

## Board of Supervisors

### MINUTES

November 12, 2013

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

**Also present:** Terry Clemons, Esq. (Township Solicitor), Chief Michael McDonald, Rich Pursell (Road Master) and Jason Wager (Secretary/Treasurer)

Barbara Lindtner, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Public Comment on Agenda Items

Township resident **Karen Bedics** gave a hard copy to the Board of her request to be included in the draft budget discussion and any executive sessions for the hiring of the manager since she will be coming onto the Board in January. Mr. Wager gave her a packet for this meeting.

Township resident **Gene Derenick** asked if there was any information on when the Route 412 Bridge would be opening. Mr. Wager stated that as far as the Township was aware the contractors were on or ahead of the schedule they had provided a few weeks ago and that the bridge should be open no later than Tuesday, November 19.

Township resident **Jim Nielsen** stated that with the bridge opening by November 19, should take some of the urgency out of the traffic calming discussion because it will reduce some of the traffic and craziness that has been happening during the bridge closing.

### Governmental Matters

(1) **Open Space issues** – No issues were discussed.

### Planning Matters

There were no planning matters to discuss.

### Old Business

(1) **2014 Budget** – The Board discussed the budget presented by the Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Long suggested possibly eliminating the quarter percent EIT tax for open space to offset the real estate tax for residents stating he understood it would not help residents that are retired or not working. Township resident **Tom Cochrane** suggested sending the budget back to the individual departments and tell them which way the numbers need to be because you can't just put everything up a mil and a half. He said times aren't getting better and you have to buckle down and contract which isn't easy. Township resident **Lenny Kramer** said he agreed with Mr. Cochrane and that it was time for the Township to pull their horns in. Township resident **Bruce Whitesell** stated there is a difference in the revenue source between the EIT and the Real Estate taxes. He said EIT comes from wage earners, but our seniors pay real estate taxes and their income comes from non income sources. Township resident **Jim Nielsen** said he doesn't know of any one in the community who has an

issue with supporting EMS or the paramedics. He stated that there was discussion over a year ago about a dedicated tax for EMS and keeping it stable at that and that he didn't think you would ever lose with that in this community. Mr. Nielsen said it might not be popular in other places, but he thinks overall everyone can sense the need for the fire and the ambulance services and when you look at our numbers compared to everyone around us for the services we are provided we are getting bang for our buck and the Township has been managing itself well by doing more with less. He commended the job the Board has been doing with the finances. Mr. Zisko discussed the different millage rates around the county and where the Township compares to other Townships considering the services that are given to our residents. The Board discussed whether to have a dedicated tax or not which they thought would help with the perception of a tax increase with the residents and also help the emergency services with their own budgets, but they did not make a decision on this issue. The Board asked incoming Supervisor **Karen Bedics** if she had any comments about a 1.5 mill tax increase. She said there was discussion six years ago about doing a referendum for the voters to allocate millage to emergency services, but the Board at that time decided not to do it because it would just be another name for a tax. Ms. Bedics said the Board was doing tonight what the Board six years ago had decided not to do. She said the Board was deciding to raise taxes to support EMS when a referendum could have been done years ago so that the public could have felt they had an input. She said she feels the fire and ambulance do have to be supported and agrees with the tax increase. Township resident **Bruce Whitesell** asked about the twenty days to respond once the budget is advertised. Ms. Lindtner confirmed the twenty day calendar period for Mr. Whitesell. Mr. Clemons said changes could be made up to ten percent of the overall budget or twenty five percent for one line item without re-advertising. He also stated the new Board could make these changes and the budget would need to be adopted by February 15. The Board had a consensus to not eliminate the quarter percent EIT tax for open space for the upcoming year.

Rob Zisko **moved** to advertise the proposed 2014 budget with \$48,833 coming out of the cash reserve. John Oehler **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

**(2) Park and Recreation Board Ordinance** – Mr. Clemons gave a briefing of the Ordinance. Barbara Lindtner **moved** to adopt **Ordinance 168** establishing a Park and Recreation Board pursuant to the second class township code and determining its powers, duties, members and terms of service. John Oehler **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

**(3) Traffic Calming Ordinance** – Mr. Clemons gave a briefing of the Ordinance and the Board discussed the Ordinance. Township resident **Rose Strong** asked how much had been spent on legal fees to prepare this Ordinance. Mr. Clemons said he previously given an estimate of \$500 to \$750 and he wasn't sure if he had reached or exceeded the estimate. Township resident **Bruce Whitesell** asked if the Ordinance gives the Board absolute and total control over whether the speed humps get installed and does it create a mechanism if certain criteria are met the Board is required to install them. Mr. Clemons said the Board would need to determine if the criteria was met, but that it is at the discretion of the Board whether to proceed with any installation of speed humps.

John Oehler **moved** to adopt **Ordinance 169** establishing policies and procedures relating to traffic calming measures. Volker Oakey **seconded**; Voting **Yes**: Barbara Lindtner, Volker Oakey and John Oehler Voting **No**: Dave Long and Rob Zisko; the motion **passed**.

## **New Business**

There was no new business.

## **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence for the Board to review.

### Public Comment

Springtown Volunteer Fire Company Chief **Will Helm** thanked the Board for their continued support to the Fire Company.

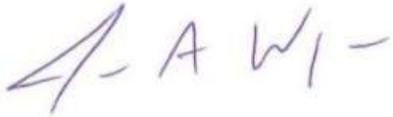
### Supervisor Comments

There were no Supervisor comments.

### Adjournment

At 9:52 p.m., Dave Long moved to adjourn the meeting. Rob Zisko seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "J. 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 26, 2013

Approved: November 26, 2013