

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES - Special Meeting

November 4, 2013

Supervisors Present: Barbara Lindtner (Chairperson), John Oehler, Volker Oakey, Rob Zisko (Vice Chairperson) and Dave Long

Also present: Terry Clemons Esq. (Township Solicitor), Chief Mike McDonald, David Nyman (Interim Township Manager) and Jason Wager (Secretary/Treasurer)

Barbara Lindtner, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board of Supervisors held Executive Session on 10/22/2013 and 10/30/2013 to discuss personnel.

(1) Acceptance of resignation of Richard H. Schilling from positions of Township Manager and Zoning Officer – Ms. Lindtner gave a briefing on what led the Board to hold the Special Meeting and she wishes Mr. Schilling well. John Oehler **moved** to accept the resignation of Richard H. Schilling and approve continuing him on the payroll until November 30, 2013. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. Mr. Zisko thanked Richard Schilling for seven and a half years of service and that he was sorry to see him leave. Mr. Long said he enjoyed working with him and that he was also sorry to see him leave. He also said he wishes him well. Mr. Oehler said he wished Richard well and all the best. Mr. Oakey asked Mr. Wager to write a letter of thanks to Mr. Schilling and he thanked him for his service.

Township resident **Debby Yerger** asked his Mr. Schilling's resignation could be read. Mr. Clemons gave an outline of Mr. Schilling's resignation letter.

Township resident **Sheri Viczorek** asked if Mr. Schilling will be in his current position and paid until November 30. Mr. Clemons stated that his last day would be November 30.

Township resident **Jim Nielsen** stated he has worked as Open Space Chairman, Town Watch Treasurer, Community Day Committee member, Scout Master and with the Spurs-N-Burrs 4-H club. He said he dealt with Mr. Schilling a lot and that Mr. Schilling brought professionalism to the Township and that he personally wishes him well

Township resident **Hans Reimann** said he agreed with Jim Nielsen and that Mr. Schilling brought something special. He said Mr. Schilling helped keep him out of trouble and he thanked him for that.

Township resident **Sandy Everitt** said she was disappointed Mr. Schilling was not at the meeting. She read a letter she prepared describing what Mr. Schilling did for the Township and how she felt about the job he had done. Mrs. Everitt said our loss is Bedminster Township's gain.

Township resident **Bruce Whitesell** stated this was not a eulogy and Mr. Schilling's gain is the Township's loss. He said he felt Mr. Schilling was leaving for a reason and he wanted to know why. Mr. Whitesell also said that the Board should take into consideration what would be a good fit for the Board and the residents and we should be looking forward not back.

Township resident **Scott Heist** said he was perplexed and that there seemed to be some insinuation of something taking place. He wished Mr. Schilling well in his endeavors.

Township resident **Sandy Berry** asked if Mr. Schilling had been previously looking for a job in the past. Mr. Long said that would be best addressed by Mr. Schilling.

Ms. Lindtner said finding a new manager is a process and could take three to six months. She also said that it was sudden change for us, but not a sudden process.

Township resident **Robert Bell** asked if there was a reason this could not have occurred at a normal meeting. Ms. Lindtner said the Board had met on October 30 and that after thirty days, Mr. Schilling would be gone so they felt they needed to act quickly.

Township resident **Bill Ryker** thanked Mr. Schilling and said he was tough, but fair. He said there should be an appreciation of Mr. Schilling's representation of the Township.

Township resident **Helene Bell** told Ms. Lindtner that it was despicable she told Mr. Schilling not to be here. Ms. Lindtner stated that she had not and that Mr. Clemons had a conversation with Mr. Schilling.

Morning Call reporter **Chuck Malinchak** asked who asked Mr. Schilling not to be here. Mr. Clemons said he had a conversation with Mr. Schilling and the consensus of the Board was to not have him here. He said they did not anticipate the interest of the residents to formally accept Mr. Schilling's resignation and that it was Mr. Schilling's option to do what he wanted to do. Mr. Malinchak asked if there was any effort made to retain Mr. Schilling. Ms. Lindtner said there was no effort made because he had already accepted a new position.

Township resident **Curt Reiss** said Mr. Schilling had a love for the Township and will be difficult to replace.

Township resident **Lisa Burland** said she did not know Rich and couldn't understand the tone towards the Board. She said Mr. Schilling quit Springfield Township and that the Board of Supervisors did not kick him out.

Township resident **Karen Bedics** stated she was on the Board of Supervisors when Mr. Schilling was hired and she thought he had done an exemplary job. She said she appreciated his sense of humor and that the Township will have a tough time filling his shoes.

(2) Consideration of Resolution to appoint an Interim Township Manager, Interim Zoning Officer and Right to Know Officer – Ms. Lindtner gave a briefing of the process of choosing an Interim Manager to fill in until a new full-time Township Manager could be hired. Mr. Clemons gave background information on David Nyman, whom the Board was considering hiring for the Interim Manager. He said Mr. Nyman had served as an Interim Manager within the County before and was not looking to be hired permanently. Mr. Clemons had recommended to the Board to consider Mr. Nyman.

Mr. Zisko stated he and the Board minus Mr. Long had met with Mr. Nyman. He said he felt comfortable with Mr. Nyman since he has experience as both a Supervisor and as a previous Interim Manager. Mr. Zisko said hiring a new Manager is a long process and Mr. Nyman could help with the transition. Mr. Oakey agreed with Mr. Zisko and Mr. Oehler said there fortunate to have someone of Mr. Nyman's caliber to step right in and hit the ground running. Ms. Lindtner agreed that there would be no downtime and that Mr. Nyman would be starting Thursday, November 7. She said he would work with Mr. Schilling until he felt comfortable and that she was impressed with him and that his skills would help the Township find a new Manager.

Township resident **Denise Oakey** stated the Supervisors are all volunteers and have shown an amazing ability to develop a consensus and figure out what's best for the Township. She thanked all of them for the work they do and she said she feels anyone who runs for office should be praised because that is how democracy.

Township resident **Hans Reimann** said he appreciates the Board's speed in finding an Interim Manager and agreed with Mr. Nyman being able to help through this difficult time. He said he disagreed with Ms. Oakey and Ms. Burland and that there were reasons Mr. Schilling left. He said he feels that Mr. Nyman can help maintain and enhance the search for a new Township Manager.

Township resident **Jim Nielsen** asked what type of involvement will the Interim Manager have with the Committees since there are many hours outside of 9 to 5 work schedule. Mr. Nyman said he realizes that there will more than forty hours of work in some weeks. Mr. Nyman also said he his retired and has no other obligations.

Township resident **Bruce Whitesell** asked Mr. Nyman if he holds any political positions. Mr. Nyman stated that he is a East Rockhill Township Supervisor. Mr. Whitesell said it is clear that we're not moving someone into full-time and asked if he would have been able to start after the 11/12 Board Meeting. He felt this was sprung onto the residents and asked the Board if the resolution could be deferred for a week.

Township resident **Scott Heist** said Mr. Schilling took another job and is leaving the Township. He stated Mr. Nyman could come in and not leave the Township as a rudderless ship with Mr. Schilling's departure. He said Mr. Nyman and Mr. Schilling would have more time to get together and that it makes sense to name an Interim Manager immediately to be the simplest and most straight-forward way to proceed.

Township resident **Bill Burland** said he concurred with Mr. Heist and that time is of the essence.

Township resident **Lenny Kramer** asked why the Township couldn't get a local qualified person from the Township.

Mr. Long stated that they are elected to take care of matters like this and they have an opportunity to bring someone in immediately and he feels the Township needs to do this now. He said finding a manager is going to take months.

Chief McDonald said on behalf of the Police Department that he thinks it is great Mr. Nyman is coming in to deal with the complexities of the Township and that there would be a void felt if the this didn't happen.

Township resident **Brian Flack** asked who brought Mr. Nyman to the table. Mr. Clemons stated he had recommended Mr. Nyman to the Board.

Rob Zisko moved to adopt **Resolution 2013-15** appointing David Nyman as an Interim Township Manager and Zoning Officer. John Oehler seconded; the motion passed unanimously. John Oehler moved to authorize the Township Solicitor to prepare an agreement with Mr. Nyman incorporating the provisions of Resolution 2013-15. Dave Long seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Township resident **Jim Nielsen** stated he was speaking as a citizen and that his family received a campaign letter with a quote from the Director of Upper Bucks Regional Emergency Management. He said he was on the Board of a non-profit organization and that the IRS has strict guidelines for no political affiliations. Mr. Nielsen said the Emergency Services was thankful to Springfield Township for their support, but that they do not want be involved with individuals or political parties. He believes the line is no longer black & white and he was personally offended. Mr. Nielsen stated he understands everyone in the room has a type of agenda, but this was a tough pill to swallow. He believes that the Thank You letter from the Director was not seen by all of the Board members and that it doesn't pass the smell test.

Township resident **Lenny Kramer** said he thought it was a good letter.

Township resident **Bruce Whitesell** gave a copy of the letter to the Board of Supervisors. He said in politics there are no lies, only bad truths and this letter contains some bad truths and was written by people who should know better. Mr. Whitesell said he and his wife were victims of a slander campaign and that the Board of Supervisors on October 26, 2009 went on the record stating that action was a reprehensible way to do politics. He has objections to the campaign letter stating that it was not uncommon for candidates to be on both ballots. He believes they were speaking not on behalf of themselves, but as Supervisors and he finds that reprehensible.

Township resident **Jim Nielsen** stated that the sample ballot put into the letter had a candidate listed on both ballots.

Township resident **Robert Bell** agrees with Mr. Nielsen in regards to the ambulance service coming out and supporting a candidate and that was blatantly wrong. He said it would be very similar to your Police Chief coming out and endorsing a candidate and he said he feels the Executive Director should be taken to task.

Township resident **Hans Reimann** asked if the EMS letter was accepted by the Board as correspondence making it public record. He said he has a problem with excerpts being taken from a letter before it was made a public record.

Morning Call reporter **Chuck Malinchak** asked why the EMS note was with the letter and why did they feel what Bedics did was wrong. Mr. Oakey and Mr. Oehler both said they would discuss that after the meeting if he'd like.

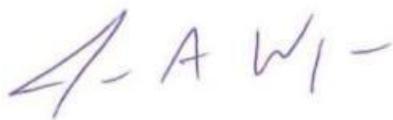
Supervisor Comments

There were no Supervisor comments.

Adjournment

At 8:40 p.m., John Oehler **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. A. Wager". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Jason A. Wager
Township Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: November 12, 2013
Approved: November 26, 2013