

Springfield Township, Bucks County
Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

February 14, 2017

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, David Long, Volker Oakey, Rob Zisko.

Also present: Scott MacNair (solicitor), Michael Brown (Township Manager), and Debbie Godshall (Treasurer).

Chairperson Long called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m..

Motion by Ms. Bedics, seconded by Mr. Zisko, to approve the January 24, 2017 minutes after adding a comment that the Board did not agree to the California Road winter maintenance agreement because the road was in poor condition and concerned about equipment damage. All in favor. Motion carries.

Hans Reimann complained about speeding and asked for traffic calming devices.

Business

Zack Boyd Eagle Scout Proclamation—Mr. Long announced the Board was issuing a Certificate of Achievement to Zack Boyd for his accomplishment and thanked him for working to create a trail in Peppermint Park.

Appointments—Motion by Dave Long, seconded by Karen Bedics, to make the following appointments:

- Ann Buckwalter as Zoning Hearing Board alternate with a term to expire
- Sue Ziegler to the Open Space Committee with a term to expire 12/31/2019.
- Dawn Nicholson to fill the remainder of Curt Reiss' unexpired term to 12/31/2018.

All in favor. Motion carries.

Peppermint Park hay lease agreement—Lessees Anthony Renner and Jerry McCurdy were present. The Board discussed the best policy for reconciling the park's use as both a park and an active farming operation. The current lease expires in December 2020. The Board directed 2 changes to the existing lease agreement: prohibit the use of the soil supplement Hatgro and tighten the notification rules for when materials are being applied to the field. The lessees agreed to this change.

The Board directed the following steps be taken when the farmer applies herbicides or pesticides:

1. Lessee notifies the Township 30 days in advance of intended application.
2. Notification creates a 15 day window for the application.
3. The Township posts notice in the park of the window of application and the materials being applied.
4. On the day of application the lessee closes the access drive to the parking lot during the application.
5. Upon departure the lessee closes the access drive behind him.
6. After a 3 day waiting period the park can be reopened.
7. The 15 day window can be extended upon request.

Motion by Dave Long, seconded by Rob Zisko, to not terminate the hay lease agreement with Anthony Renner, but to revise the terms of the agreement, and operate the park in accordance with the steps outlined herein. All in favor. Motion carries.

Resolution 1-2017; Dedication of Evergreen Road—Eric Shrock was present on behalf of the developer. The Township is taking dedication of the road and holding approximately \$86,000 for 18 months to satisfy the maintenance guarantee. It's also going to hold approximately \$74,000 until certain repairs are effected in the stormwater basin and seeding along the roadway. The current escrow release voucher is in the amount of \$206,795.46.

Motion by Mr. Zisko, seconded by Ms. Bedics, to adopt Resolution 1-2017 accepting dedication of Evergreen Road and opening the same for public use, and further authorizing approval of the Township Engineer's voucher for escrow release. All in favor. Motion carries.

Bucket of minor ordinance revisions—The Planning Commission packaged several minor ordinance revisions as outline in its draft minutes of February 1, 2017. The Board changed item #73 to require screening of Vehicle Repair uses in the VC zoning district to meet buffer requirements set forth in Article V. It endorsed all other changes for inclusion in codification.

Stormwater administration and enforcement regulations—Mr. Brown presented changes to Article V, VI, VII and IX designed to streamline the ordinance to reflect current practice. The Board endorsed the changes for inclusion in codification.

Replacement for Chapters 54/93 of draft code—Mr. Brown presented a new chapter that combines elements of both Chapter 54 and 93 of the draft code, managing streets, driveways and drainage within the Township's rights-of-ways. The Board directed that "future" and "ultimate" rights-of-way be one term and used consistently throughout the chapter. The Board endorsed the new chapter for inclusion in codification.

Replacement for Chapter 52, Water, of draft code—The Springtown Water Authority reviewed this chapter and made several updates to modernize it with current practices. The biggest policy change was to shift approval authority for new water service territories from the Water Authority to the Township. The Board endorsed the new chapter for inclusion in codification.

Open Burning regulations—Mr. Brown presented revisions to the DEP model ordinance for consideration. The current open burning regulations are referenced in a now defunct BOCA Fire Prevention Code. The Board kept the prohibition of open burning on Sundays and Mondays. Mr. Zisko stated he was against any burning regulations. The Board endorsed the revisions for inclusion in codification.

New Regulations on Rights-of-Way management—Mr. MacNair presented the Board with information concerning deployment of new technology called Distributed Antennae Systems. The companies who create these systems assert a right to construct what are essentially cell towers in the public rights-of-way by virtue of having a certificate of public convenience from the PUC. The Board tabled any action until the next meeting.

Non-uniformed Employee Personnel Manual—Mr. Brown presented changes to Section 4.A, Hours of Work. Office staff work hours are currently listed from 8:30-4:30 and implies a paid lunch. The Road Department hours aren't listed, but it has traditionally worked 7:00-4:30 Monday through Thursday with ½ hour unpaid lunch, and 7:00-11:00 Fridays. The Board desires to make all non-uniformed employees work hours comparable, 40 hours worked per week with ½ hour unpaid lunch.

Separately, the Board discussed how to make the change fair to the Township's recent hire whose offer letter said her hours would be, "per the personnel manual."

Motion by Dave Long, seconded by Volker Oakey, to revise Section 4.A of the manual to update work hours on office staff to 8:00-4:30 Monday through Friday with ½ unpaid lunch and allow employees to extend their unpaid lunch up to 30 minutes with approval of the Department Head, and to adjust Deb Raio's salary to reconcile the change in work hours moving forward. In favor—Long, Oakey, Zisko. Opposed—Bedics. Motion carries.

Task Force for citizen survey and comp plan review—The Board established the Task Force composition: 2 BoS, 2 PC, 1 EAC, 1 OSC, 1HC and 1 PRB. Mr. Long and Ms. Bedics volunteered to serve as BoS representatives.

Supervisor Comment

Ms. Bedics asked for an update about the building's security renovations and disposing of excess equipment.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Brown, Township Manager

Approved: