

## Board of Supervisors

### MINUTES

July 26, 2011

**Supervisors Present:** Karen Bedics, Barbara Lindtner, Dave Long, Volker Oakey and Rob Zisko.  
**Also present:** Sandy Everitt, Township Secretary/Treasurer; Scott MacNair, Township Solicitor; Rich Schilling, Township Manager and Bob Wynn, Township Engineer (left at 9 p.m.).

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

### Approval of Minutes

Karen Bedics **moved** to **approve** as presented the May 24, 2011, Board minutes. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**. Voting **Yes**: Karen Bedics, Barbara Lindtner, Dave Long **Abstaining**: Volker Oakey, Rob Zisko. The motion **passed**.

Volker Oakey **moved** to **approve** as presented the June 28, 2011, Board minutes. Rob Zisko **seconded**. Voting **Yes**: Karen Bedics, Dave Long, Volker Oakey, Rob Zisko. **Abstaining**: Barbara Lindtner. The motion **passed**.

### Bills for Approval

Rob Zisko **moved** to approve the following bills paid from June 22 – July 21, 2011:

- |                      |              |                         |              |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1. General Fund      | \$ 68,377.69 | 4. Open Space           | \$ 33,995.55 |
| 2. Liquid Fuels      | \$ 3,607.87  | 5. Subdivision & Escrow | \$ 2,938.63  |
| 3. Special Fees Fund | \$ 3,240.68  |                         |              |

Rob Zisko and Barbara Lindtner questioned the Palisades School District payments of 31,526.09 paid from the General Fund and \$15,691.29 paid from Open Space funds. Sandy Everitt said these represent our percentage of the Earned Income Tax collection costs incurred by Palisades during their fiscal year, which is from July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011. Palisades collected EIT during most of that period. Palisades charges collection fees to various entities they collect for based upon the percentage collected for each entity. EIT revenue will increase significantly for both the Township and the School District with Keystone Collections Group taking over the collection function. Keystone charges 1.39% of collected amounts as a commission, where Palisades charge to Springfield Township was over 13+% of their collection costs. Rob Zisko asked if the \$4,900 paid to Martin Paving would be reimbursed from the Dirt Road Grant and was told that it would be. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

### Reports

**Road Department (posted)** – Accepted as presented. Barbara Lindtner commended the Road Department for the ‘phenomenal’ job they did on Springhouse Lane.

**Police Report** – Rich Schilling reported that Springfield Township police handed 167 incidents in June while the State Police handled 15. Officers participated in a DUI checkpoint in Tinicum Township and a DUI checkpoint is being planned for Springfield Township. Burglaries continue to take place in the Township. Information on burglaries is being sent to residents by the eNewsletter. Town Watch signs were received and Rich is coordinating with the Road and Police Departments and the Town Watch where they are to be installed. The Town Watch requested Board representation at a special ceremony initiating the sign installation, for which a press release and a photo op are planned. Rich Schilling and Sandy Everitt will coordinate this event prior to the Newsletter being received in Township homes.

**Township Manager/Zoning Report** – A pre-construction bid meeting for bidders for the garage roof replacement will be held on Thursday, July 28. The bids will be opened on August 15 with the bid award taking place at the August 23 Board meeting. The retrofitting of lighting in the Township building is complete and the grant request will be submitted to PPL. The Secretary/Treasurer position was advertised. Rich Schilling and Sandy Everitt will interview the top five applicants beginning in mid-August. The top two candidates will be presented to the Board and

will be interviewed by the Board prior to the September 13 meeting. Rich would like the replacement to be selected early so that he/she can participate in a part-time capacity in the budget process for 2012 and then work on a full-time basis in December. Although zoning activity is lower, there are a number of permits awaiting cost assignment from Code Masters.

### Public Comments on Agenda Items

Barbara Lindtner permitted Dan Gring, Rose Drive, Hatfield, to comment early on an urgent, non-agenda item regarding the Glass-Steagall Act which was repealed in 1999 and resulted in deregulation of banking procedures. Mr. Gring feels strongly that unless a number of endorsees reintroduce this Act, America will continue to ‘bleed’ financial resources to other countries, thus preventing our infrastructure from becoming strong. He provided printed information about the issue and asked the Supervisors to contact him with any questions. He suggested that the Board prepare a resolution in the future encouraging our legislators to endorse H.R. 1489.

### Governmental Matters

The Board reviewed an Ordinance providing that in certain fire losses the insurer having a policy for such loss shall transfer insurance proceeds to the Township treasurer to pay delinquent taxes and other municipal claims or be held as security to pay costs to remove, repair or secure fire-damaged buildings and associated legal and engineering fees.

Scott MacNair, Township Co-Solicitor, provided a list of Bucks County municipalities that have adopted such an ordinance and have filed it with DCED, which is a requirement before a municipality can obtain insurance funds for any of the listed uses. This would only apply when taxes are delinquent, there are municipal claims/liens on the property or if the Township incurs costs related to demolition or repair of the structure (in issues where public safety warrants Township action). The draft ordinance is based upon State Law—Act 93 of 1994. Rob Zisko and Volker Oakey do not like #4 which states *If the loss agreed upon by the named insured and the insurer equals or exceeds 60% of the aggregate limits of liability on all fire policies covering the building . . . A. The insurer shall transfer from the insurance proceeds to the Treasurer of the Township of Springfield, Bucks County, in the aggregate, \$2,000 for each \$15,000 of such claim or fraction thereof, . . ., continuing through all sub-sections of #4.* Scott MacNair, although he agrees with the concerns Rob and Volker both expressed about this section, said that this verbiage comes directly from the State law now in effect and cannot be changed locally. However, the Township could work with the insurance company and the property owner to take a lesser amount should that be appropriate (alluded to in item 4.B. and 4.C.iii).

After discussion, Karen Bedics **moved** to authorize advertisement of the Fire Escrow Ordinance for a public hearing at the August 23 meeting. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**. Voting **Yes**: Karen Bedics, Barbara Lindtner, Dave Long, Volker Oakey. Voting **No**: Rob Zisko. The motion **passed**.

### Planning Matters

1. **Grey Lot-Line Adjustment** – Bob Wynn suggested that the Board deny this plan unless an extension is received prior to the August 23 meeting. Barbara Lindtner **moved** to deny the Grey Lot-Line adjustment based upon outstanding items contained within the September 17, 2008, engineer’s review letter unless the applicant submits an extension prior to the August 23 Board meeting. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

### Old Business

1. **Draft Ordinance Concerning Oil and Gas Drilling** – Scott MacNair presented a proposed revision to the Zoning Ordinance that would permit a new G16 use allowing oil and gas extraction in the PI District by Conditional Use. Two main reasons for limiting drilling to the PI District are roadway protection and preventing contamination of Cooks Creek, an Exceptional Value Stream. He stated that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that townships are permitted to legislate where oil and gas drilling is permitted, but are not permitted to legislate regarding operational aspects already regulated by the State Oil & Gas Act. The Board requested the following changes in the ordinance:

#### SECTION 01:

- Section 403.G. (3) – Should reference the need to obtain a Township permit if work will involve a Township road.
- Section 403.G. (5) – Should include roads and ‘bridges.’

- Section 403.G. (6) – The application information should contain a cell phone number to access the contact person 24-hours a day.
- Section 403.G. (8) – Should agree with the Zoning Ordinance lighting section.
- Section 403.G. (10) – Should agree with the Zoning Ordinance fencing and/or landscaping buffer section.

#### SECTION 04:

- Article 8. 3. Reword to ‘testify that they will obtain a Highway Occupancy Permit.’

Rob Zisko expressed concern about limiting drilling only to the PI District. Karen Bedics **moved** to send the draft Oil and Gas Drilling Operations Ordinance, including the changes discussed at this meeting, to the Planning Commission for review at their August 3 meeting. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

### **New Business**

#### **1. Resignation Announcements**

- Rose Strong submitted her letter of resignation from the Community Day Committee effective at the end of 2011.

Karen Bedics **moved** to accept Rose Strong’s resignation from the Community Day Committee and authorize the Township Manager to advertise for this position as well as all other open positions on various committees. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. Barbara Lindtner suggested the advertisement take place early so that the Rose can help her successor transition into the labor-intensive role of planning and hosting Community Day. She suggested an ad in the Penny Power as well as an ad on the Township website.

- Mark Laudenslager submitted a letter stating his desire (for personal reasons) to return to the police bargaining unit as an officer and to step down as Chief of Police, effective July 31, 2011. Barbara suggested that the Board recognize Mark’s 39 years on the Township’s police force at a future meeting. Dave Long **moved** to accept Mark Laudenslager’s resignation as Chief of Police and his return to the police bargaining unit as an officer. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

The Board authorized Rich Schilling to assume administrative oversight of the police department until further notice. He will perform this as part of his role as Township Manager with no additional pay.

### **Supervisors Comments**

**Karen Bedics** asked for Board comments on the Newsletter articles she provided to them by noon on Thursday, July 26. In addition, the head of the native garden club of Springfield Middle School sent the Board a thank-you card for their personal donations toward a wheelbarrow for their group.

**Barbara Lindtner** and Rich Schilling met with the Parks & Recreation Plan consultant and finalized the resident survey. The Board will receive via email a copy of the draft survey and the letter that will go out, but the mailing will not take place until after residents receive the Newsletter in September. The Board will discuss Bobb Carson’s March 5, 2011, Planning Commission memo regarding Solar Energy at a future meeting. Rich will send email copies of the solar and wind turbine memos to the Board. Members who cannot attend the August 23 meeting are to send any comments to Barbara Lindtner prior to the August 23 meeting.

**Rich Schilling** said that he is looking into funding options for the wastewater and water study along the Route 309 corridor. Rich met with Bobb Carson and Jim Hopkins, the Township’s appointee to the Bucks County Development Corp., who are reviewing *Rails to Trails*, to discuss possible grant funding for the project.

### **Adjournment**

At 9:20 p.m., Rob Zisko **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt  
Township Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: August 23, 2011  
Approved: August 23, 2011