

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

October 24, 2023

IN-PERSON MEETING

Supervisors Present: Anthony Matzura, Pete Kade, James Nilsen, Bill Ryker and Jim Hopkins.

Also present: Rich Pursell (Township Manager/Public Works Director), Lisa Gerhart (Secretary), Scott MacNair, Esq. (Township Solicitor), Tim Fulmer (Township Engineer) & Michael McDonald (Chief of Police).

Mr. Matzura called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None given.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Matzura stated the financial report and balances are posted.

Fund Balances as of September 30, 2023

General Fund	\$ 1,188,785	COVID Relief Fund	\$449,154
- CD General Fund	- \$237,000		
Open Space Fund	\$ 554,533	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$409,665
- CD Open Space	-\$125,000	- CD Liquid Fuels	- \$125,000
Escrow Fund	\$ 498,576	Street Light Fund	\$5,310
Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 327,857	Act 537 Escrow Fund	\$86,772
- CD Capital Reserve	-\$237,000		
Dedicated EMS	\$745	Dedicated Fire	\$150,847
General Fund Reserve	\$335,465		

PAYMENT OF BILLS

(September 16, 2023 – October 15, 2023)

General Fund	\$156,665	Open Space Fund	\$5,285
Capital Reserve Fund	\$0	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$216,647
Escrows	\$5,777	Street Light Fund	\$711
PLGIT Credit Card	\$2,909	Dedicated EMS Fund	\$10,000
Dedicated Fire Fund	\$0		

Motion by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Hopkins, and unanimously agreed to accept the financial report as presented. Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approving the payment of bills from September 16 – October 15, 2023.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously carried approving the September 26, 2023, BUDGET minutes. Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried approving the September 26, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes. Motion by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Ryker and carried approving October 10, 2023 with Mr. Hopkins abstaining since he was not present for that meeting.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Knechts Bridge – As the Board requested, Mr. Jeff Lindtner supplied a letter regarding the request for work to be done around Knechts Bridge. Mr. Hopkins stated they need more information than what was presented. Mr. Fulmer stated he would be able to give a cost analysis for a field survey regarding the elevation and grading of the road and bridge. Mr. Matzura questioned the county having more information regarding the bridge since they own it. Mr. Pursell advised he is receiving proposals for the cost of the bridge alarm.

Cooks Creek Preliminary Subdivision Plan – Mr. Fulmer, Township Engineer, discussed the project. The applicant's engineer, Mr. Heath Machamer, was present to discuss. Springfield Township Planning Commission recommended granting preliminary approval at their October 4, 2023 meeting along with conditions in Mr. Fulmer's letter dated September 27, 2023. Street lighting in the development area was discussed and it was determined to have on-lot lighting. Mr. Nilsen discussed making the current culverts there larger, from 15-inch to 18-inch diameter. Mr. Joseph Faust, Richlandtown Pk, discussed his concern of the lighting in the new development. Mr. Machamer discussed the lighting at the lot driveways being full cut off fixtures. Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approved preliminary approval of the Cooks Creek subdivision plan. Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously approved **Resolution 2023-17** for plan revision for new land development, which enables the sewage facilities planning module to be submitted to PADEP. Mr. Doncevic, Pleasant View, questioned the width of the sidewalks in the subdivision.

Bubori Preliminary and Final Subdivision Plan Approval – Mr. Tim Fulmer discussed the project. Mr. Mike Russek, the applicant's engineer, was present as well. Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approved to authorize the preliminary and final approval of the Bubori Subdivision, as outlined in the Township Engineer's letter dated October 5, 2023.

Finalizing and Authorizing Advertisement of Ordinance #206 – This Ordinance was discussed July 25, 2023 and was waiting to be combined with other Ordinances for sake of advertising costs. Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously approved to advertise **Ordinance 206** establishing a twenty-five per hour speed limit on Buckwampum Road in Springfield Township.

Finalizing and Authorizing Advertisement of Ordinance #207 - This Ordinance was talked about at the last meeting on September 26, 2023. A traffic study at the intersection of Peppermint Rd, Parkland Rd and Deer Trail Rd. Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously approved to advertise **Ordinance 207** Establishing a four way stop intersection at the intersection of Peppermint Road and Parkland Road and Peppermint Road and Deer Trail Road and establishing a speed limit of 35 mph on Peppermint Road between Parkland Road and Richlandtown Pike. Mr. Nilsen requested some of the brush be cut back around the stop sign already there.

Purchase of Speed Board Signs – Chief McDonald discussed the quotes received regarding more speed boards for the Township. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously approved to authorize the purchase of 2 speed board sign(s) at the total price not to exceed \$11,146.34 out of Capital Reserve fund. Mr. Hopkins mentioned the grant opportunity he saw and would talk to Chief about it more later.

*Motion to amend agenda to add Electric Supplier Discussion and 2024 Employee Salary Discussion. Motion made by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously approved to amend agenda with additional items.

Electric supplier discussion – The Townships’ electric bills have been overbudget this year. We are currently paying between .25897kw and .26431kw. Manager Pursell shopped around for rates. Mr. Pursell found a low rate with Constellation Energy that is good for a 5-year contract. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and approved 4-1 with Mr. Nilsen being the no-vote to sign a 5-year contract with Constellation Energy and authorize the Township Manager to sign any paperwork necessary for the contract.

2024 Employee Salary Discussion – The 2024 Budget has 3.5% total increase built in for salaries. The only salary that the Board would still have to consider is what the salary would be for the Treasurer position. Mr. Kade advised \$15,000 would be good for Mr. Pursell as Treasurer role on top of his other titles. It was questioned if Mr. Pursell’s contract would need to be rewritten. Solicitor MacNair stated he would work on an addendum for it. Mr. Long, Drifting Drive, questioned if they hire a Treasurer would Mr. Pursell’s salary be reduced back. It will. Mr. Hollenback, Rocky Valley Road, stated since Mr. Pursell has taken on Treasurer role, Parks and Land Preservation board reports have been early and he appreciates that. Motion by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approved salaries for 2024 Budget.

Authorization to Advertise 2024 Budget – 2024 Springfield Township Budget is balanced. Motion made by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approved to advertise the 2024 Budget. Comment made by Mr. Ryker that capital allocation works and helps with planning ahead for big budget items.

Hiring of Part Time Road Crew Member – Public Works recent retiree, Mr. Hoferica, would be willing to come back as part time help in the summer. This hiring and his pay rate would be formalized at the Re-Organization meeting in January.

REPORTS / COMMENTS

Zoning – A report was received and is on file.

Police – A report was received and is on file. Chief McDonald advised the DEA drug takeback event is this Saturday at the Springfield Elementary School. The Halloween Parade in Springtown is Sunday.

Public Works – A report was received and is on file. Manager Pursell advised one of the three heating systems are in but the other two arrived damaged and need to be re-ordered. He stated the Township is still waiting on the septic permit for the system here at the building.

Solicitor – A report was received and is on file. Solicitor MacNair stated Rise Up Towers LLC withdrew their Zoning Hearing Board application.

Engineer – A report was received and is on file.

Planning Commission – No report was given. Mr. Dave Long, member, advised the Planning Commission is still working on drafting an event venue ordinance.

Parks & Land Preservation Board – No report was given. Mr. Hollenbach, chair, advised the Ash Trees on Rowland were topped. He stated they will plant 40lbs of native flower seeds that were donated by a resident in Peppermint Park.

EAC – No report was given.

Springfield Fire Co. – Mr. Mease and Mr. Schick were present representing PRFD (Springtown Fire Co.) Mr. Mease supplied the Supervisors with report of their calls in Springtown. It was questioned when they would receive their portion of the Dedicated Fire Tax. Manager Pursell advised all companies will get it once the signed MOU is returned to the Township. Mr. Kade asked if they plan to sign the MOU. Mr. Mease advised it will be discussed. Mr. Mease stated the Community Day event they host went well and had a great turnout. He discussed the upcoming Springfield Fire Company parade in Springtown on Sunday.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was a “Thank You” card from Mr. Hoferica, Public Works Retiree, thanking the board for his retirement gift from them.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. David Bretz, Peppermint Road, questioned why the Board is raising speed limits when for months we have been discussed the speeding issues in the Township. Mr. Matzura stated that they will re-evaluate and if they got it wrong, will fix it.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Ryker urged everyone to support the DEA Drug takeback event this weekend. Mr. Hopkins mentioned the Comprehensive Plan steering committee will not be meeting this month. Mr. Matzura reminded everyone to vote in the upcoming election.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Matzura noted there will be an executive session held after this meeting to discuss personnel and real estate.

Motion by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Gerhart
Secretary