Springfield Township, Bucks County

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

November 12, 2019

Supervisors Present: Jim Nilsen, Tony Matzura, Rob Zisko and Jim Hopkins.

Also present: Jason Wager (Interim Township Manager) and Debra Godshall (Treasurer). Chairperson Nilsen called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m and announced the Board met in executive session for a personnel matter.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nilsen asked to amend the public comment portion on residential accessory shooting by removing a statement made by a resident.

Motion by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Matzura, to approve the September 24, 2019 minutes as amended. All in favor. Motion carries.

Public Comment

Frank Hollenbach, Rocky Valley Road said volunteers had removed invasive plant species and the support wires from newly planted trees at Peppermint Park. He also said a working group for rail trail management was forming in anticipation of the trail opening next summer. He also requested the Board prioritize updating the comprehensive plan.

Business

Resolution 2019-05; TMP 42-8-55 into Ag Security Area—Motion by Rob Zisko, seconded by Karen Bedics, to adopt the resolution placing the parcel number in to the Ag Security area. All in favor. Motion carries.

Short Term Rental Regulations (version 8/8/2019)—The Board continued discussion of a new proposed chapter to the Township Code for the purpose of licensing short term rental uses. The crux of the discussion was whether Short Term Rental uses should be accessory uses by limiting license holders to the primary residence and a capped number of days, or whether they should be allowed as principle uses. Mr. Nilsen asked for the Solicitor to be consulted on the idea of allowing non-primary residences to be rented long term but also allow for a fixed number of days as a short term rental. The Board did settle on a cap of 120 days per calendar year for short term rental use. The matter was tabled.

Municipal facilities rental policy—The Board reviewed the policy from August 2016 and made no changes.

Police outdoor workout facilities—Chief McDonald presented an obstacle course/workout facility proposed for the Township’s property. The cost would be paid by donations and the use of surplus property. The Board directed that some type of internal periodic inspection take place to ensure the continued safety of the obstacles and record keeping for insurance purposes.

Motion by Karen Bedics, seconded by Rob Zisko, to approve the construction of the PD’s outdoor fitness area in conformance with the plans presented. All in favor. Motion carries.

Supervisor Oversight Ride-A-Long Policy—Chief McDonald presented the draft of a ride along policy to allow Supervisors to exercise their oversight responsibility. Motion by Karen Bedics, seconded by Rob Zisko, to approve the policy as presented. In favor—Bedics, Matzura, Nilsen, Zisko. Opposed—Long. Motion carries.
Supervisor comments—Mr. Zisko asked the staff to find out why Upper Saucon Township has not fixed the Blue Church Road bridge. Mr. Matzura complimented Mr. Nilsen and the other volunteers who put on Community Day. Mr. Nilsen said the census was 803 for Community Day and thanked the road crew for placing placards on their vehicles that gave detailed information. Mr. Long asked if any other Supervisor besides Mr. Nilsen was willing to be part of a subcommittee on fire coverage.

Mr. Long announced his resignation from the Board effective at noon, October 9th. He thanked the other Board members and residents for the opportunity to serve.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Township Manager