

**Board of Supervisors**

**MINUTES**

**DECEMBER 9, 2025**

**MEETING HELD AT SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP BUILDING**

**Supervisors Present:** Pete Kade, Lorna Yearwood, Bill Ryker, Jim Hopkins and Dave Long.

**Also present:** Rich Pursell (Township Manager), Scott MacNair, Esq. (Township Solicitor) & Mike McDonald (Police Chief).

Mr. Kade called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

An Executive session will be held after the public meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Patrick Sessions (Maple Rd) inquired if there had been any response from Haycock Camp's Attorney regarding a letter sent in October. The Township Solicitor confirmed no response was received but noted the ethical obligation for the attorney to communicate with his client.

Carla Sessions (Maple Rd) raised concerns about a "Black Friday Paintball" event advertisement. The Township Solicitor stated he attempted to locate the ad to issue a Notice of Violation but was unable to find it on the website, suggesting it may have been removed. He also noted the difficulty in enforcing NOV's for single-day events. The Sessions' reported installing a camera at a neighbor's farm to document increased traffic and activity, noting a spike on Black Friday.

Jim Nilsen (Pleasant View Rd) reported a new light installed on the ambulance building is blinding residents as drivers come down the hill. Mr. Ryker acknowledged the issue, explaining the light was installed due to multiple accidents involving vehicles striking the EMS building.

Pat McGinness (Springtown Rod & Gun Club) discussed the upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> Township Anniversary and the Gun Club's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He noted a committee meeting scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:00PM. Mr. Ryker suggested using the Club's Pork & Sauerkraut event on January 1<sup>st</sup> to market the May 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary celebration.

Jerry Lessard (Richlandtown Pike) inquired about the status of an on-lot septic maintenance agreement required for a cottage construction for his mother. The Township Manager confirmed the agreement was signed and needs to be notarized and recorded before a copy can be provided for the DEP application.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Upper Bucks Chamber of Commerce Membership** – Mr. Hopkins requested the Board consider rejoining the Upper Bucks Chamber of Commerce to aid with the comprehensive plan and business connections along the 309 corridor.

Motion made by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to join the Upper Bucks Chamber of Commerce at a yearly membership fee of \$255.

**Appointment to Historic Commission** – Motion made by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Kade, and carried unanimously to waive the standard interview process and appoint Mary Whitesell to the Historic Commission as she is a well-known former Township Auditor.

**Update on GIS (Geographic Information System)** – Ms. Yearwood provided an update on implementing a Geographical Information System (GIS) to view township data (e.g. permits, flood predictions). She has consulted with the Bucks County Planning Commission and Wynn Associates and plans to present a full proposal at a future meeting.

**Barry Isett's Option for Township Uses** – The Board discussed a proposal from Barry Isett & Associates to serve as the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC). The retainer includes 5 hours of services per month for plan updates and meeting attendance. Mr. Hopkins requested a formal written agreement including a requirement for monthly status reports.

The Township Manager will schedule a Zoom meeting with Mike Italia and the Board to discuss details prior to the reorganization meeting.

**Authorization to Hire Public Works Equipment Operator/Laborer/Driver** – The Township Manager has requested authorization to hire Thomas Wismer for the Public Works Department at a rate of \$24.50/hour, pending background checks.

Motion made by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to hire Thomas Wismer.

**Protocol for the use of Decibel Reader** – The Township Solicitor noted that litigation matters regarding the decibel meter would be discussed in Executive Session, but the protocol itself was open for public discussion.

The Police Chief confirmed the officers are trained and the device is ready for use, currently stored in a temperature-controlled evidence vault.

Mr. Hopkins advocated for a protocol allowing residents to use the meter to gather data when police are unavailable. The Solicitor warned of significant evidentiary challenges if laypeople use the device, citing credibility issues and the complexity of measuring ambient noise and calibration for court admissibility.

Patrick and Carla Sessions offered to identify technically skilled neighbors to undergo training and use the device responsibly. They additionally noted that the noise from the Camp property has ceased since November 1<sup>st</sup>.

David Bretz (Peppermint Rd) inquired about a dedicated official for weekend device monitoring in instances where residents don't want to be involved.

The Board agreed that while the protocol will include a provision for resident use, the final decision to deploy the unit to a resident will be at the discretion of the Police Chief, Township Manager, or Township Solicitor on a case-by-case basis.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Hopkins – Presented Mr. Ryker with a PSATS certificate of service and thanked him for his tenure. He also noted the recent passing of Rose Strong, a former resident instrumental in the township's Community Day.

Mr. Ryker – He reflected on his (6) years of service (this being his final meeting). He emphasized that the best solutions often come from neighbors talking to one another rather than official enforcement.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Ms. Yearwood, seconded by Mr. Long, and unanimously carried to adjourn the public meeting at 8:11 PM

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

To be held following the public meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Rich Pursell  
Township Manager