

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

September 9, 2008

Barbara Lindtner, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, Barbara Lindtner and Volker Oakey **Absent:** Jim Brownlow and Rob Zisko
Also present: Sandy Everitt, Secretary/Treasurer; Mark Laudenslager, Chief of Police; Scott MacNair, Solicitor; and Rich Schilling, Township Manager.

The Board held an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss PPL litigation and personnel issues.

Approval of Minutes – Deferred until September 9, 2008, meeting

Bills for Approval

Barbara Lindtner pointed out that the township solicitor's bill of \$12,631.86 included approximately \$8,500 for PPL litigation work. Rich Schilling added that both the township solicitor and Scott Rubin, the electrical engineer, have provided significant services to the township for which they have not charged. Karen Bedics **moved** to approve the bills for \$52,909.18 listed on the August 13 – September 9, 2008, bills list. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Reports

Road Department – Accepted/Posted. Volker asked whether the township would have difficulty obtaining salt for the winter. Rich Schilling does not think so, and anticipates that the salt bids will go out in October.

Code Enforcement – Accepted/Posted.

Police Report – Posted on website. Chief Laudenslager reported that the police handled 42 incidents in August. 11 were criminal offenses and there were 4 traffic accidents involving 6 vehicles with 3 injuries and no fatalities. Due to staffing situations this year, Chief Laudenslager cannot take his allotted vacation time. He requested payment for three weeks vacation, and he will carry over one week to 2009. Two full-time officers will be hired shortly and with no clerical support, Mark will need to perform office functions along with the training time that will be required with the new officers. Karen Bedics **moved** that due to special circumstances, Chief Laudenslager will receive pay for three week's vacation. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Township Manager – Rich highlighted the following meetings he participated in during the month:

- August 11 – Met with Dr. Ann Rhoads and Dave Taylor to review what properties the township will need to access for PPL testimony
- August 13 – Did site visits on those properties with Dr. Rhoads and Dave Taylor. For the single property where the owner denied access, the adjoining property owner permitted access and they were able to see what they needed to see from the adjoining neighbor's property line
- August 14 – Met with Youth Services Representatives and Community Service Youth, who performed community service projects at the township buildings
- August 20 – Attended a pre-construction meeting with Springtown Water Authority representatives in preparation for installation of their new water tank
- August 21 – Attended Community Day Committee meeting
- August 23 – Attended Community Day event. Rich commended the Committee for the great job they did. A follow-up meeting will be held on September 18 to make plans for next year's event.
- August 29 – Met with Mr. Longacre to discuss the lease agreement for his farming of the Kurtesan Property owned by the township. The agreement will be an agenda item for the September 23 meeting.
- September 4 – Interviewed top 4 police officer candidates with Chief Laudenslager.

- September 4 – Attended VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) training at the Springtown Fire Department with approximately 20 other attendees. Another training session will be held on September 13 from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Attendance at the Farmers Market has been a little slow. Roadside signs were purchased to remind the residents about the Market. Fliers about the Market were prepared for the take-home folders of Palisades Elementary and Middle School students.

Rich was busy during the month gathering information for interrogatories requested by PPL. Scott MacNair updated the Board on the PPL litigation process. PPL objected to some written expert testimony submitted as part of Congressman Wonderling’s presentation. Because these experts were not physically present to testify, PPL wants these written submissions declared “hearsay” testimony and disqualified. Scott does not think PPL’s objections are well-grounded and he expects the Administrative Law Judge to overrule their objections and admit the evidence.

PennDOT received the road mileage package that the township submitted for addition to the Liquid Fuels Program. The township will receive additional funding from these road additions beginning in 2009. PennDOT gave written approval for the crosswalks in Springtown. There are some logistical problems with the crosswalk currently approved for 3147 Route 212 (post office). There is no room there for installation of the pole PennDOT requires. Rich will contact PennDOT to see if the sign can be moved to 3149 Main Street. PennDOT also approved three school bus stop signs for Springtown.

Rich noted that the first tire-recycling event will be held from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. on September 27 on the township lot adjacent to the Municipal Building.

Public Comment

Steve Doncevic asked if the new police officers would be full-time and if so, what hours they would be working. Rich said the officers would be full-time but that scheduling has not yet been determined. However, it is not good policy to make police schedules public information. Steve had questions about the new signage in Springtown. When he learned that 30-mph signs are now in place, he asked whether the signs are working. Chief Laudenslager feels that alone, they will not work, but with police enforcement, better results will be obtained.

Cindy McCurdy asked about the outline of a body and what she believes were bottles that were drawn on Keystone Road following an incident that occurred at that location on August 30. She did not see anything in the newspapers about this. She asked whether a fatality had occurred at that location. Chief Laudenslager said the State Police probably handled this incident. He did not have any information the incident.

Willard Weierbach expressed concern about the pipe recently installed by PennDOT underneath the east side of State Road where it accesses Richlandtown Pike. He said there are warning cones to alert drivers where the new pipe ends. Willard feels the pipe is too short and drivers may go into the ditch when they make the turn. Rich Schilling will review the pipe with Rich Pursell. If they feel there is a problem, they will contact PennDOT regarding this.

Presentation by Newman & Company, Paperboard Recyclers

David J. Newman, Vice President and General Manager of Newman & Company in Philadelphia, made a presentation on a cardboard and paper-recycling alternative for the township. His family owns and operates a fourth-generation paperboard mill. They process about 230 tons of cardboard, newspaper, office paper, etc., daily. From this, they make chipboard, which is the type of cardboard used as backing for yellow tablets or boxes or boards for games like Monopoly. They contract with businesses and municipalities. Following a contact by Karen Bedics, they spoke with the supervisors about placing a 40 cubic yard roll-off container (20’ long x 8’ wide x 8’ high) at the township. The container should be covered with a tarp in inclement weather and if possible, a front-end loader should compact the materials in the container to permit adequate filling. They contract with a local hauler to place a can at our location, but with the high cost of fuel, it will benefit the township to get as much into the container as possible between pickups. The charge made to Newman’s by the hauler for placing the can, along with the monthly rental charge for the box, will be charged as a direct pass-through (with no mark up) to the township. Newman’s would pay the township for all the paper and cardboard based on current paper rates, less the hauling and rental rates. Mr. Newman suggested advertising with the slogan, “If it tears, put it in.” Anything that tears (including cardboard) can be commingled in the can. Having this service would eliminate the need for the Abitibi paper container and the Hinkle cardboard container. Items like pizza boxes and hard-back books can be recycled. Items like plastic, carbon

paper, tin foil, etc., cannot be recycled. Reports and payments will be generated monthly, along with annual reports, if needed. Dave suggested that the township look into DEP grants for recycling.

Some provision will be required so that people can put place their recycling materials into the 8' high container. Mr. Newman suggested purchasing a self-dumping hopper (approximately \$1,000), which could be easily accessed by residents and then dumped into the large container with a backhoe by the road department on a weekly or an "as needed" basis. Other than shredded paper, nothing should go into the container in plastic bags.

Karen Bedics **moved** that Rich Pursell and Rich Schilling work out the technicalities for placement of the 40 cubic yard roll-off container and look into purchasing a self-dumping hopper in order to expand our recycling program to include cardboard. Volker Oakey **seconded** the motion.

Steve Doncevic asked if the recycled material is sterilized. Dave Newman said the process uses temperatures beyond boiling. If the recycled cardboard will be used for food containers, FDA regulations apply. Dave invited residents or Board members to tour their facility.

Bruce Whitesell suggested the township place a second container in the western portion of the township, as close to Coopersburg as possible. This could be used by Coopersburg residents, people who travel Route 309, and by residents on the western edge of the township. Rich thinks this is a good suggestion after we determine how the system works at the township building. Karen Bedics long-term goal is to have a full-scale recycling center on Route 309 comparable to the Bethlehem Recycling Center.

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

Old Business

1. Update on Tire Recycling – Cindy McCurdy said that the trailer will be delivered on September 25 or 26, and it will be picked up after the event between September 29 and October 1. Rich Schilling will show Cindy where to have the trailer placed prior to the Open Space meeting on September 10. Cindy is preparing posters for posting throughout the township. Hand made yard signs will be placed at high-travel locations the week before the event. Tire rims will be removed on site and disposed of separately. Out-of-township individuals who want to bring tires can call Rich or Cindy at 1 p.m. on September 27. If there is enough room, they will be able to bring their tires. A road department worker will be onsite with a power washer to help clean tires. Rich will check if that individual can operating a front-end loader and if so, if one can be on standby for loading the tires onto the trailer. Truck, car, SUV, and 3-wheeler tires will be accepted. Tractor and motorcycle tires will not be accepted. Cindy will place an advertisement about the event in the Penny Power. Tire vouchers are available in the newsletter, on the website and at the township.

2. Name for Tributary – Rich Schilling referred to an email from Jane Messenger, Geographic Names Researcher and Cartographer, of the National Geospatial Technical Operations Center. Although the Board of Supervisors originally recommended *Steskal Run* as the name for an unnamed stream, Dennis Steskal preferred the stream be called *Eileen Run*. Barbara Lindtner **moved** that the unnamed tributary be called *Eileen Run*, in honor of Eileen Steskal, a person who spent years defining the environmental qualities of this waterway. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

New Business

1. Police Secretary Position (dropped from agenda)

2. Gardiner Planning Module – This planning module was returned from DEP four times over the past year. In a letter accompanying the current module, Tim Fulmer recommended that the Board approve forwarding this corrected module to DEP before township signatures are affixed to it. Jeff and Laura Gardiner, property owners, were present. They said the problem has never been with the design of the system; rather, it has been that the former engineers had difficulty completing the forms correctly, or they submitted the wrong forms. The Gardiners actually hired Cowan & Associates, another engineering firm, to review the planning module before this submission. After giving Karen Bedics and Volker Oakey time to review the Planning Module, Barbara Lindtner **moved** to approve the Planning Module for Jeff & Laura Gardiner. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

3. Acceptance of Application for Ag Security – Rich Schilling received an application by certified mail for the Ag Security District on September 2. The regulations state that all applications should be submitted by certified mail; however, most are not. Because this application came by certified mail, the township must follow the rules as to time requirements. The regulations require that the Board must formally recognize receipt of the application at their next

meeting. Within 15 days of its receipt, notice of the application must be placed in the newspaper and posting of a notice of the application must be made in five places in and around the Ag Security area. Scott covered a number of other requirements that are part of a very cumbersome state procedure. Scott will follow through and ensure the township complies with the procedure.

With the Board's permission, Scott MacNair will publicize all the other Ag Security applications that have been received along with the certified application just received. The other applications will be presented for Board for acceptance at the next meeting.

Barbara Lindtner acknowledged receipt of an application to be included in the Ag Security District from Robert and Stephanie Zisko, 1540 Roundhouse Road, Quakertown, PA 18951. The property consists of TMP 42-20-30 (66.84 acres) and TMP 14-2-80 (24.98 acres).

Correspondence

Barbara Lindtner noted that Bucks County Planning Commission was having a seminar for Municipal officials on Saturday, September 13. Rich Schilling, Dave Taylor and Bobb Carson will be attending. The other items of correspondence received were listed on the agenda.

Public Comments - None

Supervisors Comments

Karen Bedics asked about the review of the properties in the Ag Security District. Rich has only one property he still needs to research. When Rich supplies the information he has gathered to Scott MacNair, Scott will ensure that all resolutions have been recorded in the Bucks County Court House. After that, any properties that have not been recorded in the Court House will be put into one Resolution for the Board to adopt and they will then be recorded in the Court House.

Karen attended a grant workshop last month where she obtained two up-to-date grant books. One book is available at the township building if anyone wishes to locate available grants.

Barbara Lindtner will be meeting with Rich Schilling on September 11 to begin determining consultants they want to include in the RFP to prepare a Parks and Recreation Plan for the township. Approximately 15 residents have volunteered to be part of the Parks and Recreation Steering Committee. After the September 11 meeting, Barbara hopes to begin meeting with these volunteers. Barbara learned that our grant must be in by April 2009; however, any money spent before October 2009 (when funding for the grant requests are made) cannot be reimbursed from the grant. Rich estimated that the cost for developing a Parks & Recreation Plan will be between \$20,000 - \$25,000. Some inexpensive work, such as sending out questionnaires to residents about recreation they want, can be done by the township without requiring grant funds. Rich stated that most consultants he has worked with complete the grant application as part of their job.

Rich Schilling noted that the final Hazardous Waste Collection will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Quakertown Community Pool on Saturday, September 27, the same day as our tire recycling event. The list of materials that can be recycled is available on the township website.

Adjournment

At 9:15 p.m. p.m., Karen Bedics **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt
Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: September 23, 2008 – 7:30 p.m.

Approved: September 23, 2008