

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

September 27, 2011

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, Barbara Lindtner, Dave Long, Volker Oakey and Rob Zisko
Also present: Scott MacNair, Co-Solicitor (left at 8:30 p.m.); Sandy Everitt, Township Secretary/Treasurer; Rich Schilling, Township Manager and Bob Wynn, Township Engineer (left at 8:00 p.m.).

Barbara Lindtner, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board held an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel issues.

Approval of Minutes

September 13 minutes will be reviewed for adoption at the October 11 meeting.

Bills for Approval

Karen Bedics **moved** to approve the following bills paid from September 10 – 23, 2011:

1. General Fund	\$ 28,089.73	4. Special Fees Fund	\$ 856.89
2. Liquid Fuels	\$ 117.64	5. Subdivision & Escrow	\$ 531.21

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

Public Comments on Agenda Items - None

Planning Matters

1. Herman Subdivision – James Herman requested a one-year extension of the date (currently October 26, 2011) by which improvements need to be completed. Rob Zisko **moved** to grant an extension for completion of improvements until October 11, 2012. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

2. Sutch Subdivision – Resolution Adopting Planning Module – The sewage system for this subdivision serves two units; thus, it is considered a Community System, which requires a sewage maintenance agreement and a revision to the Act 537 Plan. Rob Zisko **moved** to adopt Resolution 2011-014, *DEP Resolution for Plan Revision for New Land Development* and to forward the Sutch planning modules to DEP for review. Bucks County and Springfield's Planning Commissions have already reviewed the Planning Module. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Discussion was held early on a DEP letter dated September 9, 2011, regarding NPDES discharge for Stormwater construction activities at Springtown Knoll subdivision to permit Bob Wynn to leave early. Bob stated this DEP correspondence authenticates that Robin Reshetar has renewed his NPDES permit for Springtown Knoll.

Old Business

1. Update on Route 212 County Bridge Upgrade – Rich Schilling contacted Carroll Engineering for details on this bridge closure. The work will require three to four months; however, there is currently no funding to begin the work. Carroll Engineering will notify Springfield Township when funding becomes available.

New Business

1. Draft Ordinance from the Springtown Water Authority – Scott MacNair presented a draft ordinance prepared by the Springtown Water Authority for Township adoption. The Authority requested that the Township fund the advertising costs for this ordinance. This ordinance deals with imposition of penalties for users who do not follow the guidelines for construction, replacement, repair of connections that are outlined in the Water Authority's Resolution No. 07-03 (adopted April 9, 2007) as well as amended in this proposed ordinance. The Authority did not provide the Township with a copy of Resolution 07-03 that the draft ordinance references as an attachment. The Board had

questions about ambiguity of wording within the ordinance; specifically, whether the Township or the Authority is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Water Authority's Resolution No. 07-03. Rich Schilling pointed out that his concern regarding the Township becoming involved in enforcing Authority regulations is that the Authority is funded by user fees and Authority expenses should not be borne by residents who are not 'users' of the Springtown water system. Further discussion will take place after language clarification is obtained, the goal of the Ordinance is determined and until a copy of the Authority's Resolution 07-03 is obtained. Rich Schilling will contact the Water Authority regarding these issues.

2. Resolution to Bucks County on FCC Mandated Radio Upgrade – Bucks County is under a federal FCC mandate to upgrade the County's radio systems by January 2, 2013. All Bucks County Emergency Services are required to 'narrow band' their radio systems to comply. The estimated cost for Springfield Township Police to obtain the required radios is \$47,000. The cost for the Springtown Fire Department's radios will be approximately \$100,000. The Fire Company applied with approximately 54 other Bucks County Fire Departments for FEMA grant funding of approximately eight million dollar to assist in the purchase. However, with current funding deficits, they are not counting on receiving grant money. Will Helm, Fire Chief, said that the County is considering floating a bond so that various entities could get the radios and pay for them over a period of time. The Fire Chief's asked the County to seek an extension for the startup date from the FCC. UBREMS cost to comply is about \$37,000, but they began saving for radios two years ago, so they will not have the same hardship that others may have. Volker Oakey **moved** to adopt Resolution 2011-015, urging the Bucks County Commissioners to defer implementation of the Radio Project until December 2012 to provide time for investigating grants and other funding sources to assist with the purchase of the radios. Dave Long **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Discussion of Correspondence regarding Commonwealth Court Order: Springfield Township vs. PUC – To permit the solicitor to leave early, the Board held a discussion on correspondence received by the Township indicating that an order was issued that the Commonwealth Court will hear the oral argument of Springfield Township vs. PUC (PPL Case) *en banc* on October 19. This means that a full panel of judges will hear oral argument that a smaller 3-member panel of judges heard before. This is a rare circumstance, as only a small percentage of cases actually go before an *en banc* panel. Scott Rubin will represent the Township, with assistance from Terry Clemons. The *en banc* panel will review existing evidence only, although the Commonwealth could remand the case back down to have additional evidence presented that they feel they need. The *en banc* panel is for legal argument as to whether the lower level court correctly presided over issues and whether the decision made was correct.

3. Adoption of 2012 Pension Minimum Municipal Obligation – Barbara Lindtner **moved** to adopt the 2012 Tabular Reserve Pension Minimum Municipal Obligations: Non-Uniform Plan - \$50,045 and Police Pension Plan MMO - \$34,276. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Rich Schilling noted that the 2011 MMO received was 73% higher than the amount we received last year. This higher payment means that the Township will only need to pay \$10,413.55 from the General Fund in 2011 instead of the budgeted \$47,439.85. Rob Zisko asked whether non-uniform employees can contribute to the pension plan like the police do. Sandy Everitt will check with our Plan Consultant about this as well as what determines whether the police need to contribute to their plan and report to the Board at the next meeting.

4. 2012 Budget – Barbara Lindtner began with discussion of the expense categories. Key points from the discussion:

- Starting salary for secretary/treasurer to be determined
- Package amount to upgrade both administration and police computers to be determined: hardware and software. (UBREMS suggested contacting TechSoup.org. Rich will follow up on this as well as discussing computer needs with Paul Kiesel.)
- Rich will contact PPL about whether 409.36 (electric) can be lowered from the projected \$13,500.
- Discussion will take place in Executive Session prior to the October 11 meeting about leadership in the police department and commensurate salary, or establishing the position of part-time Director of Safety. Rich will research whether a Director of Safety can provide leadership for the police department.
- Sandy will move the former chief's wages as an officer from the 410.13 category back to the 410.12 "Chief's Wages" category.

- Sandy will determine reason for increase in Workmen’s Compensation charges as well as provide the ‘real’ health benefits increase percentage. Rich noted that any increase in health benefits is reimbursed by the refund received from the group to which the Township belongs.
 - Discussion occurred on methods of funding police radios (\$47,000): 5-year loan, grant funding, tax increase, etc.
 - Clarification about the content of 410.44 Contracted Services was requested for the next budget work session.
 - 410.70 Capital Expenditures – Police are requesting 2 new police vehicles either paid in full or financed. Barbara requested a report on all police vehicles: year, mileage, repair history and projected repairs for each. Sandy will provide a printout of repairs to date on police vehicles.
 - The Fire Department did not request an increase over the 2010 figure.
 - UBREMS requested the Township keep the same amount in the 2012 budget as was in the 2011 budget-- \$40,000 (the approximate amount of one-half mill tax). The amount currently budgeted for 2012 is \$25,750. Rich requested a written summary of the figures UBREMS presented at this meeting.
 - Barbara requested an estimate of what the reserve figure would be at the end of 2011.
- Budget discussion ended at the 414 Zoning/Planning/Code Enforcement section.

Public Comments – None

Supervisors Comments

Karen Bedics reminded the Board that the EAC will hold their Tire Recycling event from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 1, 2011. The event is open to anyone, not just Springfield Township residents.

Adjournment

At 10:03 p.m., Rob Zisko **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt
Township Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: October 11, 2011
Approved: October 11, 2011