

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
OCTOBER 25, 2005**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Pete Lamana at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present were Chuck Halderman, Rob Zisko and Jim Brownlow.

Minutes of October 11, 2005

Rob Zisko moved to accept the minutes of October 11, 2005. Second by Jim Brownlow.

Discussion: Chuck Halderman expressed concern that his all of his comments concerning the discussion with Solicitor McNamara regarding the contract with Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority were not contained in the minutes. Chuck also wanted his list of names for the ad hoc committee included in the minutes.

Jim Brownlow explained that the minutes do not reflect all comments. Pete often reads prepared statements which are not included in the minutes. It would be very difficult to record everybody's comments.

Pete Lamana explained the minutes are not a verbatim account of the meeting. Chuck also would like his comments under "Supervisors Comments" to reflect that he apologized to the Supervisors and residents for his comments about the Solicitor.

Rob Zisko amended his motion to include the correction to Chuck Halderman's apology under supervisors comments. Second by Jim Brownlow. Vote was Jim Brownlow, Rob Zisko and Pete Lamana – YES. Chuck Halderman voted NO.

BILLS FOR APPROVAL

The Treasurer presented a bills list showing disbursements of \$26,971.59 from the general fund for the period October 7 to October 21, 2005. Rob Zisko moved to approve the bills list as presented. Second by Jim Brownlow. Vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

PLANNING

Yourtee Subdivision – Request for extension to complete improvements. C&G Realty Development Co., LLC developer of Yourtee Subdivision has requested an extension until spring/summer of 2006 to complete paving.

Jim Brownlow referred to a letter from Wynn Associates recommending approval of an extension until July 1, 2006 to allow for completion of improvements. The improvements are guaranteed by an escrow account established with the township.

Jim moved to grant the extension to July 1, 2006. Second by Rob Zisko. Vote was unanimous.

The Ridings – Request by Robin Reshetar, Reshetar Realty regarding modification of certain improvements to the Ridings Subdivision.

Mr. Reshetar requests relief from widening the grass strip/earthen shoulder along Route 412 to six feet as required pursuant to the approved plan. Installation of this grass shoulder area will require removal of existing vegetation located along Route 412. The October 11, 2005 correspondence indicates that the escrow estimate includes \$4,000 for the work and Mr. Reshetar is offering a “refund” of \$6,000.00 in-lieu-of constructing the grass strip. As noted within his correspondence sight distance from Lehnenberg Road is not a factor.

In consideration of the drainage improvements installed near the intersection of Lehnenberg Road and Route 412, which eliminated a hazardous edge of road condition, and existing roadway conditions along Route 412.

Wynn Associates recommends approval of Mr. Reshetar’s requested revision subject to verification of approval by PennDOT. Specifically, the widened grass shoulder was included on the PennDOT permit plan submitted for drainage improvements at the intersection of Lehnenberg Road and Route 412. Accordingly, relief of the additional earth shoulder work must be confirmed by PennDOT.

Mr. Reshetar also requests a revision to the planting areas required on Lots 1, 3, 4, and 8 to allow installation of 1” caliper trees rather than seedlings. A total of 59 seedlings are required by the plan and Mr. Reshetar indicates that he would install one 1” caliper tree for every two seedlings designated on the plan.

Wynn Associates has no objection to the increase in the size of the tree plantings provided 30-1” caliper trees are planted in a manner which will encompass the entire seedling planting area shown on the plan.

Jim Brownlow moved to grant the request by Reshetar Realty conditioned upon verification of approval by PennDOT. Second by Rob Zisko. Vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Allen D. Keller – requesting increase in number of EDU’s available in Zion Hill from Milford Trumbauersville Sewer Authority.

Mr. Keller in a letter dated October 10, 2005, is requesting Springfield Township to ask Milford Trumbauersville Sewer Authority to increase the number of EDU’s available to Zion Hill to accommodate possible development of his property identified as tax parcels 42-2-29 and 29-1.

The Township received a letter dated October 6, 2005 from Randolph A. Scott, Solicitor for the Milford Trumbauersville Sewer Authority. In his letter, Mr. Scott that Milford Trumbauersville Area Sewer Authority was requested to make available 85 EDU’s for Zion Hill. The area to be serviced was outlined on a “proposed Service Area Map” prepared by Township Engineer, Bob Wynn and Springfield Township determined 85 EDUs were needed. Sixty five EDUs were issued immediately with the remainder in reserve for projected connections within the service area. As time has gone by, MTASA has provided all those EDUs with the exception of five

which are remaining. Those most recently authorized were ten EDUs for the Penn Meadows Project and four EDUs for the Christ Subdivision.

MTASA has been asked by the Supervisors of Milford Township to not extend additional service outside the Township or Trumbauersville Borough. Mr. Scott states we therefore must “live within the confines of the 1998 agreement and the attached map.

Township Secretary will write to Mr. Keller and inform him of the situation.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman acknowledged a letter from JoAnn Bonnville regarding the Springtown Water System.

Chairman acknowledged a letter from Lower Saucon Township regarding weight restrictions on Banko Lane. Lower Saucon Township Manager, Jack Cahalan in a letter dated October 12, 2005 responded to the request from Springfield to post a weight limit on Banko Lane due to the increased amount of truck traffic entering Springfield on the road.

Mr. Cahalan stated based on the recommendation from the Lower Saucon Public Works Department, it is Council’s position that a weight limit on Banko Lane would only serve to divert non-exempt trucks who wish to access Drifting Drive in Springfield Township to other unrestricted Lower Saucon Township Roads.

Jim Brownlow moved to table the Banko Lane matter. Seconded by Rob Zisko. Vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

ADJOURN

Jim Brownlow moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Seconded by Rob Zisko. Vote was unanimous.

2006 BUDGET

The Township Manager explained the difficulty of preparing a budget not knowing the direction a new manager will take. It is anticipated a new manager will be on board at the beginning of 2006. It is difficult to know how this will change the operation of the administration of the township. Each of the budget options includes a third full time man for the road department. Also included are a part time Code Enforcement Officer, and two part time positions under the Manager. It was the intention to allow some leeway for the manager as far as his support staff is concerned.

Full time employees must be included on the benefits plans and the Non-Uniform Defined Benefits Pension Plan. These are big considerations when making a decision to hire additional staff. Funding of the Pensions is a big consideration.

The Township Manager presented two options for the 2006 budget. The first option was to increase the Township Tax by 2 mills from 2.5 mills to 4.5 mills. The second option was to increase the tax by 1.0 mill to 3.5 mills.

Rob Zisko expressed his opposition to raising the taxes by 2 mills. Rob believes the Board should consider a 1 mill increase. This will require that the police department continue to function at its current strength. (2 officers and the chief).

Jim Brownlow agrees with Rob, a 1 mill increase is more appropriate.

Chuck Halderman also believes a 1 mill increase is preferred. There are a lot of issues that need to be addressed.

The proposed budget includes financing for a truck or back-hoe for the Road Department and \$14,000.00 for a new roof on the township building.

We will also have to address the office space for additional staff. A possible short term solution is to divide the current meeting room into cubicles and hold meetings at the Springtown Fire Company Social Hall.

Jim Brownlow moved to authorize advertising of the proposed budget with an increase of 1 mill to 3.5 mills as proposed which will require keeping the police department at current staffing. Second by Chuck Halderman. Vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Jim Brownlow moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Second by Rob Zisko. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted

Barbara A. Smith
Secretary