

## Board of Supervisors

### MINUTES

February 28, 2012

**Supervisors Present:** Barbara Lindtner, John Oehler, Volker Oakey, Dave Long and Rob Zisko

**Also present:** Terry Clemons, Township Solicitor (exited at 9:13); Officer-In-Charge Mike McDonald; Bob Wynn, Township Engineer (exited at 9:13); Rich Schilling, Township Manager and Jason Wager, Secretary/Treasurer

Barbara Lindtner, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board held an Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss real estate and litigation.

### Approval of Minutes

Rob Zisko **moved** to adopt the January 24, 2012, minutes as presented. John Oehler **seconded**; Volker Oakey abstained; the motion **passed**.

Rob Zisko **moved** to adopt the February 7, 2012, minutes as presented. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

### Bills for Approval

Rob Zisko **moved** to approve the following bills paid from January 21 – February 23, 2012:

1. General Fund	\$ 75,476.15	4. Subdivision & Escrow	\$ 13,133.26
2. Liquid Fuels	\$ 14,592.20	5. Special Fees	\$ 3,770.28
3. Open Space	\$ 15,484.62		

John Oehler **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

### Reports

**Road Department (posted)** – The 1/12/2012 thru 2/14/2012 report was reviewed. Pothole patching, brush cutting and general cleanup were done on several roads throughout the township. Seven more Town Watch signs were installed throughout the township and salting/cindering was done on the few days the roads needed it.

**Police Report** – Officer-in-Charge McDonald reported for January that there were 158 total calls for service and 11 crashes handled by the Springfield Township and State Police within the Township. There was \$14,954 of property loss in January. A Prescription Drug Take Back Event is scheduled for April 28, 2012 at Springfield Elementary School.

The department continues to rearrange and reorganize the facility. They will be looking into grants to help fund a few of the remodeling projects they would like to do. This will make it safer for the general public as well as the officers.

Officer-in-Charge McDonald discussed the financing of the police vehicle. John Oehler **moved** to authorize Lehigh Capital Access, Inc. as the approved lender for the new 2012 Chevy Tahoe costing \$40,000. In addition, the Township Solicitor will review all documentation prior to loan being finalized. Rob Zisko **seconded** and the motion **passed** unanimously. Barbara

Lindtner commented on how well Officer-in-Charge McDonald has been performing his duties and how thorough the monthly Police reports have been.

**Treasurer Report** – The Board reviewed the current budget and balance sheets for the different funds. Jason Wager highlighted some key points within the reports. The Township received \$39,205.19 in EIT for the month of January. In 2011, the Township received no money from EIT. The Township was \$11,685.85 under budget for expense items and \$17,299.29 over budget in revenue. Clearly, the move to Keystone Collections has created better cash flow through the early period of the year.

The financial audit was done on January 26 and 27. At that time, no major findings were found. The completed financial audit should be available by mid-March.

**Township Manager** – Rich Schilling and Officer-in-Charge McDonald met with local Emergency Management representatives and Palisades School Administrators to discuss the Palisades Emergency Response Manual. There has still been no confirmation from the governor for the appointment of Curtis Reiss as Emergency Management Coordinator. Rich attended the February 21 Upper Saucon Zoning and Planning Meeting with resident Bill Ryker to discuss the letter written by the Board of Supervisors to Upper Saucon concerning the drainage issue on Ebert Road. At this time, it appears that Upper Saucon will not take any action towards Flint Hill Farm.

A total of 18 zoning permits were issued for January equaling \$6,404 in revenue. Rich performed six Use & Occupancy inspections for resale. A “Stop Work Order” was posted on the Heaven Spa located on Hilltop Road. They are currently reapplying for a new license. Nothing will be given out until Bucks County Health Department reviews the septic system for the establishment.

### Public Comments on Agenda Items

Lower Saucon Township resident Joseph Szakos presented a letter with information about the weight limit for vehicles using Drifting Drive. The Board instructed Mr. Szakos to meet with Rich Schilling and discuss this information. The findings would be presented at the next meeting. Mr. Szakos agreed he would be able to do this.

### Public Hearing

An ordinance amending the Springfield Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) was discussed. Terry Clemons went over the process of how the amended ordinance was prepared. There was no public comment on the ordinance. Barbara Lindtner **moved** to adopt Ordinance 163 Subdivision and Land Ordinance for Springfield Township. Volker Oakey **seconded**. Voting **Yes**: Barbara Lindtner, Volker Oakey, John Oehler and Dave Long Voting **No**: Rob Zisko. Rob felt that 1971 was too long of a look back period in the definition of a Minor Subdivision. The motion **passed**.

### Governmental Matters

**1. GASB 54** - Jason Wager discussed GASB 54. This is the new standard for governmental fund balance reporting and government fund type definitions. Rob Zisko **moved** to adopt **Resolution 2012-05** establishing the fund balance policies as required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 54. John Oehler **seconded**. The motion **passed** unanimously.

**2. Open Space Committee Requests** - The draft of the proposed spring 2012 Open Space Newsletter was reviewed. Dave Long gave a brief description on what is in the newsletter. Rob Zisko **motioned** to authorize sending out the newsletter using Open Space funds after further review by Rich Schilling and Jason Wager. John Oehler **seconded**. The motion **passed** unanimously. A memorandum of understanding between the Board of Supervisors and Donald Metzger was discussed concerning the purchase of a conservation easement and subdivision. Open Space Chairman Jeff Lindtner gave a brief on the specifics of this potential acquisition. Barbara Lindtner **moved** to authorize the execution of the memorandum of understanding between the Board of Supervisors and Donald Metzger for the purchase of conservation easements and subdivision of certain

property consisting of TMP #'s 42-9-12, 42-9-129 and 42-9-131 totaling 254 acres. John Oehler **seconded**. Volker Oakey abstained since he owns a neighboring property to these parcels. The motion **passed**.

**3. Letter for Agricultural Funding** – Open Space Chairman Jeff Lindtner discussed the Pennsylvania Governor's proposed budget for 2012-13. In this budget, 20.45 million dollars a year will be cut essentially eliminating state agricultural funding. The Open Space Committee has been able to previously coordinate use of these funds along with the Township's funds to purchase conservation easements within Springfield Township. Mr. Lindtner asked the Board to adopt a resolution opposing the Governor's budget cut of the 20.45 million dollars from agricultural funding. Rob Zisko **moved** to adopt a resolution opposing the Governor cutting the agricultural funds. Volker Oakey **seconded**. The motion **passed** unanimously.

**4. PSATS News Bulletin** – This was reviewed and no comment was given.

### Planning Matters

Bobb Carson gave the annual 2011 Planning Commission report. The commission reviewed three applications and plans involving subdivision and lot line adjustments. The group also considered and proposed revisions to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO). The commission studied and considered requirements for alternative energy installations. This included commercial, residential and community solar and wind power. They also looked at the revision of the noise levels permitted in Zoning Ordinance 507B.

For 2012, the Planning Commission will be looking to integrated GIS into the planning process, help with assisting in Open Space acquisition, revisions of lighting section and regulations regarding private organizations/clubs in regards to zoning, a barn ordinance to encourage the preservation of bars and the re-examination of intensive(factory) farming regulations.

Barbara Lindtner inquired about the Oil/Gas drilling ordinance. Terry Clemons gave a brief update on what can be done by the Township. Bobb Carson suggested looking at the geology of the township to see if there is reason for concern in relation to the drilling. Barbara asked Terry to keep them informed of what was happening at the state level in regards to drilling. Barbara also asked about the development district in the western area of the Township. The costs involved for this review has put this discussion on hold.

### Old Business

**1. Definition of a Non-Conforming Lot** – The Planning Commission had questioned the Township's definition of a non-conforming lot. Terry Clemons, Township Solicitor, explained that the Planning Commission is recommending a minimum amendment to the ordinance stating that any future lot in a subdivision must have a front lot line that abuts to a public street. Mr. Clemons felt that a simple amendment could be done. Bob Wynn, Township Engineer, explained that although a bit convoluted, this definition was already part of the zoning ordinance. It was determined that this was not clear enough in the zoning ordinance. The Board decided that Terry Clemons would prepare the amendment and hold it until other amendments could be put with this.

**2. Adams Outdoor Signs** - After discussing this in executive session, the Board had decided unanimously to allow the Township Solicitor to negotiate terms for the settlement of this case.

**3. PPL Litigation** - Terry Clemons gave an update on the PPL litigation. PPL had filed their answer to the Stay and the Allowance of Appeal filed by Mr. Clemons. He had filed on this date a request to the Commonwealth Court to be permitted to file a reply to the application to Stay due to some areas he felt PPL misstated the Township's position and some of the facts.

## New Business

- 1. Springtown Water Authority** – Richard Cernok, Springtown Water Authority Chairman, discussed with the Board about installing an emergency water station at the Springtown Firehouse. There had not been a formal discussion with the Springtown Fire Department. The Springtown Water Authority would like the Township to provide operators, equipment and material costing approximately \$1000 to help build this station. This station would be available in times of emergency 24/7 to residents of the township and then would be locked at all other times. The Board agreed that this was an excellent idea. Mike Gawronski, Springtown Volunteer Fireman, pointed out that the fire company had provided water to residents in the past much in the same capacity. The Board suggested the Fire Company, Water Authority and Rich Schilling convene to discuss this matter further.
- 2. Fire Department Funding** – Steve Hohenstein, President of the Springtown Volunteer Fire Company, gave an update on the financial status and state of the fire company. He thanked the Supervisors and the residents of Springfield Township for their support. The fire company has experienced some financial issues over the last few years. They have been unable to purchase new equipment and perform repairs to the firehouse. As of February 12, 2012, they have collected \$31,800 (a 43% response from the Township) from their annual fund drive. It has become increasingly difficult to provide both fire services to the Township and attend fundraisers to keep the fire company running. They have 27 fundraising events scheduled for 2012 and currently have 29 active volunteer firefighters. Rob Zisko commented about how important it is to have this service and the other emergency services in the Township. He mentioned possibly creating a dedicated tax to help fund the Fire Department and the local EMS. The Board decided there would need to be further review and discussion of their financial situation.
- 3. Road Department Radio Purchase** – The Road Department needed to purchase 2-way radios and acquire an FCC license for 2013. The approximate total cost will be \$1,375. Rich Schilling is only authorized to spend up to \$1000 without Board approval. Rob Zisko **moved** to the Township Manager the authority to spend up to \$2500 without Board approval. Volker Oakey **seconded**. The motion **passed** unanimously.
- 4. Request from resident that fines be waived** – New Township residents Anastasios and Patricia Arhontoulis are requesting the fines be waived on permits that were not done for improvements completed on their new home by the previous owners. This consisted of a deck, swimming pool and an electrical permit. The total of the fines for the permits would be \$2,089.50. They are asking to pay for only the new building permits they need for the home, which would only be \$696.50. Barbara Lindtner **moved** to waive the fines with exception to the needed building permit fees costing \$696.50. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

## Correspondence

The Board reviewed all current correspondence.

## Public Comments

**Bruce Strock** inquired about the current state of the Parks and Recreation plan. He stated that a plan had been drawn up and agreed upon by the Board of Supervisors 20 years ago, but the steps were not taken to put the plan into effect. Mr. Strock stated that he would like to volunteer for Community Day and the Environmental Advisory Council.

**Jim Nilsen** expressed that he would discuss talking to the fire company and put together the financial situation of both the Fire Company and UBREMS for whom he represents to give the Board a true picture of how things are financially.

### Supervisor Comments

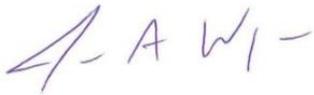
Rob Zisko commented that he felt Officer-in-Charge McDonald should be considered for Chief and should be put onto the next meeting agenda. The Board concurred with this, but it would need to be discussed further in executive session first.

John Oehler agreed to become the Board Liaison to the Township Pension Committee.

### Adjournment

At 10:00 p.m., Rob Zisko **moved** to adjourn the meeting. John Oehler **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "A A Wager".

Jason A. Wager  
Township Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: March 27, 2012  
Approved: March 27, 2012