

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

June 28, 2011

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

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, Dave Long, Volker Oakey and Rob Zisko. **Absent:** Barbara Lindtner
Also present: Heather DiSario, Recording Secretary; Mark Laudenslager, Police Chief; Scott MacNair, Township Solicitor; Rich Schilling, Township Manager and Bob Wynn, Township Engineer.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

Bills for Approval

Rob Zisko **moved** to approve the following bills paid from May 21, 2011 – June 21, 2011:

1. General Fund	\$ 42,086.22	4. Open Space	\$ 14,475.11
2. Liquid Fuels	\$ 5,140.60	5. Subdivision & Escrow	\$ 10,641.01
3. Special Fees Fund	\$ 830.00		

Karen Bedics inquired about a payment to Joan Pavlica. Rich Schilling explained that as former farm market manager, Joan was billed for a yearly membership that renewed automatically on a personal credit card that she had used for the farm market. Volker called for the question. Dave Long **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Reports

Road Department (posted) – accepted as presented.

Police Report - Chief Laudenslager reported that collective work by the three township officers resulted in the prosecution of the juveniles responsible for burglaries occurring on Winding, Roundhouse, Oak Lane, Pleasant View and Township Roads. All officers in the department are now trained in standardized field sobriety testing. Officers Sepulveda, McDonald, and Chief Laudenslager participated in a DUI checkpoint on June 10 in Quakertown and the department will be participating in another DUI checkpoint in the future.

Kurt Koch, township resident and owner of Milham Ford/Toyota, donated a 2003 Crown Victoria Police Interceptor valued at approximately \$6,000 to the Township. It will be utilized by the Police as a patrol car.

Regarding the collection box for unwanted drugs, Chief Laudenslager advised that funding is available for two-thirds of the cost of the box. The unfunded balance for the box will be approximately \$300. Dave Long **moved** that the township would cover the \$300.00 unfunded cost. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

The department handled 126 incidents for the month, with State Police handling an additional 34 calls. Property valued at \$4,076 was stolen with \$2,451 recovered. The department handled six reportable crashes that involved nine people with three injuries and no fatalities. Karen Bedics inquired about the purchase of engraving tools for residents to use to engrave personal property. Chief Laudenslager estimates the cost per tool to be between \$15.00 and \$35.00. Rich Schilling will follow up on purchasing the engraving tools.

Township Manager/Zoning Report – Rich Schilling attended the Penn State Well Tenders classes conducted by Karen Bedics. Attendance at the classes was excellent, with at least 50 attendees for the three classes including Springfield residents, guests from surrounding townships and some from as far away as Doylestown. The Agricultural Security Board met last Thursday to review the Bates application. They will review all future Ag Security applications. Rich attended a seminar on postal changes related to bulk-rate mailings. Our bulk-rate mailings will now go to Lehigh Valley post office instead of Springtown. Rich also attended a seminar on full depth reclamation, which is a form of road repaving. The costs for this process are 40 percent less than tearing up a road and starting from scratch. Rich reported that the zoning vehicle will be replaced with Chief Laudenslager's current

car, and the Chief will use the donated 2003 Crown Victoria. Zoning activity was down in May, but has picked up in the last few weeks. Rich is beginning a review of the current Emergency Management Plan. Karen Bedics requested that she be included in that review process.

Public Comments on Agenda Items – None

Public Hearing

A Resolution to add properties to the existing Agricultural Security Area of Springfield Township - The proposed additions, totaling approximately 62.8473 acres, consist of the TMP #s: 42-17-134 and 42-12-142. Rob Zisko noted that before a property can be enrolled in an agricultural program, it is supposed to be part of an Agricultural Security Area. The applicant has applied to the Agricultural Preservation Program, but was not part of an Agricultural Security Area when at the time of his application. Rob also noted that this was a very good property and should be preserved. Karen Bedics **moved** to adopt Resolution 2011-09, accepting TMP# 42-17-134 and TMP# 42-12-142 into Springfield Township's Agricultural Security Area. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Governmental Matters

Fire Insurance Escrow Ordinance – Authorization to advertise – Scott MacNair gave an overview of the fire insurance ordinance. PSATS advises all townships to adopt such an ordinance and file it with the state. Scott explained that if there is a fire on a property within the Township with outstanding tax liens, etc., and the ordinance is enacted by the Township and is filed with the state, the township would be able to obtain from the insurance proceeds a portion of the delinquent taxes. Rich Schilling expressed concern with adopting an ordinance that may be difficult to enforce and would like more clarification on the process involved. Rob Zisko and Dave Long also had a number of concerns about the Ordinance. Scott MacNair stated that if there is a fire and the ordinance is not in place, the insurance company does not have to pay for taxes/liens owed on the property. Board members will review the ordinance for discussion at the next meeting.

Planning Matters

1. Adler Land Development Extension Request for Completion of Improvements – In 2010, Mr. Adler requested a two-year extension to complete improvements related to his land development. However, it never got to the Board for them to take action on his request. Bob Wynn, township engineer, stated that most of the improvements have been completed, including road widening and improvements and tree plantings. Rob Zisko **moved** to grant an extension for the Adler Land Development until August 30, 2012. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Old Business

1. Authorize Bid Advertisement for Garage Roof Replacement – Karen Bedics **moved** to authorize the Manager to advertise for bids for replacement of the garage roof. Dave Long **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

2. Execution of the Harhigh Agreement of Sale for Conservation Easement – The County will be paying \$5,500 per acre and the Township will pay \$4,500 per acre. Rob Zisko **moved** to authorize the Vice Chairperson to execute the agreement of sale for the Harhigh Conservation Easement. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

3. Execution of the Ritter Agreement of Sale & Resolution for Conservation Easement – The County and Township will each pay \$177,500 to purchase the conservation easement on Tax Map Parcels 42-9-134-3 and 42-9-134-4. The conservation easement area is approximately 47 acres. Rob Zisko **moved** to adopt Resolution 2011-10 as well as to execute the agreement of sale for the conservation easement on the Robert Ritter property at 1554 State Road. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

4. Covered Bridge Protection Resolution – The proposed resolution recommends establishment of a covered bridge fund for the preservation/protection of Knecht's Bridge and maintenance of the protective equipment being installed on the bridge. Jeff Lindtner requested that the Township waive permitting fees. An alarm and strobe light are being proposed for the bridge. Karen Bedics **moved** to adopt Resolution 2011-11 to establish an account within

the general fund for the preservation of Knecht's Bridge. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. Rob Zisko **moved** to waive permitting fees (electrical) up to \$300.00. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

5. Draft Ordinance Concerning Oil and Gas Drilling – Scott MacNair stated that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that townships are permitted to enact ordinances dealing with the location of oil and gas drilling, but are not permitted to get involved in the operational aspects, as they are already regulated by the State Oil & Gas Act. The proposed ordinance would set up a new conditional use, permitted only in the Planned Industrial District of the Township. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

6. Draft Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance – Bob Wynn addressed Rob Zisko's concerns related to minor subdivisions, cul-de-sacs and P-loops. Karen Bedics **moved** to authorize Bob Wynn to send the revised SALDO back to the Bucks County and Springfield Township Planning Commissions for review. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

New Business

1. Retirement Announcement – Sandy Everitt, Township Secretary/Treasurer, submitted her letter of intent to retire effective December 30, 2011. Karen Bedics **moved** to authorize the Township Manager to advertise for applicants for the Secretary/Treasurer position. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

2. Resolution Establishing Maximum Speed Limits for Hickory Road – Rob Zisko **moved** to adopt Resolution 2011-12, creating a 25-mph speed limit on Hickory Lane. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

3. Donation to the Palisade Middle School Native Garden Club – Karen Bedics explained that there is a local Native Garden Club at Palisades Middle School. They use proceeds from student fundraisers to purchase plants; no funding is provided from the school district. The students purchased a wheel barrel which broke after only a few uses. It was returned, and Karen would like to assist the Club in purchasing a better quality wheel barrel. There are no fundraisers now because school is out, so Karen is seeking a goodwill donation to purchase a contractor's wheel barrel for use by the Garden Club. Board members will make personal donations and Rich will purchase a wheel barrel at an estimated cost of \$60.

4. Fall Meeting Schedule – The Board of Supervisors will return to two monthly meetings, held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, beginning in September.

Public Comments - none

Supervisors Comments

Karen Bedics thanked Rich Schilling for his help during the three sessions of the well owner's workshops. She feels it was a success and plans to offer the classes again next year. She will also provide display boards and handouts at Community Day this year.

Adjournment

At 9:15 p.m., Rob Zisko **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather DiSario
Recording Secretary

Next meeting: July 26, 2011 – 7:30 p.m.

Approved: July 26, 2011