Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

October 11, 2011

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, Barbara Lindtner, Dave Long and Rob Zisko **Absent:** Volker Oakey
Also present: Sandy Everitt, Township Secretary/Treasurer; Rich Schilling, Township Manager

Barbara Lindtner, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board held an Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel issues.

Approval of Minutes

Karen Bedics **moved** to adopt the September 13, 2011, minutes as presented. Dave Long **seconded**. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Dave Long **moved** to adopt the September 27, 2011, minutes as presented. Rob Zisko **seconded**. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Bills for Approval

Karen Bedics **moved** to approve the following bills paid from September 24 – October 7, 2011:

1. General Fund	$ 6,557.42	3. Open Space (EIT)	$ 4,303.63
2. Liquid Fuels	$ 574.54	4. Subdivision & Escrow	$ 1,568.55

Dave Long **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Reports

Road Department (posted) – The August and September reports were reviewed. The Road Department posted a number of Township and Town Watch signs. They are preparing the equipment for winter. Barbara Lindtner suggested Rich Pursell be invited to an Executive Session to discuss his request for a full-time employee. Rich Schilling will discuss with legal counsel whether this discussion can take place in an Executive Session. If not, Rich Pursell will be invited to discuss his budget needs at the next public meeting.

Police Report – The cost for upgrading police radios will be approximately $50,000. Barbara said that Robert Loughery, County Commissioner, told Volker and her that the County was going to float a bond and that would be available at very low interest rates. Rob Loughery suggested that the Township Manager contact the Commissioner's office for details. Barbara asked Rich to ask whether other items the police need (computers, cars, etc.) can be purchased using bond proceeds. Rich will also inquire whether the bond will be available just for government entities or for fire departments, etc.

Rob Zisko asked what Rich Schilling learned about regionalization of police services when he met with Steve Sechriest, Manager of Richland Township. Rich said that the Richland Township cost per officer is approximately $140,000, while Springfield Township's cost per officer is about $115,000. The cost for Springfield to regionalize would be between $700-800,000 a year for 24-hour police coverage, compared to our current annual cost of $450,000 for part-time police department coverage. Rob Zisko feels strongly that all levels of government need to review all areas where services are being duplicated.

Township Manager – The garage roof replacement will begin in mid-October. Rich submitted the municipal building lighting replacement grant the check from PPL should come within the next month. Rich is working with Upper Saucon Township to try to resolve the drainage problem being generated by a property in Upper Saucon township that is affecting Nemeth & Ebert Roads and Giffert Way in Springfield Township. Rich met recently with the affected Springfield residents.

The EAC Tire Recycling event was very successful, with over 900 tires recycled.

Rich noted that the township is holding permits for several residents who have not yet paid for them.

Public Comments on Agenda Items - None

Old Business

1. **Award for Open Space Sign Bid –** The following bids were received for signs to identify preserved properties:

COMPANY	BID AMOUNT
Forman Sign Co, Philadelphia, PA	$69,755
Eagle Sign & Design, Louisville, KY	$26,040

Rich said that a third bid ($60,000) was received, but after the bid deadline. He noted that the low bidder (Eagle Sign & Design) was also awarded the Bucks County open space sign bid. Rob Zisko **moved** to award the bid for 30 signs and accompanying posts to Eagle Sign & Design, Louisville, Kentucky. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**. The motion **passed** unanimously.

(The Board opted to discuss the budget after handling one item of New Business.)

New Business

1. Line Painting for Bursonville, Township and Passer Roads – Barbara Lindtner **moved** to authorize restripping of Bursonville, Township and Passer Roads at a cost not to exceed $3,800 (to be paid from Liquid Fuels). Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Old Business (continued)

2. 2012 Budget – UBREMS wrote a letter requesting the Township to place a referendum question on the 2012 ballot regarding instituting a one-half mill (approximately $40,000) tax increase. Adam Maziuk, Director of UBREMS, indicated that all the municipalities serviced by UBREMS provide at least one-half tax mill dedicated to funding UBREMS, with the exception of Tinicum, Nockamixon and Bridgeton Townships. Barbara Lindtner requested that this topic be tabled until she has time to review UBREMS request and until Volker Oakey is present. Dave Long will not be present for the October 25 meeting, so he requested discussion on the EMS request in order to better understand the legal funding requirements upon the Township pertaining to emergency services. Rich Schilling noted that Pennsylvania is the only state that does not require townships to fund EMS. A referendum is not required for the Board to impose a 2-mill tax increase for Fire and EMS.

November 8 is General Election Day and the Board cannot hold the regularly scheduled meeting. It was the consensus of the Board to advertise and reschedule the first November meeting for Wednesday, November 9, and to meet again on the regularly scheduled November 22 date.

The Board resumed budget discussion and covered the following key issues:

1. The $47,000 for new police radios was reduced to a two-month bond payment of $1,670 (2 monthly payments in 2012, anticipating participation in the County bond issue. Rich Schilling will determine with the County which entities will be permitted to utilize their bond. New amount for Account 410.26: $4,170 ($1,670 will be moved to Debt Service if Bond is forthcoming)
2. Account 410.262 will include the cost for new police computers unless the County will permit them to be purchased utilizing the County bond issue.
3. 410.37 Vehicle Repair – It was the consensus of the Board to sell two police vehicles in the poorest condition and replace them with one new 4-wheel drive vehicle, thus reducing the fleet to three vehicles. Rich will obtain costs from the police for both a quality used vehicle and a new vehicle as well as trade-in value for the two vehicles being eliminated from the fleet.
4. No increase will be made at this time to the EMS contribution, pending further Board discussion about raising taxes specifically for funding emergency services.
5. Rich Schilling will follow up with the County about whether other budget needs can be included in the Bond they will float: police vehicles, police computers, fire company radios, etc.

At 9:05 p.m., the Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. The meeting resumed at 9:20 p.m.

Rich Schilling advised the Board there is a possibility of refinancing the Open Space Bond through a loan with a DelVal group that could result in saving up to $700,000.

Public Comment - None

Supervisors Comments

Karen Bedics plans to attend the October 19 *EnBanc* panel meeting to review the PUC's decision regarding the proposed PPL route through Springfield Township.

Adjournment

At 9:30 p.m., Rob Zisko **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt
Township Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: October 25, 2011
Approved: October 25, 2011