

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP BUCKS COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
May 9, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance by Chairman Jim Brownlow. Members present were Vice Chairman Chuck Halderman, Rod Wieder, Rob Zisko and Karen Bedics. Professional staff present were Solicitor Terry Clemons, Police Chief Scott Huber and Township Manager Richard Schilling.

**Minutes from April 11, 2006 Meeting**

Brownlow requested the following corrections: Page 4 Brownlow: Change *insurance* to *assurance*. Correspondence #2 Brownlow: *last* meeting to *next* meeting; on the second to last page where the paragraph starts Paul Rush - *Someone answers* -replace *someone* with *Chief Huber*.

Brownlow moves to approve the minutes of April 11, 2006 as corrected. Bedics seconds the motion. Vote was unanimous.

**Minutes from April 25, 2006**

Zisko moves to accept the minutes of April 25, 2006. Halderman seconds the motion. Vote was 3-0-2 (abstentions from Brownlow and Wieder due to their absence at the meeting).

**Bills for Approval**

Halderman moves to accept the bills from April 26 to May 5, 2006. Wieder seconds the motion. Vote was unanimous to approve the bills list.

**Roads Department Report**

Brownlow asks if there are any questions. Board accepts the report.

**Zoning/Code Enforcement Report**

Brownlow asks if there any questions. Board accepts the report.

**Police Report**

Chief Huber reads report: For the month of April, the PD responded to (91) calls for service. There were five accidents involving eight vehicles with four injuries and no fatalities. There were seven traffic arrests, one non-traffic arrest, and there were no traffic warnings. Patrols have been very active in April, concentrating on the problem spots that were pointed out as Richlandtown Pike, Peppermint Rd, Bursonville Rd., during peak traffic times. At this point, our visibility as a deterrent has been quite successful. We have not had any citations at any of those locations at this point. The only accidents at Richlandtown Pk and State Rd in the month of April were when we were off duty.

At the last meeting Halderman had asked about some portable radar speed trailers. I have two prices. One is a speed scout radar speed display trailer. This unit does everything where it basically acts as a radar unit and tells you what your speed is as you go by and

has a posted speed limit at the top. It also comes with options for data acquisition packages, which let you know a count of traffic, the speed they're traveling, time of day and you can actually print out a report from this. The price range for this unit is \$4,000 to \$5,000. There is also another Kustom Signals Smart BMS, which I thought would be interesting. In addition to doing speed with this, we can actually set this up at different points and you can program in messages, which would have been nice some times in the past year, one of which when we have Trick-or-Treat Night. We can put this up in Springtown to warn drivers that there are kids running around Springtown. The down side is that the cost is significantly higher, over \$20,000. Those are the two that I found.

Halderman thanked the Chief for researching these devices and states it will give us data such as time, volume of traffic.

Bedics asked: That information that you would get from that apparatus, would that be acceptable to submit to PennDot if they required any information as far as traffic flow?

Huber: That's a good question. It's possible. I would assume it acts the same way that their traffic counters do.

Bedics asked Chief to check into that because that would be an extra plus.

Clemons: I think the traffic pattern you could use for PennDot if you wanted to change the speed limit on the road based on that record; I suspect that PennDot would be far more because a traffic study is done by engineers.

Huber: I would think their engineers would still have to do their own study.

Haldermann: I brought this up the last time to try to get people to slow down in certain areas of the township. I just thought maybe a flashing light and something telling you how fast you're going they use them a lot in New Jersey. It does wake you up and say I'm really going that fast. That's the thought behind it.

Bedics: I wonder if they are effective, really. Rich, would we be able to pay for this out of liquid fuels.

Schilling: No.

Clemons: there are a number of townships in Bucks County who have them. Doylestown Borough has them. I think Buckingham. I think you'll find them as a traffic calming device. The problem is those ropes that go across the road is when somebody puts their brakes on and they get tangled up.

Brownlow: Maybe you could think about how you could do something like this for a subsequent meeting. I'm not sure how you would put that on some of our roads.

Bedics: You mentioned in your report that you were interviewing someone about a potential crime and then you were called out to a traffic accident. You said that there are difficulties that you cannot basically follow through on some things that you start some times. I was wondering if you could give us some ideas of things that the board can look at to help you alleviate these little snafus that come up during the day.

### **Township Manager Report**

Schilling: Following activities that have taken place since my last report. On April 19, I had a meeting with the township auditors and discussed how they work and the processes. On April 20, I meet with Mr. Simmons and Mr. King and was brought up to speed with the activities of the Northern Bucks County Cable Consortium. On April 20, I attend the Joint Board of Supervisors Planning Commission meeting to discuss zoning ordinance revisions. On April 25, I met with Ted Evans to discuss open space initiatives. On April 26, I met with the ad-hoc water committee (Mr. Simmons, Aimee Douglas and Dennis Steskal) to discuss the history of the water company. I also attended the ad-hoc Water Committee meeting that evening. On April 27, I met with EMS Coordinator David Rice briefly to discuss the emergency management plan and the updates that are required. Just from reviewing the different plans, the material is pretty significantly outdated. I've updated that and sent it to the Chief for his review. It's out of there and it's now gone to Mr. Rice for his review and then to Bucks County. April 27-May 1, I started the interview process for the Treasurer position. On May 2, I met with Chief Huber and Paul Kiesel, owner of Kiesel's Computer Services LLC to discuss deficiencies in our computer systems and corrective actions. We typically have employed a gentleman to do our IT work and computer software etc. at a rate of \$70/hour. He has informed us that he is moving to Colorado. We have found some deficiencies in our system that I won't get into. The Chief and I have interviewed Paul Kiesel. We have him scheduled to come in tomorrow to fix those deficiencies. His rate is \$65/hour. On May 2, I met with Bryan McAdam from Wynn Associates and Rich Pursell on site to discuss Passer Rd culvert replacement. On May 3, I met with Chief Huber to discuss administrative staff requirements. You have a handout on what my plan would be. On May 3, I attended the Planning Commission meeting.

### Miscellaneous Activity

As I said earlier, we've reviewed the Emergency Management Plan and made updates. I am in the process of reviewing the police contract and will be soliciting input from the board and Chief Huber. I am soliciting quotes from health insurance, looking to provide quality care and save the Township money. I'm trying to get my arms as to how we do business as a Township and going forward to insure all expenditures for projects other than routine costs, will get Board approval at public meetings. In the past week I found a couple of projects that I cannot find Board approval for. One is the Berry Rd. modification and Passer Rd. culvert replacement. The road modification has already been completed and the culvert replacement has been put on hold until further information is provided by the Township engineer and the supervisors approve expenditure of funds.

I've been reviewing the staffing needs for the township administration and have handed out a staffing memo for your review and comment.

There is an opportunity to purchase a full size copier from another municipality. This copier would benefit us in the new conference room, which was recently finished by the road crew. I think everyone has had a tour of it. I think it will help us out for any kind of meetings or conferences down there. I am very familiar with the copier and it is in great running condition, but it has not been utilized for about six months. I've negotiated a price of \$350, but the deal is subject to board approval, and that the copier is still functioning. Also, several toners would be included in the deal. The sellers wanted a copier that is color capable and had a document file. That is the reason why this particular copier is available. It isn't color and it doesn't have a document server.

I'm in the process of reviewing all Township resolutions, policies and plans. I'm still learning. In discussion with the solicitor, it was asked of me who has unfettered access to the professional staff. To be honest with you, I don't know of any policy that has been established. If there is, please give me guidance. If there is not a policy, the question needs to be answered by the board of supervisors.

Brownlow asks if Schilling would like action taken on the copier. Schilling says he does and he will check on the condition. It's capable of two-siding. It's off the service contract. We probably could get Xerox to do that. It was still in good working condition. It was working well six months ago. Brownlow asks for a motion. Zisko moves to purchase the copier for \$350 dollars. Wieder seconds the motion. Vote was unanimous to purchase the copier.

Brownlow suggests that the item access to professional staff be put on the work session for discussion.

Halderman thanks Schilling for the update.

Brownlow asks do we have some kind of training soon. Schilling states we need to go through NIMS (National Incident Management System) training by October or we will lose our FEMA standing. It's also advisable that your professional staff such as your engineer also attend this training.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

**NONE**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Secretary Position**

Brownlow asks if Schilling would like to present this. Schilling responds if the board desires I can present it or give it to the board and take action as part of a regular meeting. Bedics: Let's have it.

Schilling: After careful review of the 2006 Budget and the administrative staffing needs, I would ask that the board of supervisors give authorization to promote Linda Bartholomew from part-time to full-time status and increase her duties with the position of assistant secretary, which is found in the second-class township code under

Section 804. I base this recommendation on the current workload between the Police Department (see attached memo from Chief Huber) and the administration department. I've looked at how to accomplish the tasks that are before us and feel that the best solution would not be filling the part-time secretary position and adding head count. In addition, I'd like to accomplish a well cross-trained staff. Linda would be utilized in the following ways: secretarial duties for other than the Police Department, assistant secretary to the Board of Supervisors, learn the zoning and planning secretarial duties. In other words, we would cross-train Linda and Sandy. This would also free up police officers to patrol more (after you get to the Chief's memo). She would also work on township projects like the newsletter. We've had Linda do some layout work for us, and she is very talented. As you are aware, we are trying to fill the treasurer position, where Sandy Everitt assumed that as of April 1, 2006. I'm looking at how to obtain the most flexibility. I would recommend that we keep Sandy in the position as Assistant Treasurer, which is found in the second-class township code, under Section 705. This would be beneficial in the township in the event that whoever fills the treasurer position decides to move on or becomes sick and/or disabled. The township would have someone who is knowledgeable and can immediately step in and function. To justify these changes is the easy part. To reconcile these changes with the 2006 Budget, we have to look at all the departments that are affected and the ways to pay for the changes. The 2006 Budget has allocated the following wages: Township Manager: \$63,000, Financial Assistant: \$26,000, Secretary: \$25,000, Police Secretary: \$22,000 and Zoning and Planning Secretary: \$32,000. The total wages for those job classifications are \$168,000. The following is the projected cost for the remainder of 2006 to fill all positions as suggested. The Township Manager/Secretary, which is a salaried position, is \$70,602.21. This includes a payout of vacation and sick days to the past manager of \$8066.56. That's why there's a discrepancy there. The Treasurer part-time position to fill June 1, 2006 reflects 30 weeks of pay. Pay rate set at \$22.50/hour x 20 hours/week is \$13,500 for the remaining part of the year for the treasurer. The Zoning Planning Secretary/Assistant Treasurer full-time pay rate commence with additional duties is \$17.50/hour. This is the toughest position to project because the increased pay at the last meeting, which the board authorized, and the workload at the present time, the estimate is high. We estimated that to be \$40,000. I think we're significantly high probably by a couple thousand, but I'd rather err on the side of being too much on a projection. Police Secretary/Assistant Secretary to the Board of Supervisors increased duties pay rate of \$13.90/hour. I just figured that at 2,080 hours. That comes out to \$28,912. Total wages for our proposed positions: \$153,014.21. All positions have medical benefits factored into the budget with the exception of Treasurer, which is part time with no benefits and the Police Secretary/Assistant Secretary to the Board going to full time with benefits. Additional benefit cost factored in from June 1, would be 9,383.50. Total costs to all proposed positions: \$162,397.83 vs. the budgeted amount of wages for 2006 of \$168,000. That means, on a face we'd be saving \$5,062.17 over what was actually budgeted. This amount does not include any additional savings of having the police officers out patrolling vs. doing paperwork. When you get into the next part, Scott will tell you what he estimates Linda will save them by just a few hours a week. Linda will be doing a lot of the paperwork that the police officers are now doing. The Chief estimates at least two hours/officer and I think he estimated per shift can be saved. For argument sake, I just

used five hours/week and I took the police base rate at \$26.81/hour which equals \$134.05 and times that by 52 weeks. That's a \$6,970.60 savings. Is that a savings? Probably not a savings, but it frees up the police officers to do what we want them to do, which is having police presence. Additionally this proposal covers the payout for Barbara Smith for vacation/sick time of \$8,066.56, which was not accounted for in the 2006 budget. I've reviewed medical costs and I've solicited medical quotes from our current provider and other providers. I'm very optimistic that our costs can be reduced by changing plans that are most cost effective and that provide quality medical coverage for our employees. I thank the board for its time and consideration in this matter.

Huber: Basically what we're going to be using Linda for additionally to what she's doing now is the entry of our daily incident reports. Right now, the officers are taking information in the field, coming back into the station, sitting at a computer and entering the incidents. It's taking a lot of time from traveling back and forth to the incidents to taking them off the street when they really could be on the street. What we've done is devised an incident report to be kept in the police vehicles, which will be filled out by the officer in the field. Once he comes in for a break or at the end of his shift, these reports will be given to the secretary where she can enter all the information into our computer. The officers are spending far too much time entering the incident reports, doing things she could be doing, which will allow them to get out and be on the street for a longer period of time. It will also have them be more visible where they can actually sit at a scene and write their reports. I am also going to use her to do some of my administrative tasks. One of the things is giving some assistance in doing the monthly reports by getting a lot of the facts and figures together that are already in the computers. She also, hopefully, will be taking on the responsibility of handling vehicle maintenance records for the department, where right now we have an officer whenever any type of maintenance is done on a vehicle, from major repairs to tire rotations, enters into a program. We have a tracking of every single vehicle and every single thing that's done to them. It takes time and that's really something that an officer does not need to be doing. She can do that as well.

Zisko: What are her duties now?

Huber: A lot of her duties now are answering phones, helping with the UCR's, daily filing, some of the incident reports such as the routine calls (i.e. a lost dog). We don't task that out to an officer. She will do the entry of that herself and an officer isn't involved in it. With the new system she will do all the incident reports, with the exception of accident reports and any type of major incident where there has to be a long, involved investigation or a long summary that has to be entered.

Bedics: How many hours a week does she work now?

Huber: 30.

Bedics: You have three different jobs there, Richard. She's going to be doing the part-time treasurer?

Schilling: No. That would be Sandy. She has no desire to stay in that position long term. She didn't apply for it, but she's willing to stay as an assistant to help first train the person and then fill in the event that something happens to the perspective candidate. Linda's secretarial duties other than police department would be if we have some filing or something like that to help out Sandy. Linda under this proposal will be assistant secretary to the Board of Supervisors. That would be it, plus her police duties. She'd have

a full slate. Also, in the event that something happens to Sandy right now, we'd have to scramble around to try and figure out how to do something. We need to be more cross-functional.

Bedics: So Linda would not have anything to do with the treasurer? We'd be hiring a treasurer.

Schilling: The Board authorized the advertisement. I've submitted two resumes for their review.

Bedics: Did you say something about Linda doing things for the Planning Commission?

Schilling: Basically learning the planning and zoning secretarial duties--cross-training.

Bedics: My feeling, because she's already working 30 hours for the police, is that it's going to be too much. If you want to discuss this at a work session, we can put it on the agenda and talk about it. That's just my feeling. It just sounds like an awful lot. If she's already at 30 hours doing her current police duties, then she'll be doing additional police duties plus these other two.

Schilling: Just so the Board is aware, at the last meeting you asked me to basically stay within the confines of the budget. If I go out and hire someone right now, it's going to shoot the budget right in the foot. That aside, I understand the thought process, but once we get the treasurer on board, I believe that there's going to be a big sigh of relief coming from first Sandy and I do believe we will be able to handle it for the next few months. Linda's a valuable employee. One thing that I did not put in the report is that Linda due to family reasons may be looking for another position that is full-time. That took another part in what we're doing here because we want to keep her and, at the same time, we want to build a more cross-functional team.

Halderman: I like the cross training. If they know a little bit about each job, they can fill in. They don't have to get that involved. I think that's a good idea. Do you guys want to hash it out in more detail in a work session?

Zisko: Rich is the manager of the township (and we should listen to him). Let's not lose the people who are already here and already trained. The workload in this township is not going to drop down in the next 10 to 15 years. It's only going to go up as we get more and more development and do things with the water system here.

Schilling: If the board would do an action that would be great. If the board wants to discuss it--

Wieder: I would like to discuss this at the next meeting.

Schilling: Again, we're planning on having a blip of a regular meeting at our next work session. So if the board wants to discuss it then, that would be great and whatever action the board desires.

Bedics: I am wondering before our work session if you could ask Linda to type up a list of her current duties she performs now in the 30 hours.

Huber: Linda actually has a secretarial manual she has made up. I can even burn you a copy of that.

Halderman: Does Linda understand that we're probably going to want to discuss it in more detail?

Schilling: I spoke with Linda and I think the Chief spoke with her also and we did not expect the board to take action. If the board decided to wait and discuss it further, we said it probably would be the second week of the month.

## 2. Cable Negotiations

Brownlow read the following letter from Mr. Simmons and Mr. King:

April 27, 2006

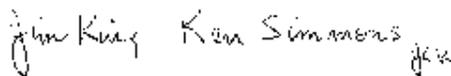
Dear Springfield Township Board of Supervisors,

Recently we met with the Township Manager to provide background on the cable franchise renewal effort and an update on the SECTV negotiation. During our discussions Rich mentioned knowing some of the SECTV personalities. He has familiarity with the cable franchise area and, in fact, was using our lawyer's competitor, Cohen Telecommunications Law Group, for legal assistance. Before his township manager duties he was a union executive for 9 years and the lead negotiator for his union in 6 or 7 sessions of negotiations. We believe Rich's experience and skills would be very helpful in the SECTV franchise negotiation.

We have discussed Rich's involvement in SECTV negotiation with the NBCC (Northern Bucks Cable Consortium) and there is consensus that Rich would add value and should be involved.

We request the Board of Supervisors authorize the Township Manager's participation in the NBCC and particularly the SECTV negotiation. If you agree, Jim King would phase out of the NBCC activity (per his desire) as Rich phases in.

Sincerely,



Jim King    Ken Simmons

Bedics: Is this all ethical? Is everything on the up and up?

Schilling: Yes. For the Board's information yesterday I attended a cable meeting, just to observe with Mr. King and another gentleman from the Northern Bucks Consortium and got to meet some of the players involved.

Bedics: I'll make a motion to appoint Schilling to the NBCC to be our representative. Zisko seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

### **3. Keller**

Clemons: I had a conversation with the attorney who represented the Keller's Preservation of their farm. I understand through various conversations that the township contributed \$1,000 an acre for the acquisition. Springfield Township is not named as a co-grantee with the State of Pennsylvania and the County of Bucks and my discussion with the attorney representing Keller and our desire that we are designated as co-grantee. I checked my email for an update from the Keller's attorney and have not received his reply. I would like to have an opportunity to review it.

Brownlow: Do you need action tonight?

Clemons: I thought I'd need action tonight but have not received it.

After discussion the Board took no action and will address this issue at the next meeting, which will give the solicitor time to review the new document.

### **4. Creating an Open Space Committee**

Zisko: We had discussed creating an open space committee in conjunction with putting something on the November ballot to authorize us to borrow some money. There are some questions from people in the audience and I think they are right that we should have an open space committee. I don't know whether it's the open space committee's decision to decide whether we put the question on the ballot. I think it's up to us. I would like to see us have an open space committee. I was thinking about it since the last meeting. I think five members would be a good number. We talked about possibly advertising that.

Bedics: I thought we agreed to advertise.

Zisko: Work session. I would certainly volunteer.

Halderman: How many did Tinicum have?

Zisko: Seven.

Halderman: How did Tinicum get seven and Richland get two?

Comment among board members stating Richland doesn't have open space.

Brownlow: If we establish an open space committee, do we have a charge for them?

Zisko: We don't really have a charge.

Brownlow: I would personally like to have them know what we're asking them to do.

Zisko: I think it goes with let's put it on the ballot in November asking if we have authorization to borrow money. I would see the open space committee as possibly contacting landowners. Let's say we get the authorization tomorrow for five million dollars. There would have to be a ranking process that whoever would apply.

Halderman: We have an open space plan now. What we need to do is all get a copy of it and review it. It's also stated in the EAC handbook. That's part of the function of the EAC.

Zisko: I personally don't think the EAC should be involved in it.

Halderman: We do have an open space plan. Why don't we get copies of that, so that we all have them? We can discuss how you want to put the language because if you're anticipating running a referendum, you're going to need those people to advertise to support that and let the people know what our intentions are.

Zisko: I think we need to as a board decide whether or not to put a referendum on or not.

Brownlow: The more involvement we have, the better it is. I'd just like to see something in writing about what the responsibilities of the committee would be.

Halderman: We have it. It's in the open space plan.

Zisko: My recollection from reading the open space plan I don't think it gives the committee any direction on what they are supposed to do.

CLEMONS: I'd be glad to spend five or ten minutes going over some things that I think / open space to increase the general awareness which will help to develop criteria for the evaluation of properties. Open space, from my experience, is going to jam you. Some of them say, here are 50 properties and they are ranked 1 thru 50, others have some language that says this is an area you ought to preserve by comparison and they're more general. So I can see a task force committee to identify properties and to make recommendations, but of course the last analysis and say on a particular property is up to the Board of Supervisors.

Zisko: There is a small system as to how you can rank properties, but I don't really think it's good to be honest with you. The county has their plan.

HALDERMANN: I have to see it. I know it was developed before the 59 million that they borrowed in 1997. Our open space money, our portion was a little over \$500,000. That was a mandate. In order to get that money you must provide a ranking plan. I agree with Terry. I want to see what we have and compare and see how it was put together. We don't have to agree that this is the best way to do it, but--

Clemons: There are three different systems in the county.

Bedics: Would historic sites count as open space?

Clemons: I think what we're talking about now is methodology.

Halderman: When the referendum went on here in the fall of 2000, the historic properties were on the ballot. I don't know how much money has really gone there, but we really need to review the past referendum and see if we've acted on some of this.

Brownlow: Let's go back to the open space committee and the charge there: A) we have the open space plan and we should review that. B) If we could get a list of this criteria that the open space committee would use as guidelines. I would suggest that we put these two things together and discuss them at our next meeting and decide whether we're going to charge the committee or not and, if we are, how to go about it. We need to come up with a solution.

Halderman: We're going to need an open space committee that's going to be energized. Like they did it before, they had something at the school. They had a video and they worked hard to get it through. You need those people. You need to charge those people.

Brownlow: I think the question was should we ask our solicitor for the wording for a referendum, so that we can have something in front of us.

Halderman: I think we have the wording.

Bedics: At the last meeting, I think Rob mentioned that it would be worded that we would be borrowing--I'll just say five million dollars--to be paid for out of the .25 percent earned income tax. In other words, we would be paying on that bond from our additional earned income tax.

Clemons: Referendum itself has to state very simply to authorize the supervisors to incur debt in the amount of x dollars to acquire open space. Your education program should be one of the duties of the open space committee to make people aware of the bond issue and the proposed use of those funds.

Bedics asks Brownlow if we can advertise for open space members.

Halderman: It's not going to go. If you want this to go, you have to get people in here who are willing to put their heart and soul in it. They have to educate the public.

Brownlow: Well, we haven't charged the committee. If we advertise for people for the open space committee, and they respond and say, "What is it that we're going to be doing," what's the township manager going to say? Well, we don't know yet, but come to the next meeting and we'll tell you.

Halderman: We're spending money on a question.

Bedics: Scott had the EAC committee and they just now gave us their list of to-dos. They didn't have a clear-cut agenda until they brought it to us.

Brownlow: The EAC was already established and we told them the primary duties and their priorities. If that's what the board wants to do, we can do it. It just seems to me it would be very difficult to advertise something for which we don't know what we're going to ask them to do.

Clemons: We'll have something by the work session. You may not have consensus on it, but you will have a mission statement.

Zisko: I think this very important to put a committee in place and try to borrow money to acquire land.

### **5. Springtown Knolls**

Brownlow: There has been contact back and forth. So who would be best to bring us up to date?

Clemons: As you know, at the last work session, the DEP issued a letter that revoked the sewage planning modules with respect to Springtown Knoll and stated that new planning modules be resubmitted with a hydrogeologic evaluation. I understand that as a consequence of this letter, Mr. Reshatar submitted a hydrogeologic study to the DEP and requested a meeting with the staff to discuss that. A copy of that plan provided via fax on May 4 to Schilling. A meeting was scheduled through DEP today and the council Adam Braun stated that the township should be present at that meeting. It was the township that had the task of the adequacy of the hydrogeologic study. Both Bob Wynn and I were of the opinion that common hydrogeologic study required somebody other than Bob Wynn's office and to review and comment on the hydrogeologic study. We were not able to reach an agreement with the developer concerning the payment of the professional to attend the DEP meeting to go over the hydrogeologic study.

As a consequence of that, Adam Braun from the DEP issued that email yesterday at 2 p.m. canceling the meeting.

Bedics: Mr. Reshatar, I looked over the papers that we got from your hydrogeologic study and I have a few questions. You had submitted a letter here suggesting if we were concerned with well contamination that we can connect the homes on Funk's Mill Rd that might be prone to pollution to the Springtown Water System. I appreciate you taking the time to think about this and give us a potential solution. However, it does not address the problem that would happen if the nitrates from the 20 septic systems would leech down into the Cook's Creek Watershed. Hooking up homes to public water is not going to save our watershed. I just want you to realize that if something would happen with nitrate contamination in that area. I just wanted to bring that to your attention. I'm looking at the map where the hydrogeologic study was done and I looked at the four drilling areas that were done on the southern part of the development. However, the homes that had their

wells contaminated from the liquid fertilizer were in this area that I have circled with the yellow pen in the southeastern corner. There were no testing done in that area.

Reshatar: Those areas along Funk's Mill Rd., most of the water comes off the two farms that are northeast above the property. We've analyzed the contours and they actually have an enormous runoff coming down through the back down. It's about 65, some places 5 feet deep. That's the runoff coming off the open farms on Funk's Mill Rd. About 80 percent of our water would be on Springtown Knoll and the three wells that were tested were right in the midst of that flow. We have John Walker here who is a licensed hydrologist.

Mr. Lare (Reshatar attorney) addresses Mr. Clemons and gives Mr. Walker's curriculum vitae qualifications. He states: As Reshatar said we're here tonight to address some concerns that the township may have. I think the board understands from review of the file that the original planning module submitted four years ago in August 2002. After a review of the site the BCHD approved the planning module. The DEP approved it and published it a year ago and the final approval for the planning module was in January. Recently, in April, the DEP said they wanted this additional hydrogeologic study. We, of course, want to comply with the DEP, but we reserve our right to object to it. We do want to respond to any common ground concerns. That's why Mr. Walker is here and when you review his curriculum vitae, he's a very qualified hydrogeologist. I will introduce Mr. Walker now so that he can further describe his studies. John, can you give a brief description of what a hydrogeologist is? Walker: A hydrogeologist is a geologist that centralizes in studying the ground. Lare: How long have you been working in this capacity? Walker: I've been working for approximately 21 years. Lare: How many studies have you worked with? Walker: Several hundred. Lare: At some point you were asked to review this study? Walker: That's correct. Lare: You did that primarily in response to the DEP letter. I think the board has a copy of that letter. Walker: That's correct. Lare: You reviewed that letter and attempted to respond to that? Walker: Yes. We reviewed the letter, which specified a hydrogeologic study which is a DEP regulation. So we endeavored to do our study to the letter of the regulation which involved collecting several water samples for background nitrate concentration, depth of the water in several wells in order to estimate the direction in which water was flowing, reviewing past geological data for the site including general area, running several calculations to determine nitrate from the proposed septic systems.

Walker: Typically I wanted to get from him reviews for the average daily flow of septic affluent from the individual houses. The consultant asked for houses for four bedrooms or less, I should use an average flow of 225-250 gallons per day.

Lare: Also, you had opportunity to talk to one of the other hydrologists from Hondex.

Walker: Yes. He had done a couple other hydrogeologic studies for a past development of Springtown Knolls several years ago and his memory was not that good. He did pretty much the same thing.

Lare: Can you describe for the board and the public, what exactly does the water test involve? Walker: What we did in the field, as I said, primarily two things: Collected several water samples to analyze for nitrate concentration; take water levels in wells in order to estimate the ground water flow. Once we have that data, we ran several calculations in order to determine what nitrate concentrations would be after a long term. Lare: The testing of this area was done in this area here and several other areas why were these areas done too? Walker: Primarily we couldn't get wells very close. We had determined that the direction of groundwater flowed from the site towards Cook's Creek, so we decided to get wells along parallel to the southern border of the site in between the site and Cook's Creek. Lare: These indications here are where you took the samples? Walker: Yes. Lare: So, this area up here, why wouldn't you survey that area up here? Walker: It would not be in the downgraded direction from the site. Lare: The contour lines, obviously rolls down--Walker: Actually groundwater flow on bedrock aquifer normally pretty much follows the surface topography. Lare: The DEP report also required a certain amount of testing where the--Walker: The letter asked for specific items found in the water in the wells. Basically they're asking for water level data.

Lare: Of course, these areas here, isn't that these water levels? Walker: Yes. Lare: You talked about being in compliance and the calculations are important. Can you just summarize where the DEP standards would be and where the test results display?

Walker: The concern in this case would be nitrate in the groundwater. Drinking water standards, not by the DEP, but the federal government is 10 mg per liter. We want it to be below that. Our calculations indicated that within the property boundaries nitrate concentration would be 6.27 mg per liter. So our calculations indicated that nitrate concentration in excess of 10 would not migrate outside of the boundaries.

Lare: So, you're saying because you tested on the site and it was below 10 at about 6 and off the site was significantly less.

Lare: Just give us what readings you got off the site.

Walker: At property boundary, 6.2 mg per liter; 25 feet off the property boundary, 6.06 per liter, 100 feet off the property, 5.5 mg per liter.

Lare: At some point you had talked to Mr. Swantek about what types of systems were on the site. Mr. Swantek is also here today to answer any questions about the structural design.

Bedics: Mr. Walker, what you're saying basically is those holes were drilled because that's the way the water would flow from the Knoll area.

Walker: We didn't drill holes. We did the testing of the wells.

Bedics: What you're saying then, is that the water from up above would not drain down in the southwestern quarter? I do know a bit about how to read contour maps and looking at

that southwestern section (she requests Mr. Lehr to hold it up), I do know that contour maps when they have lines very close together, that means that the land is very steep and there would be an even steeper area there. I'm not understanding why the water would run south, but yet where the land is steeper southeast between the development and Cook's Creek the water would not run that way.

Walker: There are two drainage ways that run down on either side of it. They would act as hydrologic dams that would prevent water from flowing beyond them. We based on direction of flow primarily on groundwater contour and measuring the water levels from the well. We got a water level on a well on Funks Mill Rd., right off the southeast corner. This is the water level that we got from a well on Route 212. I used an elevation from where we took the rest of contour lines. This blue line is the groundwater contour. Groundwater, which flows perpendicular to that contour.

Bedics: Maybe you can explain then why when there were liquid fertilizers used at the Knoll area, they tainted the wells along Funks Mill Rd

Walker: I don't know where that fertilizer was used. The only comment I can make is those wells that were contaminated were not contaminated by septic systems on Springtown Knolls because there were none at the time--

Bedics: They were contaminated from the fertilizer. Were you aware of that? Two of the people on the road had to have new wells done?

Reshetar: Was that from the Knoll or--

Bedics: It was when the Knoll property was being farmed and they used liquid fertilizer on the field that was there and two of the wells became polluted.

Reshetar: When you say the Knoll, that's the property at Funks Mill and 412?

Bedics: I think I would have to defer to the owner for that.

Lare: Maybe just address the systems that would be out there. Mr. Swantek could you give us a brief summary of your background and your history with this particular site.

Swantek: From 1974 to 1987 I was employed by the Bucks County Dept of Health as a sewage enforcement officer certified by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to conduct tests and issue official permits to provide for on-site sewage disposal. In 1987 I left BCDH employment, and started my own consulting business. The name of the company is Environment Technology and Design. We do soil testing for on-site sewage disposal, but we don't set the standards. There are state standards to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community. They are set by the Department of Environment Protection. For on-site sewage is supposed to meet the minimum standards for any type of system, each test hole must be evaluated to determine that depth is suitable soil for on-site sewage disposal. The first step is looking at soil horizons at the test hole and determine what the

depths are to bedrock, water table or discoloration of the soil, called soil botany. When I first became involved in this property, to give you a little background on that, in 1987, it was one of the first projects that I was involved in when I left employment with the government. At that point in time, the developer came in proposing a sketch plan four lots of this tract. The existing home was an old lot home the northeast corner of this property and three larger lots. The Springfield Township Planning Commission at that point in time, 19 years ago, said this is our DC district and we would like to see high density in our DC district. I was then directed by the engineer of that project at that time to go out and conduct the test for the lots. Since that time there have been several developers and engineers that I worked with in developing plans with finally meet Springfield Township's requirements. Over the past 19 years, I probably dug 150-200 test holes in this property and probably conducted 50 or more perc-related tests. Now let me regress back to the facts: on any ground septic system, which everyone desires, you need a zone on every 72 inches of soil and pass percolation testing. In order to get to the percolation test, review the test holes, and the BCDH has to come out and agree with my findings as to what the soils qualify. The soils there did not meet the minimum standards. We do testing for elevated sand mount systems. In order to get one site approved of 20, BCDH requires extensive testing and those limitations that I mentioned previously. In each case, if we're looking at 20 lots today or 20 lots before, we have more than 20 inches and a passing percolation test. Percolation tests are the second step that's required, which these holes were dug typically 20 inches deep, two inches of gravel placed in the holes the first day and then a foot or more of water placed in the holes. The second day the sediment is cleaned out of the holes, the holes are soaked for an hour and then we have an apparatus that's set in the holes and they're timed for either 10-minute or 30-minute intervals to establish percolation. So to meet the standards for an elevated sand mount of 20 or more inches and then we get a percolation rate. I don't want to bore the Board, but this is a culmination of 19 years of percolation tests over there. The soil on the property doesn't meet the all the DEP standards for on-site septic disposal. I've worked with these builders on several projects before and I want to add they've always said, "Rick, make the septic system larger than the bare minimum." I did a rough count today and, on the average, probably 20 percent larger on all the system areas that I've currently design than what the bare minimums are. So, if we're concerned about nitrates, my client, the developers are quite effective in trying to work with the site that we have there. We're spreading the absorption areas out over more than the minimum size. There are issues about nitrates. We're already taking that into consideration in making the septic systems larger than bare minimum. All the plans are at the BCDH and have been reviewed. They want issue any permits until we have a signed subdivision.

Lare: Do you understand that there is some carbonate geology on site?

Swantek: Yes.

Lare: What county special procedures do you do?

Rick: Once we do the default testing and subsequently the percolation testing. Whenever we're in a carbonate geology area, which this falls into, or within 200 feet of

carbonate geology area, the BCDH has a requirement where we must do carbonate trenching with lateral ends of the absorption area or within 10 feet of our purposed system area. So in each of these cases we also had to do the trench. If the system is 20 feet wide up and down the slope, we had the 20 foot long trench, either 3, 4 or 7 foot deep on either end to determine that the depth of the bedrock. In all cases, we met more than the minimum standards. As far as from a soil standpoint and the design of the septic systems everything has been done properly.

Bedics: To your knowledge, what will happen to that carbonate geology over time from the amount of liquids running through it? Let's say the next ten years.

Swantek: I'm not a hydrogeologist, but spreading out the sewage over that, you're running through the stone vent situated on top of the sand filter with typically 20 to 28 inches of sand and then 20 inches or more of soil, the application rate in those septic systems is minimal based on the perc rates that we had. So I don't think we'll ever have a problem.

Bedics: Thank you for taking the time to explain. I have a question for Mr. Reshatar and Mr. Walker. Would it be possible for you to test the wells on Funks Mill Roads, say, for the first four houses? Would it be possible to have nitrate tests on their wells?

Reshatar: You can do them.

Brownlow: From your point of view, what happens now?

Clemons: The process is whether or not the Board of Supervisors is satisfied with the hydrogeologic study such that this planning module is approved and satisfied. I have some questions about that only because I don't feel qualified to evaluate this hydrogeologic stuff. It's not my expertise. It would seem for the township to have its hydrogeologist evaluate the site and comment about it. I'm assuming that this would be heard by the DEP that a preliminary hydrogeologic study would be required as far as the department is concerned to note the hydrogeologic condition. I'm not in a position to evaluate and I am suggesting that you need to have an evaluation by a qualified professional.

Reshatar: I have a suggestion. I now realize who this gentleman is (referring to Kalata). He's up against the back of my property, through the woods on my property. He's not very far from the back of lot# 10. We're going to offer him an easement and draw the line back to his house for public water. You can tap into it if you want to, assuming the supervisors are okay with it. It's a very simple solution and it just requires an easement along the property line. He is the closest. I forgot because he's there in the woods. He's not visible all through the summer, just certain times in the winter.

The other thing I wanted to bring up and then I realize the solicitor is coming in this new. I must have made 20 phone calls to track down the Handex study, which is a real

extensive study. We did locate the project manager from Hondex who actually did the testing and calculations. He now has his own firm in Allentown.

Bedics: Mr. Reshatar, would the Township have a copy of that study that you're talking about from Handex?

Reshatar: I actually came in about a month ago and they gave me a box, but it wasn't in there. What I did find was a three-page summary letter. This was done in 2002. It was in the Springhill file. Then I actually went to the DEP and asked them to find it because they're so religious about keeping things. Neither had it. Then I called Handex in the Bensalem office, but they closed the office a couple years ago. So I've come up empty-handed.

Schilling: Mr. Clemons, what's required is we need to get the hydrology study to our independent consultant for review. There's no question under the MPC that we'll be able to take that out of the developer's escrow for independent review. After that, the DEP maybe tomorrow morning is going to be speaking to us about setting up the meeting. We can sit around and fight and argue about whether Mr. Reshatar would have to pay for our independent consultant to go along with you and me to this meeting. Or we can just have the Board authorize in the event that Mr. Reshatar is unwilling to have our independent consultant, Mr. Littlefield go, but the Board would authorize his presence if they so desire. That's the pleasure of the Board. Would that be correct? Clemons: Yes

Bedics: I would like to make a motion for the Board to appoint Mr. Littlefield to review the data and attend the meeting.

Halderman: I'll second it.

Brownlow mentions Mr. Cleaver and the DEP and our knowledge of our responsibilities here at the Township level, what exactly are we acting on? We already approved the sewage module, which they have now rejected. Are we resubmitting the same sewage module now that it has--?

Clemons: We have the letter from the DEP that says the planning module needs a hydrogeologic evaluation. I think that we need to evaluate if the planning module has to be resubmitted, you could include your data that has been provided. It could include additional comments that are in the hydrogeologist who evaluates this study.

Halderman: We have a motion on the table for what? Brownlow: To have Mr. Littlefield review the reports and attend the meeting. That's the motion. Vote was unanimous to have Littlefield review reports and attend the meeting.

Reshatar: My concern is, and I had this conversation with Rich Schilling earlier in the week, I have a problem if it's related specifically to a DEP request. You would want to cooperate when it comes to DEP request and keep it focused on that particular issue.

Brownlow: I think we are.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **EAC Membership**

Brownlow: On April 11, we voted to expand the EAC from three members to seven members. We also advertise for interested parties to be members and we received three. We have three members existing now and these would be two additional members. We can discuss the individuals, but before we do this, is there a term for this?

Schilling: You have terms on Scott Douglas, Cindy McCurdy and Peter Sleeman and they are alternating years.

Clemons: Three year term.

Brownlow: If we appoint all three of these, do we want all three of these terms to run concurrently?

Bedics: I don't think that would be a problem because the other three that are on their terms would be up at a different time. There would be intermittent times for openings then.

Brownlow: We have three applicants and if we're in agreement, I would suggest we'd appoint one for one year, one for two and one for three and we'll designate who that is.

Bedics: We have one of the applicants here and maybe we can ask them how long they would like to serve.

Brownlow: Let me identify the applicants: Hans Reimann, Dennis Steskal, and William Boyle. Those are the three parties. We have a little background summary sheet on each one of them. What's your pleasure?

Brownlow: Dennis Steskal for a three-year term, William Boyle for a two and Hans for a one year. First year term is going to be abbreviated. December 2006 it expires (the first year of their term). Wieder makes a motion. Zisko seconds the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Brownlow: We still have one opening and need a citizen volunteer or a supervisor volunteer.

Halderman nominates Karen Bedics for a three-year term. Zisko seconds the motion.

Bedics states she will serve until another person wants to serve. Vote was unanimous in favor of Karen Bedics as the seventh member of the EAC.

### **Planning Commission - Solicitor to Attend the Meetings**

Halderman motions to authorize Clemons' office to attend PC meetings. Halderman states: We need him and he'll resolve some of the questions when their attorneys come in and handle our volunteers. We need to take some heat off their backs. They've been beat

up too much. I think it's a good idea that Terry and Rich brought it up. Bedics seconds the motion. Vote was unanimous.

### **Correspondence**

**Letter from the Well of Life Center for Natural Health**. Brownlow read letter from owners outlining the services that they offer at their business on 3172 Route 212 in the Springtown Center.

### **DEP Letter - Statewide Drought Watch Declaration**

Brownlow: Reads letter stating that we should seek to reduce water use by five percent through voluntary measures. The next level is a warning and with an 18 percent reduction. They also have asked us to look at our drought contingency plan and update it. It was in connection with this, does this automatically ban burning? Should we do something about that? Schilling: A lot of municipalities have. We have not. Halderman: I think we should take Jeff Mease's recommendation. Jeff usually tells us when it's recommended.

### **Gemstar - Settlement**

We have settled and everything is signed so it is a total settlement.

### **Correspondence of / Conservation Easement Declaration of Restricted Covenant**

Springfield Township, County of Bucks has been to court. Halderman: Are we listed on that? Brownlow: Yes. Halderman: But not on the Keller's. Clemons: Not yet but we will be.

Brownlow states that this was not on the list, but he wanted to let everyone know that he did get a copy of the letter from Lower Saucon Township Council that was written to the Chairman of the PA Gaming Control Board about the Sands Bethworks Game Casino License Application. Halderman requests to put this on the work session to discuss it and see what kind of impact we will get.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dennis Steskal: We were talking about getting a referendum on the November ballot to be able to borrow money for the open space. As I remember we had that referendum on the 2000 ballot. We had two referendums. One of them passed and I don't think the public was informed enough to pass the second one. I think you could go back and get the same words put on this ballot again, but this time educate the public to help them understand what it's about. That would be the open space committee's job to do that.

Schilling: On the newsletter, Rose Strong set a deadline by June 2, and she will have everything to Linda Bartholomew by June 6. We can have an article on the first newsletter on this.

Simmons: Chairman, I want to thank you for authorizing the TV Consortium to have Rich Schilling joins us. He brings very good experience to us. Most of the people in our organization are not accustomed to it. In negotiating contracts, Rich already has the experience. So we thank you very much for letting us borrow him.

Bell: First of all, I want to say that although I never met Linda Bartholomew, I've heard nothing but praise for her from a reliable source. The board should consider making her full time because it makes sense. However, he does not agree with having her entering the incident reports in ALERT. He states that the police department has an ALERT license for the laptop and the officers can enter the reports at the scene directly on the laptop. He cautions the reports being written by a secretary. He states that could be disastrous. Secondly, a calculation on the costs of the Chief of Police taking a car to and from the station to his home using the IRS deduction is \$3453 which I do not consider to be insignificant as previously stated.

Lamana: At the last township PC meeting, there was an item on the agenda that was crossed. It related to carbonate geology and the project in close proximity of this property. Are we going to apply the same inspection to this piece of property that we have to Springtown Knolls? Or are we just going to say it's not okay. I feel some contamination is getting into the stream. Schilling: If Mr. Wynn or the solicitor would care to answer that, but I would believe that we have the right to remove the empty seat to have an independent consultant to review those types of issues.

Lamana comments on what he was told about the carbonate geology at Springtown Knoll. He states he is not sure about that. Halderman: Karst is sinkholes, underground streams it's much more profound than the problem. Lamana: I'm not questioning that. I'm just saying all carbonate geology. Halderman: If it's been identified, when they applied for the sewage planning modules, and the township submits it through a resolution, it will be identified on the plan and the DEP will review that and we will require the same type of study that Springtown Knoll— Lamana: You say that, but— Clemons: Hopefully, we learned something. If the site is underlined by carbonate geology, I recommend that sewage module and a request for a study is done. The regulations provide that the DEP—it doesn't say the township—it says the DEP can hire a preliminary hydrogeologic study when there's a condition likened so that we have the ability to request those studies be done. I would think take that up.

Simmons: What do you think they do in Lehigh Valley, Northampton? Sure there are places where you have / anytime you have waster running through limestone, it will dissolve over time. I made my living using limestone. I've lived in those valleys all my life and I've never seen a major problem.

### **Supervisors Comments**

Halderman: I want to thank the board for authorizing the independent study by Littlefield. Rich, thank you for putting together a nice folder and keeping us updated on what's going on.

Bedics: No comments.

Zisko: Web Singer has done a lot for the community serving on the PC and the BOS. This week his old barn burned down and it would be a good gesture for the Township to waive building permit fees if he were to rebuild.

Brownlow: On the agenda, tomorrow night is the ad-hoc Water Committee Meeting. There's one subcommittee yet to report tomorrow night. Consideration will be given to coming with a recommendation that will come back to the Board of Supervisors. That should be an interesting meeting and there should be a lot of discussion. Also, the Joint Planning Commission/Supervisors committees are getting really close to coming to a conclusion on the rewrite of the zoning. That also will be a very interesting meeting to attend. There's also our meeting on May 23.

Free Reading Phillies tickets were offered to the residents present.

Halderman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Zisko seconded the motion and the board voted to adjourn the meeting at 09:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Richard H. Schilling  
Township Manager/Secretary