

Board of Supervisors

**MINUTES
 May 23, 2023**

IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL MEETING

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

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

Mr. Kade called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Nilsen arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker, and unanimously approved to amend agenda to add acceptance of Treasurer resignation and discussion for Rise Up Tower cell tower lease.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no comment on non-agenda items.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Fund Balances as of April 30, 2023

General Fund	\$ 940,360	COVID Relief Fund	\$536,511
- CD General Fund	- \$243,000		
Open Space Fund	\$ 729,048	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$525,869
Escrow Fund	\$ 497,460	Street Light Fund	\$12,967
Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 219,374	Act 537 Escrow Fund	\$86,384
- CD Capital Reserve	-\$243,000		
Dedicated EMS	\$33,045	Dedicated Fire	\$165,796

PAYMENT OF BILLS

(April 1, 2023 – April 30, 2023)

General Fund	\$202,241.76	Open Space Fund	\$0
Capital Reserve Fund	\$26,715.40	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$0
Escrows	\$1,169.30	Street Light Fund	\$734.47

Mr. Hopkins mentioned the numbers don't seem to add up and recommending postponing accepting the financial report. It was unanimously agreed upon since the Treasurer's resignation is on the agenda now. It was also discussed that the Liquid Fuels Fund balance on payment of bills isn't correct, but a motion was made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade to pay the bills as business and payments need to be handled.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hopkins advised of a typo on April 11, 2023 minutes. Ms. Gerhart will fix. Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried approving the April 11, 2023, minutes. Motion by Mr.

Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried approving the April 18, 2023, minutes as presented.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Acceptance of Treasurer Resignation – Mr. Hopkins read Ms. Mercedes Veni’s resignation letter. Motion to accept Treasurer Veni’s resignation made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approved.

Donation Acceptance for Police – Mr. Hopkins advised he was not in favor of the wording of the letter attached to the police donation from Mr. and Mrs. Ross. The letter stated the donation is to be used at the sole discretion of the Police Chief. Mr. Hopkins stated no one here has sole discretion as business items have to be approved by the Board. Chief McDonald stated he will mention that in an email back to them thanking them. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously approved to acknowledge and accept the police donation of \$2,000.

Request for Fire Police – Milford Township – Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approved to authorize the use of the Springtown Fire Company Fire police at the Milford Township Fire Company Annual Carnival scheduled for June 20th- June 24th and the Milford Township Annual AG-Daze event to be held on Saturday, September 9, 2023.

Zoning Hearing Board Application Discussion – Zoning Hearing Board meeting on June 21, 2023 for ECA Solar (Bucks Community Energy Initiative LLC). They are requesting a variance to permit F-7 Commercial Solar Use on the property. The property is zoned AD and currently F-7 is only permitted in the PI district by conditional use. The board can choose to take a position to support/oppose, or have no opinion at all. The Planning Commission review letter was received by the Board. Mr. Dennis O’Connell, 3001 Moyer Road, asked if the board has a background in engineering. The board has a few members who are engineers. Mr. O’Connell stated there are issues with those panels and the inverters. They affect the environment and the soil. Mr. Kade said he did research and even out at the PSATS conference, attended a class on it. Mr. Kade said he is against the panels going there on prime agricultural land. Ms. Sandra Mease, 2461 Rt 412, stated they love the look of the farm that is currently there now and don’t want to look at solar panels. They are also concerned about the chemicals and how it will affect all the area wells. Mr. Hopkins stated there are lots of issues to consider. Mr. Tim Mease, 322 Moyer Road, stated he worries about what will happen when the solar field gets decommissioned and questioned if the water would be contaminated. Mr. Tony Kametz, Old Bethlehem Rd, questioned how the solar array would benefit the township. Mr. Kade stated it won’t benefit the township at all. Mr. Hopkins stated decisions aren’t made for the benefit of the Township. He stated property owners have rights and decisions are made based on ordinances. Mr. Nilsen arrived towards the end of the discussion. Ms. Nicole Zane, 3001 Moyer Rd, questioned what the board makes their recommendation on. Solicitor MacNair explained ZHB process and variance requirements. Solicitor MacNair described party status and how the residents can establish that. Mr. John Bean, 1966 Highpoint Rd, questioned about putting the land into Open Space. Mr. Nilsen explained they have tried and failed to do so. This item will be tabled to June 13th meeting for the Board to make a recommendation.

Trolley Bridge Road Speed Limit Resolution 2023-11 – Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously carried to adopt **Resolution 2023-11** establishing maximum speed limit for Trolley Bridge Road.

Drifting Drive Truck Discussion – A letter from a resident prompted this discussion. There was a tractor trailer accident on May 1st on Drifting Drive. Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and

unanimously approved to allow Solicitor MacNair to draft an ordinance to prohibit truck traffic on portions of Drifting Drive and Springtown Hill Road.

Buckwampum Road Discussion – Agenda item will be tabled until Police can do a speed study. Speed study is generated due to residents’ complaints about speeding motorists.

Hough Associates Agreement Renewal for Recycling Grant – Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously carried to accept the (3) Three-year agreement authorizing Hough Associates to collect residential and commercial recycling data and prepare PA DEP 904 recycling grant applications for Springfield Township in the amount not to exceed \$2,500 per year for 2023 to 2025 and further authorize the Township Manager to sign any paperwork necessary to complete the transaction.

MOU between Springfield Township and Fire Companies/EMS Services - The MOU has been updated to reflect recommendations from the last meeting. Once the Board approves the MOU each individual Fire and EMS company will receive one specific to them. Motion made by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Ryker, and unanimously approved to authorize Solicitor MacNair to prepare individualized MOUs for each Fire Company.

Municipal Building – HVAC Improvements – Quote received by H.T. Lyons is broken down by (4) options. Option (2) is the cheapest option and would be replacing what we currently have besides some minor electrical work – oil gas heaters for Administration, Police and Garage area. Mr. Kade said the Road Department needs heat for the winter as their system is currently broken. More information is needed on Fresh Air system and updated pricing.

2023 Road/Parking Lot Project Bid Award/Rejection – Manager Pursell recommended that the Board accepts the base bid for sealcoating and rejects the alternate bid which would have been for the Township parking lot. The reason to reject the alternate bid is due to the pending sewer system replacement project. Bids were posted on PennBID and due by Monday, May 15, @10:00 am. They were also advertised in the intelligencer on 4/18 & 5/2/23. Engineer Fulmer reviewed all bid documents, which appear to be in order. Acceptance is subject to receipt of the performance bond, payment bond & certificate of insurance. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approved to accept the base bid for sealcoating from Asphalt Maintenance Solutions LLC.

Investments - There are (2) CD’s that will mature on 6/16/23. One is for the General Fund Reserve and the other is for the Capital Fund. Manager Pursell recommends that the Board reinvest for the same amount of money as last year, which is the maximum of \$250,000.00, which would include accrued interest from the bank. Mr. Frank Hollenbach, Rocky Valley Road, on Parks & Land Preservation Board asked when the SEPTA lease for the Rail Trail ends. It was mentioned it was for thirty years. He stated there was discussion about land acquisition for a project and questioned if getting the money out of CD is possible and questioned the timing. It was discussed getting to that point would take quite a while and should be fine staying in CD making money. Mr. Dave Long, Drifting Drive, stated if they need the money early, there is a penalty, but everything takes time and that may not be necessary. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously carried authorizing the re-opening of a one-year CD in the amount of \$250,000.00 for our General Fund Reserve account, a one-year CD in the amount of \$250,000.00 for our Capital Fund account, one-year CD in the amount of \$125,000.00 for our Open Space account, and one-year CD in the amount of \$125,000.00 for our State Fund account.

Rise Up Towers – Ground lease is being drafted with Rise Up Towers for 2,500 sqft cell tower on Township property. The lease would be for five years initially. All supervisors were in agreement that Manager Pursell and Solicitor MacNair to continue negotiations on proposed project and lease agreement.

REPORTS / COMMENTS

Zoning – A report was received and is on file.

Police – A report was received and is on file. Chief McDonald discussed the authorization for the new CODY program. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously approved to approve the cost of \$16,000 down, \$15,000 next year and the annual fee of \$7,000 for the new CODY program for the police department.

Public Works – A report was received and is on file.

Solicitor – A report was received and is on file. Solicitor MacNair advised variance for Conshy Cooper Farm was denied at the Zoning Hearing Board.

Engineer – A report was received and is on file.

Planning Commission – No report was given. Mr. Dave Long, member, questioned when the Planning Commission gets to see variance applications to the ZHB. He advised the Planning Commission is working on short term rental ordinance and questioned if the Board is interested in such ordinance as it was his understanding in the past, they were not. Mr. Hopkins stated on the list of priorities, this was not rated high but if the PC sees it as necessary, the Board will take a look. Mr. Nilsen said last time people didn't want to see it regulated. Mr. Ryker stated he didn't have an opinion on the subject until an ordinance was presented to them for review.

Parks & Land Preservation Board – No report was given. Mr. Frank Hollenbach, board member, advised they are continuing to work on an application/approval form for the Rail Trail for special events.

EAC – No report was given.

Historic Commission – No report was given.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence given.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Sandy Mease, 2461 Rt 412, thanked the Board for hearing all the residents' comments about the solar zoning hearing application. She was happy no one got upset and there was no yelling. Mr. Kade stated Springfield Township has the best residents in the world.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Ryker said about Memorial Day coming up and remembering those to have passed.

Mr. Hopkins stated about the comprehensive plan meeting coming up and the discussion on broadband funding issues. Mr. Hopkins also mentioned BCATO wanting to get involved with the Ash Tree problem in rights-of-way.

Mr. Nilsen stated the Township flagpole memorial outside the Township Building is finally done after four years. Mr. Kade and Mr. Nilsen agreed to arrange some sort of a dedication on Memorial Day.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Gerhart
Secretary

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