

Board of Supervisors
Special Meeting to Interview Supervisor Candidates

MINUTES

December 14, 2010

Jim Brownlow, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. This early meeting is for the supervisors to interview two supervisor candidates to fill the term of Jim Brownlow until the next Municipal election.

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

Also present: Sandy Everitt, Secretary/Treasurer and Rich Schilling, Township Manager.

Curtis J. Reiss

Curtis' resume included several years work on the road crew of Springfield Township, both in a part-time and a full-time capacity before and after his college graduation. He worked in Springfield Township's police department for six years as well as working for 16 years as a PA State Police officer in the Dublin barracks. He retired from the State Police in 2006. In 2009, he accepted an appointment to the Springfield Township Planning Commission, where he continues to serve. He has particular interest in open space preservation, parks & recreation, development of our industrial area, as well as green energy.

David W. Long

Dave is a six-year resident of the township. He is an independent consultant in pharmaceutical technologies and is currently on assignment at Merck and Co. He retired from Merck after 30 years service as a director level manager in pharmaceutical manufacturing support and technology. He has served on Springfield Township's Open Space Committee for the past three years, and has chaired the committee for the past two years. Dave was impressed by township residents' support and ultimate takeover of the water system in Springtown. He is particularly interested in preserving open space, continuation of fiscally responsible leadership, and development where permitted to increase our tax base.

Board members questioned each candidate following their presentations.

Public Comment

Jeff Lindtner has worked with Dave Long on the Open Space Committee. Jeff commended Dave for his ability to bring the members of the committee together to accomplish an outcome that is particularly valuable for Springfield Township. Many acres of farmland have been preserved under Dave's leadership at a very low cost.

Ken Simmons feels that Dave Long is sincerely interested in Springfield Township and is a good man.

Supervisors Comments

Volker Oakey appreciated having two excellent candidates interested in the open supervisor's position.

Barbara Lindtner agreed, noting that each man would bring very different, yet valuable strengths to the Board.

Jim Brownlow encouraged the Board to have public discussion on both candidates. Barbara suggested that this discussion take place in the time remaining before the start of the regular meeting that will begin at 7:30. She feels it would be valuable to make the appointment as soon as possible so that the new supervisor could be involved in the reorganization meeting. Rich Schilling added that an appointment now would give ample time for him to help the new supervisor be prepared for his new role.

Barbara, Karen, Rob and Volker were open to immediate discussion of the candidates with the goal of an appointment of a supervisor tonight.

Rob Zisko feels both candidates are great and that Dave Long has accomplished much while on the Open Space Committee. However, he noted that the Board interviewed Curt Reiss before for a supervisor position and he was passed over. He also feels that Curt would bring excellent police knowledge and background to the Board, which is now lacking.

Barbara Lindtner feels the Board has two incredible candidates to choose from, each with valuable yet different strengths. Barbara liked Curtis' police background and the levelheaded way in which he handled many questions posed to him. He would also bring Planning Commission experience. She feels Dave Long articulated well his concern about being fiscally conservative and responsible. The economy has been and will continue to be a huge issue for a long time to come. She appreciated Dave's excitement and thoughtfulness as he talked about possible changes that might be needed to the Township's Comprehensive Plan to permit appropriate development.

Karen Bedics was impressed by Dave's prior involvement with the Board when he often came early and often to Board meetings with various open space proposals and plans. He was always well prepared and it was clear he had worked hard and spent a great deal of time on the work he was doing on the Open Space Committee. He went out of his way to keep the Board informed of any changes, problems or things pending relating to open space. She is impressed by the sheer dedication Dave has shown by going above and beyond what has been required of him as the Open Space Chairman. She also appreciates his sense of humor, which will be an asset to him on the Board. She is impressed by his ethics, management experience, ability to trouble shoot and his willingness to problem solve. All of these will definitely be an asset to the Board. She had some concern about Mr. Reiss' quietness and lack of public participation in Planning Commission meetings that she had attended. She was appreciative, however, of his police experience, willingness to listen and to look at situations objectively.

Volker Oakey noted it was obvious Curtis Reiss was dedicated to the Township. Both candidates have held positions in the township where they had to spend a lot of time to be effective. He noted that he felt the Planning Commission had much better definition of what their role was to be, while the Open Space Committee was less structured internally with a great deal of money to spend for preserving land. Dave's leadership in the process of trying to organize and prioritize the committee's functions as well as working with residents to understand the value of land preservation was vital. These leadership qualities in Dave are why Volker feels he is the stronger candidate for the supervisor's position.

Scott MacNair arrived at 7:25 p.m. Jim Brownlow asked if the Board could appoint a new supervisor tonight. Because the newspaper ad did not indicate a vote might be taken at the early meeting, Scott suggested that the Board should take action at the regular meeting to follow this meeting, but noted that the vote would need to be unanimous, since appointment of a supervisor was not an agenda item. The Board deferred action to the 7:30 p.m. meeting.

Adjournment

At 7:28 p.m., Barbara Lindtner moved to adjourn the meeting. Volker Oakey seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt
Township Secretary

Next meeting: December 14, 2010 – Regular Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Approved: January 25, 2011