

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Rod Wieder with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present were Vice Chairman Pete Lamana, Chuck Halderman, Rob Zisko and Jim Brownlow. Solicitor Jim McNamara was present.

MINUTES OF 8/23/05

Jim Brownlow corrected the spelling of Banko Lane. Chuck Halderman made a spelling correction on page 4. Jim Brownlow moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Seconded by Pete Lamana. Vote was unanimous.

BILLS FOR APPROVAL

The Treasurer presented a bills list showing payments of \$48,971.82 from the General Fund. Rob Zisko moved to approve the bills as submitted. Seconded by Jim Brownlow. Vote was unanimous.

REPORTS

The Road Department and Code Enforcement Office Reports are posted.

Police Report – Chief Huber reported a total of 89 incidents for the month of August. There were 4 traffic accidents involving 7 vehicles with no injuries and no fatalities. There were seven traffic arrests during this period.

With the opening of school, the department is targeting school zones and school bus stops. The Chief encourages any residents witnessing violations of the flashing red lights on the school bus to contact the police department.

Solicitor Report – Jim McNamara reported on the following items:

Locust Valley Subdivision – As requested by the Supervisors, the Solicitor and Township Engineer met with the legal and engineering staff of Upper Saucon Township on September 1, 2005 to discuss providing water and sewer to the Development District in Springfield. Jim referred to Bob Wynn's letter dated September 6, 2005 and Jim McNamara's letter dated September 7, 2005. It would appear that there are significant issues regarding water and sewer service to the Locust Valley site.

DelGuerico – In accordance with the terms of the Consent Decree Mr. DelGuerico has installed the Norway spruce tree buffer on his property. He also advises Bob Wynn that Mease Engineering will be preparing the Land Development Plan that was contemplated as part of the Consent Decree in this case.

Bodder Haupts (Evergreen Estates)

The residents opposed to the Evergreen Estates Subdivision approval have appealed to the Commonwealth Court a Bucks County Court Decision that dismissed their appeal from the Board of Supervisors' submission approval.

Fausto vs. Springfield Township

A motion to dismiss this lawsuit is pending before the Bucks County Court. Mr. Fausto's attorney is seeking permission to schedule additional depositions before responding to the suit and our attorneys are opposed on the basis that sufficient time has already been allowed to complete all discovery.

Jim Brownlow confirmed that the DelGuerico plan will go directly to the supervisors. Jim McNamara stated that is correct.

PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS

Hans Reimann thanked the supervisors for their support of the Heritage Conservancy efforts to place a conservation easement on the Seifert property. Hans explained the importance of this property relative to the well head of the Springtown Water System. He also congratulated the citizens who have worked to gather information relative to the future of the water system. Hans suggested the Supervisors form a “blue ribbon” committee to assist with the decision for the future of the system.

Ken Simmons asked if he could discuss a business plan for the Springtown Water System. Rod advised Ken that the Board will hold a meeting at the Fire House on September 27th to discuss the matter. Rod suggested Ken get his proposal to the supervisors so they will have time to review it prior to the meeting.

PLANNING

Resolution 2005-07 – Planning Module for Springtown Knoll (Country Manor) - Pete Lamana moved to approve Resolution 2005-07. Seconded by Chuck Halderman. Vote was unanimous.

Springtown Knoll – Final approval. Pete Lamana moved to grant Final approval for the Springtown Knoll Major Subdivision conditioned upon the outstanding items listed in Wynn Associates letter dated August 9 and September 8 being completed. Seconded by Jim Brownlow.

Discussion – Chuck Halderman referred to the letter from Kent Littlefield SAIC dated February 15, 2005. Chuck is concerned that the subsurface conditions under the proposed structures on Lots 14 and 16 are property tested prior to building. Also, there is a situation on Lots 17 and 18 regarding compaction grouting under the foundation walls and columns of the proposed structures. In order to avoid problems with both of the situations listed in the SAIC letter, Chuck recommends the planning commission review the plans prior to building permits being issued.

Robin Reshetar, Reshetar Realty explained the Alexander MacPhee of CVM Industries, Geotech Division is scheduled to inspect the lots and will notify Jeff Mease and Bob Wynn of his findings. Chuck feels referring it back to the planning commission will provide added protection for the township that a house is not placed on a sink hole.

Jim Brownlow stated what Chuck is concerned about should be resolved by having the township engineer and building inspector on site when the testing is scheduled. As representatives of the township, they will stop the operation if not appropriate.

Attorney Brad Laher, representing Reshetar Realty, suggested that building permits would be conditioned upon an inspection by SAIC. If there is a problem, no permit will be issued until the matter is resolved.

Jim Brownlow explained Springtown Knoll is a 25.87 acre parcel, located on Drifting Drive and is proposed to be subdivided into 20 single family lots. The parcel is located within the Village Residential Zoning District. Proposed lots have a minimum area of one acre each.

Rob Zisko asked if the planning commission and supervisors are comfortable that the plan has met the requirements of the zoning ordinance. Jim McNamara replied the plan complies.

Chuck Halderman referred to a letter from Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Mease to Mease Engineering regarding available water supply from the Springtown Water System for the development. Robin Reshetar stated his understanding of the letter is that during peak hours, there is not sufficient pressure; there is plenty of water.

Rod Wieder called for the vote. The vote was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

Springtown Water System – Proposals from Castle Valley and Spotts Stevens and McCoy

.Chuck Halderman moved to ask Castle Valley to look at the water system in Springtown. A time frame for the completion of the study should be included. Rob Zisko seconded.

Discussion Rob Zisko has concerns about Castle Valley. They are close to New Britain and could have connections in the county. Spotts Stevens and McCoy are out of Whitehall. Rob doesn't know which one is better, however, SSM did our Sourcewater Protection Plan.

Jim Brownlow agrees with Chuck, Castle Valley presented a more detailed proposal. Jim believes SSM is familiar with the Township and we have been happy with their performance to date.

Pete Lamana sat through the meetings with SSM. The report presented was detailed. Pete considers it excellent.

Vote to hire Castle Valley was 2 yes, 3 no.

Chuck Halderman moved to retain Spotts Stevens and McCoy. Seconded by Pete Lamana. Vote was unanimous.

Rod Wieder announced a meeting for September 27, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at the Springtown Fire Company Social Hall to discuss the Springtown Water System. Post cards will be sent to all users of the system inviting them to attend.

C. Robert Wynn Letter September 6, 2005 reporting on meeting with Upper Saucon Township Professional Staff

Jim McNamara, who was present at the meeting, stated it was a very cordial meeting. Upper Saucon does not have the capacity to supply water to the Springfield Development District.. This is not a short term possibility. There are no facilities in place to supply water and sewer. Jim McNamara continued the Development District is the highest density zoning. Without public water and sewer it will be impossible to develop.

The sketch plan submitted by McGrath Homes for the Locust Valley Golf Course initiated contact. The developer will have to look for other options.

Pete Lamana moved to table the matter until more information is available. Rod Wieder seconded. Vote was 2 yes; 3 no.

Rob Zisko suggests the township explore options with MTASA to see if they are willing to talk to us about serving the area. Pete Lamana doesn't believe MTASA will be interested, since they have not been thrilled with additional hook ups in the Zion Hill area.

Chuck Halderman feels Coopersburg Borough has no problem using Springfield's water. Chuck does not believe they should be taking water out of the township aquifer.

Rod Wieder talked to Richland a few years ago about the possibility of running water up 309 from Melody Lakes. They said the expense would be prohibitive.

A few years ago, Pete talked to Coopersburg and was told it would cost \$1,500,00 to run a line from Upper Saucon through Coopersburg into Birney's Trucking outfit.

Jim McNamara stated the ball is back in the developer's court.

Rod Wieder thanked Jim McNamara and Bob Wynn for attending the meeting.

Township Manager – Pete Lamana – Pete referred to a memo he sent to the supervisors dated June 13, 205. The memo outlined Pete's concerns about additional staffing needs and increasing expenses. Pete asked the supervisors in his memo "what will Springfield Township look like in 5-10-15 years. Will there be a sewer system in Springtown? Will the water line in Springtown be extended? What new ordinances will be in place"?

Hiring a manager could cost \$65,000. A car and other expenses could cost an additional \$17,000. Benefits and pension expenses for the manager could cost \$24,000. Pete's list referred to hiring a secretary and part time treasurer. The hiring of a township manager is profound, Pete stated. Also, the Road Department has been asking for a third full time employee for 3 years and the police force needs a fourth officer.

Pete believes there are three options open to the supervisors: raise taxes, borrow money or dip into the surplus account. Pete does not believe that would be wise since this reserve is set aside for catastrophic events.

Jim Brownlow thanked Pete for his comments. Jim agrees the township revenues match expenses. With the addition of a manager, another police officer and a road department worker we will need additional revenue. The cost of 1 mill for the average property is approximately \$35.00. Jim believes the potential employees are justified expenses but they come at a price.

Chuck Halderman thanked Pete for bringing this issue to the public. Chuck believes we are going to spend more money, that's for sure.

Nancy Hottle – Spurs and Burs 4H Club requests letter of endorsement for Milton DeLancy Award sponsored by Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors

Mrs. Hottle introduced Shelby Hubner and Stephanie Babbitt, members of the Club. The girls explained the 4H Club has been working with the Springtown Fire Company on barn safety issues. Shelby discussed the preventive measures suggested by the fire company to insure barn safety. The 4H Club members will also work with the firemen to teach them how to lead horses out of a fire or smoke filled barn.

Pete Lamana moved to recommend the application of the Spurs and Burs 4-H Club to PSATS for consideration of the Milton DeLancey Youth Award. Seconded by Chuck Halderman. Vote was unanimous.

Penn Meadows Subdivision Status of Completion of Improvements - Jim McNamara referred to a letter dated August 8, 2005 from C. Robert Wynn Associates listing the outstanding items to be addressed.

Jim McNamara believes it is premature to begin the 18 month maintenance. Board took no action.

Heritage Conservancy letter of support for preservation of Siefert Property Lower Saucon Township (5 acres in Springfield)

Chuck Halderman moved to support the efforts of Heritage to preserve the Siefert property located in Lower Saucon and Springfield. Seconded by Rob Zisko. Vote was unanimous.

Kenneth Bouchert 1837 Quarry Road – speed on Quarry Road

Mr. Bouchert read his concerns about the high rate of speed traffic is traveling on Quarry Road. Mr. Bouchert stated it is dangerous for children to skateboard, ride bicycles, and mothers to push baby carriages. He is concerned about the children waiting at the bus stop. According to Mr. Bouchert, the speeding conditions are present all hours of the day. Mr. Bouchert is requesting the Supervisors to post Quarry Road at 25 mph for the length of the road. A portion is currently posted at 25 mph.

Former Chief Bob Bell has dealt with this problem in previous years. He believes this is an emotional issue with Mr. Bouchert. He has concerns with some of the fractured data Mr. Bouchert supplied.

Chief Huber reported the police department has received over 100 calls from Mr. Bouchert since 2001. The Chief agrees speeding occurs on all of the roads in the township. It is impossible to station a car for a prolonged period of time on any road, considering the size of the police department.

Pete Lamana stated the same could be said for Drifting Drive. Speeding happens on all of the township roads. Signs do not stop people.

Rob Wieder is a resident of Quarry Road. Rod believes Mr. Bouchert is going beyond what he should as a resident. It is not his place to follow people and reprimand them.

Pete Lamana moved to table the matter. Seconded by Rob Zisko. Vote was unanimous.

Schedule Supervisors meeting for September 27, 2005 at Springtown Fire Company Social Hall – Rod announced the Board will meet on September 27th at 7:30 p.m. at the Springtown Fire Company Social Hall. The Springtown Water System will be discussed. Notices will be sent to all users on the water system encouraging them to attend.

CORRESPONDENCE

The supervisors received a letter from Paul Clymer dated August 24, 2005, reporting on the condition of the bridge located on Route 212 and Old Bethlehem Road between Route 212 and Bridge Street. Paul reports in speaking with Penn DOT's bridge engineer, it will probably take from 18 to 24 months for a replacement. The bridge has been severely damaged by last year's flood and a replacement is the only reasonable alternative.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Schmoyer feels the supervisors should encourage business on the Route 309 corridor. Rod Wieder explained that is why the supervisors are exploring options for water and sewer. The Board feels this is important.

Chuck Halderman discussed regional planning relative to the Development District and Route 309.

Scott Douglas discussed the EAC Sourcewater Protection Plan. His data suggests the stream is experiencing stress more frequently. If we draw too much the creek will be dry in 40 years.

Ken Simmons encouraged the supervisors to adopt the Cable TV Ordinance as soon as possible. He feels after the meeting on August 4th, there will be some real opposition by Service Electric to the new contract proposal.

Hans Reimann asked how many municipalities are involved with the contract negotiations with Service Electric. Ken replied 7 townships are involved.

Patrice Ryan reviewed a presentation concerning the Rolling Hills Subdivision made Deborah Quinn. Deborah presented an alternative lay out for the Subdivision on Slifer Valley Road and Route 212.

Jim Brownlow stated the presentation was made at the planning commission meeting. The supervisors forwarded a letter from Attorney Gundlach back to the planning commission for input. The new sketch plan proposal, one acre lots and on lot systems, appears to be a new plan. The planning commission has requested a legal opinion from Jim McNamara. It was passed to the Solicitor who will respond to the supervisors

Jim continued, the presentation was made by several neighbors and a petition was presented to the planning commission.

Cindy McCurdy suggested the supervisors use a microphone for the September 27th meeting. Cindy said it was impossible to hear at the previous meeting at the social hall.

She also requested Chief Huber to ask the State Police why they are not watching the speed on Richlandtown Pike. Also, in the case of the Springtown Knoll Subdivision if the fire hydrants are bagged are the new owners given a letter by the township? Chuck Halderman replied, there is no mandate to provide fire protection.

Hans Reimann questioned why the greenway shown in the Township Open Space Plan located on the Springtown Knoll property was not included in the subdivision plan.

SUPERVISORS' COMMENTS

Chuck Halderman reminded the supervisors that County Commissioner Jim Cawley stated the County will close the bridge at Bridge Street and Route 212 if the township requests it be done.

Chuck would like to see the bridge closed. He feels currently there is a dangerous situation with vehicles backing out onto Route 212 at a point where there is minimal site distance.

Chuck Halderman moved to request the County to close the bridge at Bridge Street and Route 212. Pete Seconded.

Pete believes it is a dangerous situation and acknowledges that Commissioner Cawley said the Board of Supervisors could request the bridge be closed.

Rob Zisko believes this would cause a serious inconvenience to the residents who live in the area.

Vote – Chuck Halderman-YES; Four voted NO. Motion did not carry.

Chuck Halderman reminded the residents to attend the meeting at the fire house. We need to keep our assets not transport water out of our aquifer.

Rod Wieder announced an executive session after the meeting to discuss personnel.

ADJOURN

Rob Zisko moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. Seconded by Jim Brownlow. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted

Barbara A. Smith
Secretary