

## Board of Supervisors

### MINUTES

July 27, 2010

**Supervisors Present:** Karen Bedics, Jim Brownlow, Volker Oakey and Rob Zisko **Absent:** Barbara Lindtner  
**Also present:** Terry Clemons, Solicitor (dismissed at 8:50 p.m.); Sandy Everitt, Secretary/Treasurer; Mark Laudenslager, Chief of Police (dismissed @ 7:45 p.m.); Rich Schilling, Township Manager and Bob Wynn, Township Engineer (dismissed at 8:50 p.m.).

Jim Brownlow, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. An executive session to discuss land acquisition issues took place prior to the meeting.

### Minutes

Rob Zisko **moved** to adopt minutes from the June 22, 2010, meeting. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed**.

### Bills for Approval

Karen Bedics **moved** to approve the following bills paid from June 23 – July 26, 2010:

1. General Fund	\$73,700.95	4. Subdivision & Escrow	\$11,058.11
2. Liquid Fuels	\$56,513.49	5. Farmers Market	\$ 662.85
3. Open Space	\$66,603.51	6. Highway Capital Improvement	\$ 255.87

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

### Reports

**Road Report** – Report posted on bulletin board.

**Police Report** – (**posted on the police website**) The township police handled 135 incidents in June; the State Police handled 19. Property valued at \$691 was stolen, with property valued at \$750 recovered. The Crown Victoria was removed from service because of the need for repairs estimated to be about \$1,200. Volker Oakey **moved** that the vehicle be repaired at the quoted cost of \$1,222. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed**. The Court of Common Pleas mandated the use of video conferencing beginning in September 2010 for the arraignment and processing of defendants. The township can buy into the Perkasio Live Scan (approximate \$2,000 cost). which will mean that defendants will have to be taken to Perkasio. Burglaries continue in and around the township, with five occurring in the township during the last seven days. Chief Laudenslager commended Anthony Matzura (present at the meeting) for his assistance, attempting to save a horse that was injured in an accident that occurred recently on State Road.

Rich Schilling added that PennDOT is making the safety changes to the Route 212/412 location that were identified by our police department two years ago in a road safety audit.

**Township Manager's Report** – The corrected draft Act 537 has again been submitted to DEP by Lombardo Associates. The Parks and Recreation Plan RFP quotes are due by Friday July 30. The CDBG Grant work was submitted to Bucks County along with engineered plans, and the township was authorized to begin the project. A seminar introducing interested people to GIS training will take place on August 9 at 7:00 p.m. The COPS grant for funding for one police officer for three years is still a viable option. Rich hopes to hear within the next month whether the township will receive the COPS Grant. The Neighborhood Watch program was discussed with Ernie Atiyea, who instituted similar programs in other locations. He made a number of recommendations. An article will appear in the September Township Newsletter soliciting additional volunteers for the Neighborhood Watch. Rich hopes to begin the program this fall. Rich Pursell, Roadmaster, monitored UBREMS 1,500 gallon (Rich feels the tank is actually a 1,750 gallon tank) septic tank over a one-month period. The tank contained 110 gallons at the beginning of the 30-day period and was at 1,580 gallons at the end of the 30-day period. Karen Bedics will share the information with UBREMS.

Rich performed 6 Resale Use & Occupancy inspections in June. He processed 47 permits totaling \$13,463.

Rich asked Sandy Everitt to give an update on the Bucks County Tax Collection Committee's work relating to naming a new EIT tax collector for the entire county. Sandy provided a memo to the Board from the chairman of this committee stating that the TCC Executive Committee will recommend appointing Keystone Collections Group as the new tax collector when the full committee meets on August 29. The TCC Committee thoroughly reviewed all applicants. The TCC requested municipalities to turn in any questions they have. The Board raised several questions:

1. What will the annual budget figure be for the ongoing TCC Committee? (They will remain in place to monitor the appointed company.)
2. How can the Township be certain we are receiving the EIT taxes that are due to us?
3. Will there be any additional charges to the Township for collecting delinquent taxes?

Terry Clemons spoke with a TCC Executive Committee member and he gave a brief report on the review process for applicants. The Executive Committee selected Keystone for several reasons. Although they have been in business a shorter time than Berkheimer, they have modern, proprietary software and an aggressive collection policy with a good tracking system to catch delinquencies. They also provide an online option for municipalities to access information that can legally be shared about its constituents. Terry Clemons suggested that the Board give guidance to Irene Elinich, the appointed Township delegate to the TCC, regarding what company they want to be appointed. It was the consensus of the Board that Irene should vote to appoint Keystone Collections Group.

### Public Comments on Agenda Items

**Anthony Matzura (1895 Route 212)** asked if the Keystone Collections Group contract for collecting EIT taxes would involve any hidden extra charges above the stated 1.39% when they had to collect delinquent expenses. That question was added to the list for the August 29 TCC meeting.

**Jim Nilsen (1636 Pleasant View Road)** suggested that the Township investigate purchasing the finger scanning equipment instead of going to Perkasio.

### Governmental Matters

**HB 2431 and SB 1357 - Legislation aimed at abolishing local government** – This proposed legislation, if adopted, would require a change to the Pennsylvania State Constitution that requires a vote by all Pennsylvania voters. The bills suggest moving government for municipalities to the county level, with very little governing left to the local level. Karen Bedics **moved** to adopt Resolution 2010-017 expressing Springfield Township's opposition to forced mergers and consolidations of local governments in Pennsylvania. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. The Board asked that the Resolution and a cover letter be forwarded to Paul Clymer, our representative in the House, and Robert Mensch, the township's senator. Volker Oakey feels county government would be more costly to maintain than the local government. He also thinks that the local government provides more to its residents than would ever be provided at the county level. Karen Bedics agreed, adding that while living here, she has observed that the majority of funding in Bucks County typically goes to the Doylestown area and south, as more population and tax dollars are represented in that section of the county.

### Planning Matters

**Dushant Sharma Land Development** – This plan requires action by August 11, 2010. The Planning Commission recommended that the plan be denied based upon the latest engineering review dated July 16, 2007, and the Bucks County Planning Commission review of July 6, 2007. Rich Schilling updated the Board on the status of DEP's action regarding a fuel tank leak cleanup at this site. DEP indicated that they receive quarterly reports and that the cleanup is active and in order. Rich also requested that the property have the weeds cleared. Rob Zisko **moved** to deny the Sharma Land Development plan based upon the items contained in the township engineer's July 16, 2007, review letter, unless the applicant grants an extension by August 11. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. Rich Schilling added that Act 46 (which extends action time on plans through December 31, 2013) will affect 71 existing plans currently active in the township.

**Christ Subdivision – Maintenance Period Completion** – The 18-month maintenance period for this 4-lot subdivision on Blue Church Road expired today. An inspection of installed improvements by the township engineer confirmed that the required improvements were satisfactorily completed on all but two lots. Karen Bedics **moved** to accept completion of installed improvements, noting that \$16,000 will be held by the township to ensure completion of

improvements on two of the lots, with the balance of escrow to be returned to the applicant upon payment of all outstanding consultants' invoices. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

### Old Business

#### 1. Open Space Requests

**A. John & Susan Opie (42-9-122 and 42-9-109-1)** Mr. and Mrs. Opie are donating 27 of approximately 90 acres of land they are preserving as well as gifting a portion of the value of the easement. Resolution 2010-018 authorizes payment by the township of \$393,008 to the Opies for the conservation easements. Settlement of this easement is scheduled for July 30 in the township building. Karen Bedics **moved** to adopt Resolution 2010-018 authorizing Springfield Township to acquire a conservation easement on Opie properties identified as TMP 42-9-122 and 42-9-109-1 at a cost from Open Space funds of \$393,008. The Township will also pay for the second appraisal. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. The Board thanked the Opies (who were present at the meeting) for their generous contribution to the township.

**B. Katie Harhigh (42-9-36, 42-9-7 and 42-9-22 on Richlandtown Pike)** This 50+ acre conservation easement is being funded for \$261,558 by the Bucks County Natural Areas Grant with an additional funding of \$214,000 to be paid by the Township from Open Space funds. The property is owned by five members of an estate. Karen Bedics **moved** to adopt Resolution 2010-019 authorizing payment from the township's Open Space fund of \$214,000 for a conservation easement on Tax Map Parcels 42-9-36, 42-9-7 and 42-9-22. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

**2. Zoning Ordinance Amendment (setbacks from Resource Protected Lands)** Volker Oakey **moved** to authorize advertisement for a public hearing on an ordinance to require that the setback on lots be measured from the resource protected lands instead of from property lines. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

**3. Speed Limit Ordinance** – Rob Zisko **moved** to authorize advertisement for a public hearing on an ordinance to permit Supervisors to establish 25-m.p.h speed limits on qualified roads within the township. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. If adopted, this ordinance will permit Supervisors to adopt Resolutions in the future to classify a qualified local highway to be posted at 25 m.p.h.

### New Business

**1. 2009 Township Audit Report** – The Supervisors received copies of the 2009 Audit. Sandy Everitt, Treasurer, reported that one finding, a need to revise the Investment Policy, would be discussed on the Pension Committee and a draft Investment Policy would come to the Board for adoption. A second issue—new fund balance reporting required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB)—will be further explained by Cheri Freeh, Hutchinson, Gillahan & Freeh, who will be invited to attend the August 24 Board meeting. If the Board has any questions, they will be forwarded to the township so that Cheri Freeh can be prepared to answer them at the August meeting. Sandy Everitt also told the Board that for two years, Aimee Douglas (a resident who is a CPA) has reviewed the township's draft audit with no charge for her time. This involves a checklist that is more than 15-pages long, so this is a significant contribution on Aimee's part. The Board asked that a thank-you letter be sent to Aimee on their behalf for this valuable service.

**2. Resident request for fine to be waived for repairs without a permit** – There were numerous permits on file for this property, indicating this resident normally obtained permits. However, a contractor did this electrical work and the resident was not aware that a permit had not been acquired. For this reason, Rich Schilling advised him to request that the Board waive the fines he already paid and authorize that they be refunded to him. Karen Bedics **moved** to waive the \$240 fines associated with electrical work done without a permit by Robert Oakley and to refund the money to him. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

### Public Comment - None

### Supervisors Comments

**Karen Bedics** said the Fall Newsletter is with the layout person and will be ready for Board approval by the August 24 meeting. The Board thanked Karen for her hard work in producing the Newsletter.

Karen asked if UBREMS could participate in the insurance pool that the township employees are part of; however Rich thinks that the pool is limited to municipalities/governments.

Karen also asked that new signage for the police department be discussed in the future.

Karen asked for an update on the Local Services Tax revenue. Rich advised that with a coordinated effort by the Police Department and the Zoning Office, 60 businesses have been identified and added to the LST list this year. For this reason, the income from LST has increased this year.

Karen asked Terry Clemons to define an *Upset Tax Sale*. He indicated this takes place (after a lengthy process) when a property owner fails to pay real estate taxes for a previous year after they were given notices. This is not something for the fainthearted, as the buyer assumes the property subject to other liens that may be on the property. Typically, at least 50% of those on the sale list are removed from the list because they pay or make arrangements to pay overdue taxes.

Karen Bedics is interested in bringing jobs into the township. In preparation for this, Karen, Pete Lamana (Planning Commission), and Pat Bowersock (Historic Commission) want to form an Ad Hoc Committee to review the Springtown Study with the goal of revitalizing the area as far as businesses and jobs. Karen Bedics **moved** that an Ad Hoc Committee be formed including Pete Lamana, Pat Bowersock and herself, to review the Springtown Study with the goal of economic development within the township. The Ad Hoc Committee will bring results of their study back to the Board. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

**Volker Oakey** gave an informative Power Point presentation on the recently completed installation of solar panels on his property and the anticipated savings in electric costs that will occur as a result.

#### **Adjournment**

At 8:50 p.m., Jim Brownlow **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt  
Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: August 24, 2010  
Approved: August 24, 2010