

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

November 25, 2008

Jim Brownlow, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, Jim Brownlow, Barbara Lindtner, Volker Oakey and Rob Zisko.

Also present: Sandy Everitt, Secretary/Treasurer; Mark Laudenslager, Police Chief; and Bob Wynn, Township Engineer.

The Board held an executive session prior to this meeting to discuss legal issues.

Approval of Minutes

Rob Zisko requested deletion of the last sentence under Supervisor's Comments in the October 14, 2008, minutes. Rob Zisko **moved** to accept the meeting minutes of October 14, 2008, as amended. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Barbara Lindtner requested rewording of the second to the last sentence under Supervisor's Comments in the October 26, 2008, minutes. Barbara Lindtner **moved** to approve the minutes of October 26, 2008, as amended. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Bills for Approval

Jim Brownlow **moved** to approve the bills list for \$77,181 from November 12 – November 25, 2008. Karen Bedics commented that there were some disbursements to local fire companies including: \$5,689 to Coopersburg Fire Company, \$5,689 to Richlandtown Fire Company, \$7,395 to Shelly Fire Company, \$36,979 to the Springtown Community Fire Company and \$1,137 to Haycock Fire Company. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Sandy Everitt asked the board for authorization to move up to \$100,000 from the Operating Reserve as needed to pay 2008 year-end bills. Rob Zisko **moved** to authorize moving \$100,000 from the Operating Reserve fund. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Public Comments on Agenda Items – None

Oath of Office Ceremony for Police Officers Jacoby and Sepulveda

Chief Mark Laudenslager introduced Officer Jacoby and Sepulveda to the board. Jim Brownlow swore in both Officers.

Act 537 Update from Pio Lombardo & Associates

There was a lengthy discussion about the draft Act 537 Plan. The preliminary 537 Plan used the map analysis to determine wastewater "solutions" for every parcel in the township. Red parcels "required" an off-site disposal solution; yellow-orange-tan parcels "required" a non-standard disposal system. The analysis is not precise and can only suggest parcels that may have a wastewater disposal problem. The board suggested that when Lombardo & Associates prepares the revised plan for review at the first public meeting, the parcel designations be revised to indicate "possible" or "apparent" disposal problems. There was also a discussion about providing the TMP numbers for all deed-restricted lots located within the Development District to Lombardo's so they could see what areas of that district could be utilized commercially. Much of the land in that area is very poor for sewage systems. Thus, in trying to determine what properties could utilize the type of systems that would support commercial and/or residential if the townships pursues development of a Commercial Business District, a determination would need to be made about what properties could actually be developed. A questionnaire is proposed to go to all residents after a public meeting

which would permit property owners to provide information that is currently lacking. Surprisingly, no huge problems were identified anywhere in Springfield Township that will require a huge capital improvement investment (including Springtown). The Bucks County Board of Health records indicate that Springfield Township has a less than 1/2% repair record for septic systems from 1976 to the present. With care, the life of a septic system is 80+ years.

Mr. Lombardo estimates the 3 proposed public meetings will require a 6 months period to cover the following

1. Meeting 1 – A revised preliminary Act 537 Plan will be available for public to review. Maps would be posted around the Fire Hall so that people could find their own property and discuss the wastewater categorization with Lombardo & Associates representatives after an opening presentation. A questionnaire would be sent out after this meeting to obtain public input. Mr. Lombardo left a draft questionnaire for the board's consideration.
2. Meeting 2 – A proposed draft of the revised Act 537 Plan will be presented
3. Meeting 3 – A public hearing for review of the Final Plan.

Planning Matters

Springtown Knoll – The occupants wish to have an in-home business with one employee. The original plan shows a separate existing driveway that accesses the barn. The applicant inquired if the driveway needs to be abandoned in order for the occupants to be issued the permit. In conclusion, Bob Wynn explained that the driveway would not present a safety issue because it is a low volume driveway coming out onto a low volume road. Rob Zisko **moved** to waive the requirement to remove the driveway that was recorded on the original subdivision plan. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Haney Subdivision – Extension Request for Completion of Improvements – The applicant is looking for another year to complete a storm water infiltration vent. Bob Wynn explained that the new storm water management ordinance will change the requirements. Bob suggested the board release the escrow funds back to the applicant, so when a building permit is applied for, it will have to comply with the new storm water requirements. Karen Bedics **moved** to return the escrow. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**, the motion **passed** unanimously.

Yourtee Subdivision – Acceptance of the 18-month Maintenance Period – A number of damaged trees have been replaced on the property. Bob Wynn stated that the maintenance period has been completed and recommended that all the funds be released back to the applicants with the exception of \$3,000 guaranteed for installation of storm water facilities. Rob Zisko **moved** to release improvement funds with the exception of \$3,000 to guarantee installation of required storm water facilities. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Bob Wynn suggested the board consider the next steps to review the proposed Storm Water Ordinance. Rob Zisko asked if the Supervisors can waive requirements of the Storm Water Ordinance for applicants. Scott MacNair replied they could not. Bob Wynn added that the ordinance can be modified but not waived. Rob Zisko asked if the amount of square footage that requires a storm water plan can be increased. Bob Wynn will get back to Rob Zisko about the exceptions in the Township.

Old Business

2009 Budget Discussion – The most recent draft budget has an approximate \$138,000 shortfall. A budget with a shortfall cannot be adopted. Originally, the board discussed having a special meeting on December 16 and that date was advertised. The board needs to authorize a draft budget for advertising so that the public has 20 days to review it prior to the meeting where it is adopted. The budget must be adopted before the end of December. There was a lengthy discussion in regards to anticipated 2008 end-of-year expenses.

Jim Brownlow delivered a Power Point presentation on the budget. 2009 projected police expenses have increased due to the addition of two police officers, but there have been cuts in virtually every other budget area, with all 2009 budget categories (except police) having decreased from 2008 expenditures. Next year's expected revenue is \$1.4 million; expected expenses come to \$1.6 million, which makes for a \$139,000 budget shortfall. The budget cuts would include \$50,000 out of the road department (liquid fuels funds will be used for items normally covered by the General Fund), a freeze is included for all non-uniform salaries besides the police force that are under contract, elimination of two part-time positions (police secretary and part-time zoning offer). Anticipated start-up of cardboard

recycling has been cut, \$2,000 start-up fund for the Parks & Recreation Board have been cut, the 2009 contribution to UBREMS was reduced from \$60,000 to \$25,000; reducing legal and engineering for next year. Total cuts that have been made to the budget total \$288,000. Even with all discretionary spending eliminated, a shortfall still exists. The possibilities for making up the shortfall are:

1. Additional cuts or elimination of some Township services
2. Increase fees
3. Use the Operating Reserve fund
4. Borrow money for completion of the Act 537 revision
5. Raise taxes
6. Some combination of all of the above

Karen Bedics stated she was not aware the cardboard recycling was cut. She thinks the Township could recoup some of the money from the start-up investment. She asked the board to reconsider.

Rob Zisko stated he is not comfortable raising taxes.

Barbara Lindtner expressed that the \$400,000 operating reserve fund will be needed to get through 2009 and 2010 if the revenue expectations hold true. She feels the reserve needs to be protected and preserved as much as possible.

In conclusion, the budget will be revisited and authorized for advertising at the December 9 meeting and finalized and adopted at the December 30 special meeting.

New Business

Farm Market Checking Account - Sandy Everitt asked the board to authorize that a checking account be opened at the Quakertown National Bank utilizing the donor-designated gift of \$10,000. This money, currently in the General Fund, would be transferred to the new account. This would ensure the funds were used for the Farm Market and would maintain accurate records in anticipation of the Farm Market becoming an independent organization at some time in the future. Karen Bedics **moved** to authorize the treasurer to open a separate bank account at QNB for the Springtown Farmers Market and transferring the donor-designated \$10,000 gift from the General Fund to the new account. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Public Comment – None

Supervisors Comments

Rob Zisko asked if the proposed agricultural security properties could be put on the agenda for the December 9 meeting for approval. Rob Zisko acknowledged that Grant Reed sent in an application by certified mail that was received by the township on November 7, 2008.

Adjournment

At 11:15 p.m., Volker Oakey **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Jim Brownlow **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt
Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: December 9, 2008 – 7:30 p.m.
Approved: January 27, 2009