman – Dick Cernok stated he received a letter from the Supervisors regarding the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor. He stated he is in the process of preparing a response. He believes the allegations are without fact. The Zoning Hearing Board will meet in Executive Session to discuss the matter and Solicitor Randolph Scott will have an opportunity to defend himself.

Information regarding a Noise Ordinance – As requested by the Supervisors Chief Huber gathered several noise ordinances and related information for review by the Board.

Pete Lamana feels this matter needs to be discussed. Creating a "noise ordinance" might be a fruitless effort. There are not sufficient personnel to enforce such an ordinance and we do not have proper equipment to monitor noise. Pete does not believe such an ordinance is enforceable.

Jim Brownlow feels this is a difficult issue. He understands the person on the receiving end of the noise is not having any fun. In addition to the problems with enforcing the ordinance, we would need to deal with noise from a lot of different things, lawn mowers chain saws, etc. It would be difficult to curb excessive noise without affecting everybody else.

Jim McNamara has a problem with noise ordinances. Has seen it in several townships during his 35 years of practicing law. These ordinances are very difficult to enforce.

Paul Mosinskis feels there is a difference between excessive noise and the noise of lawn mowers, etc. Paul would like to see an ordinance to deal with excessive noise. Pete Lamana provided Paul with his copy of the information collected by Chief Huber. He asked Paul to read the ordinances and see what he can come up with.

NEW BUSINESS

Letter of Resignation Officer Brian McLaughlin – Officer will resign his position effective June 17th.

Rob Zisko moved to accept the resignation of Brian McLaughlin and requested a letter be sent thanking him for his service to Springfield Township. Seconded by Jim Brownlow. Vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Raynock asked about the status of the letters to PennDot and the elected officials. She is concerned that a 21 year old young man was killed over the weekend on Route 212 near Molasses Way. She feels the condition of the road contributed to this accident.

Letters were sent to Senator Wonderling, Paul Clymer and Dawn Knisley at PennDot, Bucks County. Calls were received from Paul Clymer's office. Paul offered to attend a meeting of the Supervisors to discuss the matter. He contacted PennDot and received a schedule of work to be completed in Springfield Township this year.

Senator Wonderling's office is in the process of preparing a letter to Andrew Warren at PennDot. A copy will be sent to the Township.

Pat does not feel phone calls are productive. She would like to see responses to letters. The Board requested second letters be sent to PennDot and the elected officials.

The Supervisors requested Paul Clymer be asked to attend the July 12th Supervisors meeting.

Dennis Steskal reported the top metal bar has been removed from the bridge on Bridge Street. There is a weight limit on the bridge which is being ignored. Chief Huber stated he is in the process of arranging a date for the county traffic team to spend a day at the bridge and weight the trucks. The Chief agrees there are a lot of overweight trucks crossing the bridge.

Paul Mosinskis discussed the proposed noise ordinance and his feelings that there should be a way to deal with excessive noise.

Dennis Steskal questioned why the Rolling Hills plans were reviewed by Carroll Engineering, not Wynn Associates.

Bob Bell discussed the resignation of Brian McLaughlin and his belief the Supervisors are attempting to disband the police department by attrition.

Sandy Kugler asked if Bucks County Water & Sewer will make the repairs to the leak in the Rutherford water line.

Paul Rush believes the line to the Rutherford property is plastic.

Dennis Steskal is concerned that the water system is not being monitored as it should.

Richard Cernok presented an envelope to each Supervisor.

SUPERVISORS' COMMENTS

Chuck Halderman mentioned the Board is talking about bringing the Authority back for the water system in Springtown. The Authority still exists. Chuck would like to change the charger

and amend the service area. Chuck mentioned the Act 537 and the requirements for multiple boards serviced with water and sewer.

Pete Lamana had no comments.

Jim Brownlow discussed the ACRE BILL which is before the General Assembly. PSATS is asking townships to contact their elected officials and urge them to vote against this bill. The bill as it stands is poorly thought out and takes power away from the municipality.

The power is in the hands of the Department of Agriculture whose jurisdiction will supersede township ordinances regarding farm land.

Jim Brownlow made a motion to contact our elected officials and urge them to vote against ACRE in its current form. Seconded by Pete Lamana. Vote was unanimous.

Doris Huntzinger would like more information about ACRE. Pete Lamana gave Doris a copy of his information from PSATS.

Rob Zisko had no comments.

ADJOURNEMENT

Rob Zisko moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15. Seconded by Pete Lamana. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted

Barbara A. Smith
Secretary