

## Board of Supervisors Meeting

### MINUTES

September 11, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chairman Jim Brownlow and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed in memory of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

**All Supervisors Present:** Karen Bedics, Jim Brownlow, Chuck Halderman, Rod Wieder and Rob Zisko.  
**Also present:** Sandy Everitt, Secretary/Treasurer; Scott MacNair, Solicitor; and Rich Schilling, Township Manager.

Jim Brownlow noted that the Supervisors had an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters.

### Minutes

Chuck Halderman **moved** to approve the August 14 minutes as amended by Karen Bedics. Jim Brownlow **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

### Approval of Bills

Rob Zisko **moved** to accept the bills (\$43,732.36) for payment as listed on the August 11 – September 7, 2007, bills list (appended to these minutes). After several questions on computer repair bills and various bills associated with installation of the new EMS modular home, Rob Zisko **moved** to approve the bills list as presented. Chuck Halderman **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

### Reports

Jim Brownlow noted that the **Road Department** and **Zoning/Building Reports** were posted on the bulletin board. Rich Schilling added that the **Road Department** has requested permission to replace their power washer with a unit from Hydro Wash, at a cost (with trade in of the old unit) of \$2,195. Payment will be from the budgeted amount for equipment. Rob Zisko **moved** to authorize the road department to purchase a new power washer as requested. Rod Wieder **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. Rich commended the Road Department for the great job they did in installing and hooking up the new EMS modular home.

Karen Bedics noted there is a zoning hearing on September 17, 2007. The first case is a continuance for the Cohens, who are applying for a special exception to permit improvements within a floodplain. Their request is to allow a driveway and replacement of an existing pipe for access to Lot 1 of the proposed Cohen Subdivision. The property is located off of Lehenberg and Bodder Roads.

There is a second hearing scheduled on the same date for the Lazars. They are requesting permission to build a single-family dwelling on a vacant, non-conforming lot. The property is located on Rocky Valley Road. They are requesting a Special Exception to build a single-family dwelling on a lot of a non-conforming size and Variances for minimum lot width and resource protection standards for woodlands and slopes.

Jim Brownlow expressed concern about the lot size of the Lazar property which is much smaller (slightly over three-quarters of an acre) than township zoning permits for a building lot. In addition, there are very steep slopes on the small lot. He asked whether the Board wished to have our solicitor present the Board's concerns at the hearing. Rich Schilling noted that a brief had been received from a township resident who is contesting the lot size. Rich will notify the resident that he needs to express his concerns at the Hearing. After some discussion, Karen Bedics **moved** to authorize our solicitor to represent the Township at the Zoning Hearing Board on September 17, 2007, to

object to granting the Variance from the Resource Protection Standards for the woodlands and slopes. Further, they do not feel that a Special Exception should be granted if conditions of the Zoning Ordinance are not met. Chuck Halderman **seconded**. Rob noted that the application states that if relief from environmental standards is not granted, it would create an "unnecessary hardship" in that the existing, non-conforming lot would be rendered undevelopable. Scott MacNair said that if the applicant owns a contiguous piece of property that could be utilized to form a conforming lot, that would be an option. Other than that, the applicant must prove that the non-conforming lot becomes valueless unless they can build upon it. Following discussion, Jim Brownlow called for the question. Voting **Yes**: Karen Bedics, Jim Brownlow, Chuck Halderman, Rod Wieder. Voting **No**: Rob Zisko.

The **Police Report** was presented by Officer-in-Charge Mark Laudenslager. He highlighted that for the month of August, 110 incidents were handled by the Police Department. Of the 110 incidents, 14 were criminal offenses. There were 5 crashes involving 9 vehicles with two injuries and no fatalities. \$720 of miscellaneous property was stolen with no property recovered. Officer Laudenslager summarized that the speed trailer borrowed from the Bucks County Transportation Management Association was used for 112+ hours throughout the Township from August 20 through September 4, 2007. The trailer definitely affected the speed at which drivers traveled. The Police Department will be looking into purchasing a similar device for the Township.

Rich Schilling highlighted portions of the **Township Manager's Report**:

- August 29 – Rich met with the owners of Haines & Kibblehouse to discuss Township needs. He asked for a donation towards purchasing the higher quality Township sign. They asked for a copy of the initial quote and will price the same sign with their sign maker. They will pay the full purchase price either for their own sign maker or the original Township sign maker to construct the sign. Rich noted that we are still receiving free blacktop from Haines & Kibblehouse. He requested an increase in the amount, but has not yet heard from them regarding his request.
- August 30 – Rich met with department heads regarding the 2008 budget. He will meet with them again the last week in September to further develop the 2008 budget. Rich asked the Supervisors to notify him prior to the September 25 meeting about any projects or changes they wished to see in the 2008 budget.
- August 30 - A pension meeting was held with Rod Wieder, pension consultants and covered employees. Some deficiencies were found in the current plan that can be corrected with little cost to the Township. Tom Redmond, our consultant, will make a recommendation on how to correct the problems. One deficiency was that if a retired individual was receiving pension payments, there is currently no provision for survivor benefits if the retired employee dies.
- September 6 – Bob Wynn, Bobb Carson and Rich conducted interviews with the top 4 firms who responded to the Act 537 RFP.

The FEMA modular home is now in place and occupied by UBREMS. UBREMS invited the Supervisors to attend an open house at the new facility on either October 13 or 20, time to be determined. Rich asked the Board to email which of the two dates would best suit before the September 25 meeting.

The Zoning Ordinance Public Hearing is set for Tuesday, October 2, 7:30 p.m., at the Springtown Fire Department Social Hall. The Hearing will be advertised in The Morning Call on Tuesday, September 18 and Tuesday, September 25.

The BCTMA has offered use of the Speed Trailer to the Township again in October if we have not purchased one of our own by then.

Rich is working on hiring a new Code Enforcement and Zoning Officer to replace Jeff Mease. He asked that the Supervisors appoint him as temporary Zoning Officer to augment the remaining zoning staff. Rob Zisko **moved** to appoint Rich Schilling as temporary Zoning Officer for the Township. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Rich Schilling introduced Cindy McCurdy who gave a **Community Day Update**. The first annual event is scheduled for September 29 at Silver Creek Athletic Association from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A written report was provided to the Supervisors. Cindy highlighted that there are 30 paid vendor booths totaling \$1,250. \$600 has been

collected in sponsorships. They have spent \$1,587.66 of the \$4,500 allotted to them by the Supervisors. Jim Brownlow agreed to provide opening remarks, lead in the Pledge of Allegiance and help wherever needed.

Although there is no parking or admission fee, they are collecting non-perishable food and non-food items for the Lord's Pantry. The Springtown Fire Company will offer primary food sales, along with snack items from other community organizations and vendors. The Springtown Fire Company's Fire Police will assist with traffic and parking.

Cindy encouraged everyone to pass the word to residents about the Township Photo Contest and encourage their participation. Forms and information are available on the Township website and in the Township building.

As an incentive for Supervisors to participate in the Dunk Tank, residents will be able to take three throws for \$1 and the money can go to the charity or non-profit community organization of the Board's choice. Other entertainment and special events are listed on the Township website.

The Board thanked the Community Day Committee for their hard work in pulling together this first of what is planned to be an annual event.

### **Public Comments on Agenda Items**

**Rose Strong** met with Adam Mazuik, from Penn Star Ambulance, who is also associated with UBREMS. He said that the new FEMA modular home provided for UBREMS on Township property is the best accommodation provided to an EMS service in Bucks County. They are very grateful to Springfield Township for providing this quality facility for them.

**Bob Bell** noted that his statement when the last chief of police was appointed was somewhat challenging of the Board's decision. He is very pleased with the pending announcement of the new chief of police. Bob thanked the Township Manager for his guidance toward this decision as well as the Board for making the appointment.

**Hans Reimann** commended Rich Schilling for his efforts in obtaining the modular home for the UBREMS. Rich commended the Road Department for the excellent job they did in installing it and setting it up. He also commended Congressman Murphy who worked tirelessly to assist the Township in obtaining the modular home.

### **New Business (Item #4 only)**

**Appointment of Police Chief** – Jim Brownlow moved this item earlier in the agenda because of a timing issue. Jim noted that the Police Department has been without a chief since the resignation of the prior chief in May 2007. Mark Laudenslager was appointed as Officer in Charge at the May 22, 2007, Supervisors meeting. The Board has been extremely impressed with Mark's abilities and his attitude before and after taking over the additional responsibility. He has brought esteem to the department at a time when it was desperately needed. For that reason, Jim Brownlow **moved** to appoint Mark Laudenslager as Chief of Police for Springfield Township, subject to the terms of the contract executed with Mark. His base salary is \$70,900, along with longevity pay of \$2,100, Educational Bonus of \$700 and a \$500 uniform allowance, for a total of \$74,200 annual compensation, plus benefits contained in his contract. Rob Zisko **seconded**.

Karen Bedics thanked Mark for picking up the ball and running with it after Chief Huber resigned. She added that Mark always went out of his way to answer questions and just do a great job. She summarized, "It is so nice to have someone so dedicated and professional running the department."

Rod Wieder thanked Mark for the many years he has served the Township as a policeman. Rod added that Mark is well respected throughout the Township. He especially appreciates Mark's attitude, and is extremely pleased Mark has accepted the position.

Rob Zisko read from a memo received from the Township Manager which stated, "I can rest assured that when Mark Laudenslager tells me something, it is the truth." Rob highlighted that sentence because he feels the same way.

Chuck Halderman thanked Mark for accepting the position; the audience clapped their appreciation for the new Chief!

Jim Brownlow called for the question. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Jim Brownlow **moved** to make the increase in Mark's salary retroactive to May 22, 2007, when he was appointed as Officer in Charge. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

**Public Hearing #1  
Agricultural Security Area Applications – Resolution 2007-13**

Scott MacNair, Township Solicitor, presented the 5 applications pending for inclusion in Springfield's Agricultural Security Area. The applications were submitted in May 2007, and involve eight tax map parcels. The Public Notice for this Hearing was advertised on August 28, 2007, in The Morning Call, and proof of publication has been received by the Township. The applicants and the tax map parcel numbers involved are listed below:

Township	TMP #	Landowner	Address	Total Acreage
Springfield	42-012-105-001	Ryan	2620 Rte 212, Coopersburg	11.741
Richland	36-029-089	Barnhart	405 Church Rd, Richland	54.168
Richland & Haycock	36-029-058 & 068	Wukovits	591 Union Rd, Quakertown	55.049
Springfield & Durham	42-017-111 & 116 11-001-007 (Durham)	Stick	4237 Rte 212 Springtown	79.06
Springfield	42-020-022	Rossi	201 Pullen Station Rd, Qktwn	35
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>8 parcels</b>	<b>5 Owners</b>		<b>235.018 acres</b>

The parcels were posted in accordance with the Ag Security Area regulations by Zoning Officer Jeffrey Mease on August 28, 2007. Resolutions were received from Richland, Durham and from Haycock Townships recommending inclusion of parcels from their township in the Springfield Township Ag Security Area. The Bucks County Planning Commission reviewed the tax map parcels and they are recommending inclusion of all 8 parcels. The Ag Security Committee of Springfield Township is recommending all parcels for inclusion with the exception of 36-029-089 owned by the Barnharts.

**Public Comments** - As there were no immediate public comments, Scott MacNair asked for supervisors comments.

**Karen Bedics** asked why the Ag Security Committee does not want to include the Richland Township Barnhart property. Rob Zisko said the Committee felt that Richland Township could use the 54+ acre Barnhardt property to begin accumulating acreage toward establishing their own Ag Security District—only 250 acres is required to have an Ag Security Area. The 55+ acre Wukovits property from Richland Township is being recommended for inclusion because it needs to be in an Ag Security Area in order for them to be considered for an Ag Preservation program. To exclude them would delay their settlement, which is in the end stages. Rob clarified that a property owner could apply to the County Ag Preservation program without being in an Ag Security Area. However, funding through the State Ag Preservation program cannot be obtained until the property is in an Ag Security Area.

**Chuck Halderman** attended the Planning Commission meeting when they reviewed the Ag Security applicants and recommended that all applicants be approved, because they did not have information about why the Ag Security Committee was not recommending the Barnhardt property. In the future, the Planning Commission requested that the Ag Security Committee provide notes or minutes from their meetings so that the information could be reviewed by the Planning Commission prior to the meeting when these applications would be reviewed. Rob Zisko, Chairman of the Ag Security Committee, said there is no one on his committee qualified to take minutes and requested assistance from the Township staff. Rich Schilling is discussing that possibility with Rob.

**David Barnhardt, Richland Township**, stated that he is actively farming his property. He does not currently reside on the property, but hope to build and move onto the property within the next several years. The entire tract is either Class III or IV soils. He thinks his property is now ranked 50 out of 63 in the county Ag Preservation Program, but it is his intention to continue actively farming the property and to pursue the benefits offered through the Ag Security/Preservation programs. In the coming years, he hopes his property will move higher in the ranking so as to be considered for inclusion in the Ag Preservation program. If his property is rejected at this time, he may need to reapply to Springfield Township in the future, should Richland Township not begin an Ag Security Area, so that he can preserve his land for farming. Mr. Barnhardt has been working with Richland Township to have them begin an Ag Security Area. He asked if he was accepted by Springfield's Ag Security District whether he could transfer to Richland Township's Ag Security District, should they begin one. Scott MacNair stated that he could transfer.

**Jim Brownlow** suggested that Mr. Barnhardt's property be accepted into Springfield's Ag Security Area. In addition, he suggested that our Township should write a letter to Richland Township stating that in the future, properties from other townships will be very selectively included in Springfield's Ag Security Area. Hopefully, this will encourage Richland Township to move forward with establishing their own Ag Security Area.

**Rob Zisko** now favors accepting the Barnhardt property into Springfield's Ag Security Area, since he understands they can transfer to Richland Township's Ag Security Area after it is formed. Karen Bedics is concerned that if we continue accepting other townships' properties into our Ag Security Area, we may be lowering our own Township's properties down on the county/state funding list, if the county/state considers one or more of the properties from other townships more valuable. Jim Brownlow agreed with Karen's concerns, but because the property owner could apply to any other township's Ag Security Area, they could still become eligible for funding even if we excluded them from our Township's Ag Security Area. Rich Schilling reminded the Board that farm preservation is a deterrent to development and that is the primary purpose for an Ag Security Area.

**David Barnhardt** is hopeful that his efforts to preserve his own property in Richland Township may be a catalyst for neighboring farmers to also consider this option. He suggested that if we accept his property into our Ag Security Area, he would be willing to make it a condition of his acceptance that if/when Richland Township begins their own Ag Security Area, he would transfer to their Area. Scott MacNair does not feel that needs to be a condition, from the Township's perspective.

**Hans Reimann** feels that as a pro-farming community, Springfield Township should support any farms being preserved if they are close to our Township, even if they are competing with our own farms. Hans feels our letter to Richland Township should extend an offer of help to Richland to begin their own Ag Security Area, since we have experience and an established program of our own.

There being no further public comment, the public hearing was closed.

Rob Zisko **moved** that Resolution 2007-13 be adopted and that all eight properties proposed for inclusion in Springfield Township's Ag Security Area be accepted. Rod Wieder **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Rob Zisko **moved** that we send a letter to Richland Township asking them to form their own Ag Security District and that we offer them our help, should they desire it. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

## **Public Hearing #2 Municipal Waste & Recyclables Ordinance #139**

Scott MacNair, Township Solicitor, prefaced that this hearing is in regards to the proposed Municipal Waste and Recyclables Ordinance #139. The public notice for the hearing was advertised in The Morning Call on September 4, 2007, and proof of publication has been received by the Township.

This ordinance deals with municipal waste and recyclable collection as well as the Bucks County program that requires an annual report to be submitted by the haulers of municipal waste and the collectors of recyclables. Specifically, the ordinance requires licensing through the DEP, and that Springfield Township be provided with registration and licensing information. The haulers have to obtain written authorization from DEP. Private

individuals who wish to take their own trash to an approved facility are exempted. There is a registration requirement, which includes providing vehicle information, license plate numbers, vehicle inspection information, hauling capacity of the vehicles, and restrictions on the manner of the collection. A certificate of insurance is also required. The Bucks County Recycling Documentation Program requires that an annual report be submitted to the county from each hauler.

Ordinance #139 contains penalties for lack of compliance with the requirements, including up to a \$1,000 fine or a 30-day period of incarceration.

The hearing was opened for public comment.

**Hans Reimann** asked whether the ordinance relates to any kind of collection that the Township has on township grounds. Scott MacNair indicated it applied only to haulers and collectors of general residential township trash. Hans also asked if it related to dumpsters on construction sites and was advised by Scott MacNair that it does apply, in that that hauler would be required to register with DEP and provide required information to the Township. Scott clarified that a similar ordinance is being enacted by all townships within Bucks County in response to a letter received from Bucks County Planning Commission requesting that they enact such an ordinance. This will permit Bucks County to keep up with the annual reporting requirements ensuring that haulers within County are complying with the County Recyclable and Municipal Waste Programs.

There being no further public comments, Supervisors were invited to share their comments.

Karen Bedics asked for clarification of a prohibited activity in the Ordinance listed on page 4: *It shall be unlawful for any person to scavenge any material from any municipal waste or source-separated recyclable materials that are stored or placed for subsequent collection within the Township of Springfield without prior approval from the municipality.* Scott MacNair referred Karen to page 3 where “Scavenging” is defined as *Scavenging shall mean the unauthorized and uncontrolled removal of any material stored or placed at a point for subsequent collection or from a processing or disposal facility.*

Rod Wieder **moved** that Ordinance 139 be adopted. Chuck Halderman **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

### Old Business

**Open Space Borrowing – Jason Brockman**, consultant from Public Financial Management (PFM), presented *Discussion of Term of Open Space Bonds and Summary of Bond Counsel and Paying Agent Proposals* to the Supervisors. This publication contains information relating to the Township’s proposed Open Space \$5,000,000 financing program which was approved by the electorate in May 2007.

Three financing options were listed one page 1: 20 years, 25 years and 30 years. The 25- and 30-year financing options were presented to the Supervisors at their August 14 meeting. They requested to see figures if the loan was taken for 20 years. The Open Space Committee is recommending the 25-year financing option, primarily because the annual payment is well within what is currently being received (\$370,000 annually) from the Open Space portion of the Earned Income Tax. This option will leave us with a \$3,210,414.89 fund balance at the end of 25 years. The 20-year financing option would require a \$373,105 annual payment, which is all of the EIT money now being received. At the end of the 20-year term, the balance would be about \$1,100,000. Page 6 shows an amortization schedule for the 30-year financing option, for which the average annual payment would be \$300,000. At the end of the 30-year loan, the Township would have \$5,700,000.

Jim Brownlow asked if the payments shown for each financing option assumed that the Township was taking the full \$5,000,000 immediately, with whatever is not needed immediately being reinvested until it is needed. Jason indicated that was true, and added that the ending figures for each financing option assumed a 4% interest earnings over the term of the loan. After the bond is issued, the Township will have \$4,900,000 to spend on Open Space properties. The interest on the bond will change with the market; the interest at the present time is 5%. The assumption for the interest rate on all three proposals ranges from 3.6 to 4.5%.

Rob Zisko stated that provided that the Township spends the entire \$5,000,000 on Open Space properties within three years, the Township can earn an arbitrage on that. Rich Schilling added that the closing costs involved in taking out portions of the approved \$5,000,000 at different times are prohibitive. Jim Brownlow clarified that by taking out the 25-year loan, the Township would not be using all of the EIT tax that is now coming in annually to pay down the loan. That fact, plus the interest earned on the unused portion of the loan, will result in a \$3,000,000+ balance at the end of the 25-year loan term. Rob Zisko noted that after the first five years, the Township could pay additional money on the loan if they so desire. Jason Brockman noted that if interest rates decline, the bond could be refinanced one time prior to the 5-year period.

Referring to page 8 of the handout, Jason pointed out that three Bond Counsel Proposals were received:

1. Curtin & Heefner, LLP, Morrisville, PA – Fee: \$16,000 + out-of-pocket expenses not to exceed \$750
2. Lamb McErlane PC, West Chester, PA – \$12,500 (includes out-of-pocket expenses)
3. Pepper Hamilton LLP, Philadelphia, PA – \$7,500 + out-of-pocket expenses not to exceed \$1,500

The Bond Counsel Proposal being recommended by PFM is from Pepper Hamilton LLP, from Philadelphia. Several Board members and the Township Solicitor are familiar with Pepper Hamilton and have confidence in the firm.

The last page of the handout summarizes the three proposals received to serve as Paying Agent on the new bonds:

- |                          |                    |                   |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Commerce Bank         | Initial Fee: \$500 | Annual Fee: \$750 |
| 2. Bank of NY (JPMorgan) | Initial Fee: 0     | Annual Fee: \$500 |
| 3. U.S. Bank (Wachovia)  | Initial Fee: 0     | Annual Fee: \$400 |

Rob Zisko **moved** that the loan be for a term of 25-years with an average annual payment of \$330,194, that Pepper Hamilton LLP be selected as the Bond Counsel, and that U.S. Bank (Wachovia) be selected as the Paying Agent. Rod Wieder **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

**Recess from 9:05 p.m. - 9:10 p.m.**

**Zoning Hearing Board Expansion** – This agenda topic refers to expanding the current 3-member Zoning Hearing Board to a 5-member Zoning Hearing Board.

Rob Zisko **moved** that discussion on this topic be tabled until the September 25, 2007, Supervisors meeting. Jim Brownlow **seconded**. Karen Bedics suggested that the Board authorize the Manager to invite the Zoning Hearing Board applicants to attend the September 25 meeting. Rich Schilling pointed out that a resolution exists (Resolution 2000-15) which requires that all openings be advertised and that all interested candidates shall have an opportunity for an interview with the full Board of Supervisors. Rich feels that the existing Resolution is very restrictive and is cost prohibitive if there are multiple resignations from various committees. Jim Brownlow noted that a motion was on the floor to table discussion on the topic of whether the Zoning Hearing Board should be expanded to five members. Chuck Halderman feels the new Zoning Ordinance will necessitate additional Zoning Hearings and that more members will be required. Rich Schilling indicated there are 4 letters of interest from Township residents which he will distribute to the Board members before the next meeting.

Jim called for the question. The motion **passed** unanimously.

**Sewage Enforcement Officer Appointment** – Rob Zisko feels it is important to define the scope for the Sewage Enforcement Officer. He asked Scott MacNair if the Bucks County Department of Health's Sewage Enforcement Officer had precedence over municipal SEOs. Rob's understanding is that the County SEO has final jurisdiction over issuing septic permits. Scott MacNair is not certain about this. Rob Zisko requested Scott to obtain information about this before a decision is made on the matter. Rob feels that if the County SEO has precedence over local SEOs, to require our SEO to inspect single-lot or small subdivisions is only adding one more level of consultants, which adds unnecessary cost for the property owner. Rob feels our SEO should only review developments of 5 or more lots.

Chuck Halderman feels the mission statement for the position of SEO is to protect on lot water and sewer by ensuring that developers put septic systems in the appropriate locations on the lot, not in locations that will ensure that the developer can get more lots from a tract.

Rich Schilling noted that Carl Dicker, from Spotts, Stevens and McCoy, was in the audience and might be able to answer some of the questions the Board was raising. Carl Dicker stated that it was his understanding that the County Department of Health would have the final decision on sewage permitting. Carl feels that if there is more than one location on a property that is suitable for a septic system that might be where the Township would have their SEO review which is the preferred location. If both areas test well, the Department of Health will sign off on either one. Rob said that he does not disagree with hiring a Township SEO, as long as it is for 5-lot or larger subdivisions. He noted that water resource impact studies are not required for subdivisions of less than 5 lots; therefore, he doesn't feel that a local SEO should be required to review systems on subdivisions of less than 5 lots.

Jim Brownlow asked Rich Schilling to give copies of the RFPs that were sent to the applicants to the Board members so they could familiarize themselves with them. Jim also requested Scott MacNair to give a definitive answer at the October 9 Board meeting as to whether the County SEO has jurisdiction over the local SEO. Scott will also check whether, when a local SEO is certified in the same way the County SEO is certified, they would have final authority.

Chuck Halderman suggested that Rich Schilling contact Keith Dudley from DEP and invite him to attend the October 9 meeting. Further discussion was tabled until October 9.

### **New Business**

**1. Resignation of Jeff Mease** – Jim Brownlow stated that Jeff Mease submitted a letter of resignation. Jim suggested that in addition to accepting Jeff's letter of resignation, a letter of appreciation should be written to Jeff for his years of service to the Township. Karen Bedics **moved** that a letter of appreciation be mailed to Jeff Mease for his years of service to the Township. Jim Brownlow **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Jim added that Jeff has agreed to do limited, part-time building and code enforcement work for the Township until a replacement is obtained. Rod Wieder **moved** to authorize Jeff Mease to continue working part-time at an hourly rate of \$21.15 until a replacement is obtained. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Rob Zisko **moved** to permit Jeff Mease to continue as Fire Marshall and also to continue providing house numbers for new homes in the Township. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

**2. 2008 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Police and Non-Uniform Pension Plans** – The Board was given copies of the Minimum Municipal Obligation for the pension plans. By law, the Board must review, certify and accept this obligation annually. Rob Zisko asked why police must contribute 5% toward their pension and regular employees are not required to contribute. Rich Schilling noted that non-uniform employees' pension benefits do not come near the benefits received by the police in their pensions. Jim Brownlow noted that the 2008 MMO for the uniformed plan is \$20,682 and the amount for the Non-Uniform Plan is \$39,642.

Karen Bedics **moved** to accept the Springfield Township Uniform (\$20,682) and Non-Uniform (\$39,642) Minimum Municipal Obligation figures for 2008. Rod Wieder **seconded**. Sandy Everitt, Treasurer, clarified that a large portion of the MMO would be covered by funds received from state funding. The Township is responsible only for what is not covered by the state funds. The motion **passed** unanimously.

**3. Planning Commission Appointment Procedure** – After reviewing Resolution 2000-15, Rich stated that the full Board will need to schedule time to meet with all the applicants that have applied for the Planning Commission opening. Rich Schilling will set up the meetings beginning at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 18.

### **Correspondence**

Jim Brownlow noted that a number of correspondence items had been received (listed on the agenda) and copies were distributed to the Supervisors. Jim noted that Walt French has decided that he does not want to be reappointed to the Planning Commission when his current term expires on December 31, 2007.

## Public Comments

**Peter Lamana** – After a tumultuous history in the Police Department, Pete feels the Board has made a good decision in appointing Mark Laudenslager as Chief of Police. Mark has demonstrated to Pete personally on at least two occasions the caliber of individual that he is. Pete appreciates his appointment by the Board.

**Hans Reimann** expressed the same gratitude to the Board for appointing Mark Laudenslager as Police Chief. Hans, too, has had personal contact with Chief Laudenslager over the years he has lived in the Township. Mark has been helpful to Hans in handling personal matters and has demonstrated a very professional attitude.

**Bruce Whitesell** thanked Chief Laudenslager for the service he has provided to him personally over the past 18 months. Bruce thanked the Board for appointing Mark as Chief of Police.

**Bob Bell** encouraged the Board to continue to assess the priority and importance of the Police Department.

## Supervisors' Comments

**Chuck Halderman** asked whether action was required on the correspondence received from DEP regarding the Prime Properties tract. Scott MacNair said no action is required by the Board. Prime Properties must bring their plan into compliance before final approval is granted and/or the plan is recorded.

Chuck also asked the status of the grading ordinance. Scott MacNair thought that he had shared the Wrightstown Ordinance with the Supervisors for them to review. He will provide several ordinances from other townships for the Board to review. Karen Bedics asked what type of ordinance samples Scott would be giving the Board members. Scott said they were called Grading and Erosion Control Ordinances. He will provide ordinances from Wrightstown and Solebury for the Board to review.

Chuck is concerned that the ordinance be constructed so that the Township would have authority to deal with problems rather than having to refer the problems to agencies outside of the Township. Scott said with the proper ordinance in place, the Township could authorize their solicitor to file a criminal complaint with the District Court and it would be addressed very rapidly.

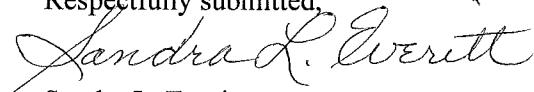
**Karen Bedics** stated that she has someone checking with the church in Zion Hill about whether their facility would be available for the Township to hold one of the November meetings in Zion Hill. She also requested that the Township formally invite our lawmakers to Community Day. Rich Schilling advised that letters have already gone out. Congressman Murphy is the only one to respond to date. He will not be in the area on that day, but will have Larry Glick, his right-hand man, attend the event.

**Jim Brownlow** encouraged everyone to review the *Dates of Interest* listed on the agenda. In particular, Jim encouraged residents to attend the Public Hearing for the new Zoning Ordinance scheduled to be held on Tuesday, October 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the social hall of the Springtown Fire Department.

## Adjournment

At 9:50 p.m., Karen Bedics **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Jim Brownlow **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra L. Everitt  
Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: September 25, 2007

Approved: September 25, 2007

