

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

August 27, 2013

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

Also present: Bob Wynn (Township Engineer), Scott MacNair (Township Solicitor), Rich Schilling (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.

Approval of Minutes

Volker Oakey **moved** to accept the July 23, 2013 minutes as presented. John Oehler **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Approval of Bills List

Dave Long **moved** to approve the following bills paid from July 20 – August 23, 2013:

1. General Fund	\$ 41,973.99	4. Subdivision & Escrow	\$ 2,450.77
2. Liquid Fuels	\$ 13,761.42	5. Special Fees	\$ 1,103.92
3. Open Space	\$201,608.19	6. Street Light	\$ 527.75

Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Reports

Road Department (posted) – The Board reviewed the 7/17 – 8/20/2013 Road Department report as presented. The Road Department performed 515 hours of road maintenance, 149 hours of equipment maintenance, 41 hours of building maintenance, 38 hours of sign maintenance and 51 hours of roadside mowing during this period. Blacktop & cold patching was done throughout the Township along with spot ditching on several roads.

Police Department – The Board reviewed the 7/19 – 8/22/2013 Police report as presented. There were 206 calls for service with State Police handling twenty-three of those calls. Fifteen motor vehicle accidents were reported and \$160 worth of property was stolen with \$200 of property during this time. The official Memorandum of Understanding between Palisades School District and the Springfield Township Police was updated and signed. Officer Sepulveda attended the Pennsylvania State Police Firearms Instructor School during the first week of August. He is now certified as a Firearms Instructor. He will attend Glock armorer training in early September. The department will participate in a drug take back event in October.

Treasurer Report – Jason Wager reported on the budget performance through August 25, 2013. EIT revenue was up 7.54% from 2012 at \$508,833. Real Estate Transfer revenue was up 55.53% from last year and Real Estate and Delinquent Real Estate tax was up 6.41% from 2012. Zoning Permits were down 15.79% from 2012. Total revenue year to

date was \$1,135,366 (\$52,562 over budget) and was up 6.1% from last year. Total expenses were \$893,873 (\$9,382 under budget) and they were up 4.94% from 2012. The Township net income was \$241,493 (\$61,944 over budget) compared to \$218,273 in 2012. Jason stated that the PIB loan had been submitted to DCED and the Township Facebook page has 63 friends and 86 likes currently. He also presented the Board with data on the Township ENews blasts. Currently, there are 394 emails and an average of almost 60% open rate. The feedback from the different event planners has been very positive and the email list continues to grow. Jason also asked the Board when they would like the 2014 budget information. The Board stated that they would like a worksheet and current year to date information for the September 10 meeting.

Township Manager/Zoning – Rich Schilling reported that a Public Meeting was held on August 21 to discuss the Parks & Recreation Plan draft. The document and public comments will be discussed at tonight's meeting. The Peppermint Park DCED grant submission was submitted to DCED on 7/29. Rich expects to hear back from DCED in early November on the grant awards. The luncheon held on 8/8 was well attended and the tour of the museum was a highlight amongst the attendees. Rich also attended a breakfast with Supervisor Long given by Representative Clymer. Topics ranged from the 2014 PA State Budget to traffic signals.

Rich gave an update on the bridge closings. Rich attended a pre-construction meeting for the Route 412 Bridge. He was told unofficially by PennDOT reps that they were hopeful to have the bridge completed this construction year. The County Commissioners awarded the construction bid to Clearwater Construction Inc. for the Township Road bridge repair. No timeframe was given for the start of that project. Zoning performed three Use & Occupancy inspections for resale in July and processed fifteen permits for total revenue of \$8,988. He also listed some enforcement actions he's initiated within the Township.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Township resident Hans Reimann asked that amendment to the Parks & Recreation Plan draft have an amendment to include the EAC where the Cooks Creek Watershed has been recommended as a partner. He was shocked about the vegetation growth on State Road as part of the Route 412 bridge detour. He also thanked the Board for the 25 mph posting of Springtown Hill Road.

Township resident Steve Doncevic asked that the short loop on the proposed Peppermint Park plan be enlarged due to older demographic within the Township giving them the opportunity to walk farther.

Township resident David Bretz stated the problem with the signage for the Route 412 detour. He had witnessed four accidents himself. He asked for more of a police presence on Peppermint Road since many people are using this road as an access road instead of following the full detour. He spoken to individuals who have turned around and they've stated they were confused by the signage.

Township resident Jim Nielsen stated he would be adding some congestion to Pleasant View and State Roads he will be harvesting hay soon for about a week and a half.

Township resident Joseph Metzner stated his concern for the added traffic on State Road since the Route 412 detour started. He also stated he has recently asked Rich Schilling for Children at Play signs on State Road, which he would like the Township to pay for and put up. Rich Schilling stated that the Township policy normally was to have property owners pay for the signs and the Township would put them up. He was concerned with the precedent this might start.

Public Hearing

(1) Ordinance for Pleasant Hollow Road - A public hearing was held to adopt the ordinance to prohibit commercial truck traffic on Pleasant Hollow Road and prescribing penalties for the violation of this ordinance. Scott MacNair gave an outline of the ordinance including the procedural history and noted Bob Wynn's office performed an engineering evaluation for the road. There were no public comments.

Dave Long **moved** to adopt **Ordinance 166** authorizing the Board of Supervisors to prohibit commercial truck traffic on Pleasant Hollow Road in Springfield Township and prescribing penalties for the violation of this ordinance. John Oehler **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

(2) Ordinance for Sewage Monitoring/Maintenance – A public hearing was held to adopt an ordinance regulating the management and maintenance of individual and community sanitary sewage disposal facilities. Scott MacNair gave an outline of the proposed ordinance including the procedural history of the proposed ordinance. Public comment was given by Township resident Hans Reimann regarding the repair of an existing system and an alternate site if new system was needed and how this would affect residents. Bob Wynn responded that was only part of the previous conversation on this and not part of the proposed ordinance. No other public comment was given. The Board discussed the three or five year pumping requirement by residents and that there was another municipality, Lower Macungie, that had put a five-year pumping requirement in their Act 537 plan. Their plan was still being reviewed by DEP. DEP has mandated that three year pumping was a requirement and a DEP regulation. The Board asked if a change could be made to five years in the Act 537 plan if DEP permitted five years for pumping. Scott MacNair stated that this was possible. They also discussed the implementation plan which would be outlined in a resolution. The Board determined they should adopt the ordinance now since it was a requirement of the Township's Act 537 plan and DEP.

John Oehler **moved** to adopt **Ordinance 167** regulating the management and maintenance of individual and community sanitary sewage disposal facilities within the Township. Volker Oakey **seconded**; Voting **Yes**: Barbara Lindtner, Rob Zisko, Volker Oakey and John Oehler Voting **No**: Dave Long. The motion **passed**.

Governmental Matters

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

(2) The Route 412 Bridge closure traffic impact to community – Barbara Lindtner gave a recap of the many different issues with the detour for the Route 412 bridge closure. John Oehler, who lives on Peppermint Road, discussed drivers not paying attention when turning around and the accidents occurring on this road. He feels State Police should be posted on the state roads during high traffic times and that there should be a four way stop on Peppermint/Slifer Roads and Route 212 intersection. He said it's a safety issue and that the state should have some ownership of the situation. John stated that speeding has become a major problem. Dave Long stated he thinks it's an enforcement issue or that maybe the Township could put temporary rumble strips or speed humps. The Board discussed authorizing overtime for the Township police to help with enforcement. Township resident Jim Nielsen discussed the police presence and speed humps positive effect in Hellertown. Volker Oakey discussed a prior discussion by the Board on the legality of speed humps. Bob Wynn clarified the difference between bumps and humps stating PennDOT approves humps and bumps are not. John Oehler stated he wanted permanent speed humps on Peppermint Road. Bob Wynn stated that he didn't think speed humps would need a resolution or ordinance and could be installed quickly. There was a consensus by the Board to put speed humps on Peppermint Road and Springtown Hill Road. Bob Wynn said that speed humps are usually installed in pairs. The Board determined the need for three sets of speed humps. Volker Oakey stated he thought the Board should know what the costs of installing speed humps before taking action. Rich Schilling said this could be accomplished before the next meeting. Barbara Lindtner **moved** to authorize the Springfield Township Police overtime to perform traffic enforcement during high volume traffic times on the Route 412 bridge detour. John Oehler **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. Barbara Lindtner discussed sitting down with the property owner at Old Bethlehem Road and Route 212 where there was a former

throughway. She talked to the Township Roadmaster who stated it could be upgraded in three days for around \$2,000 to \$3,000. An easement from the property would be needed and the Board asked the Township Solicitor to look at the recorder of deeds. Township resident David Bretz stated he's a surveyor and that he surveyed the property where this strip of property exists. He stated he believed half of the property line belongs to the Harrington farm and the other part belongs to the property owner on the other side and that it's not a right of way. The Board also wanted to set up a meeting with PennDOT for the next meeting, who were unable to attend this meeting. Barbara Lindtner **moved** to authorize advertisement of a special meeting on Tuesday, September 3 at 7:30 p.m. to meet with PennDOT to discuss the Route 412 detour. John Oehler **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. Barbara Lindtner **moved** for the Township to put "Children at Play" signs on State Road around 1451 State Road. John Oehler **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Planning Matters

(1) Brinley Court Subdivision – Kimberly Freimuth, Bill McNaney and Brian Grant, who were representing Harold and Ann Dieterly and the Brinley Court Subdivision, discussed the Brinley Court Subdivision located on TMP #42-004-017 with the Board. They were seeking permission to grade up to 2.8 acres from 9% to 6% per the requirements of Upper Saucon Township zoning ordinance. This area would be left natural and was explained in the July 18, 2013 letter from C. Robert Wynn Associates. The Planning Commission recommended no improvements be placed on the property located in Springfield Township. The Board requested there be a note put on the plans that no improvements or facilities be placed in the open space area, any non-wooded area be left as a meadow and the homeowner's association would maintain this meadow. John Oehler **moved** to allow the Brinley Court Subdivision final conditional approval complying with the July 18, 2013 letter from C. Robert Wynn Associates and the original conditions of the November 30, 2009 conditional preliminary plan of approval. Also, that notes be placed on the plans stating no improvements or facilities be placed in the open space area and any non-wooded area be left as a meadow by the homeowner's association. Dave Long **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

(2) Dushant Sharma Land Development – Rich Schilling talked to Dushant Sharma and he stated he was unable to get funding for this project. Rich had not received anything in writing from Mr. Sharma, but had received an extension request from Cowan and Associates. Rob Zisko **moved** to deny the extension of the Dushant Sharma Land Development located at TMP #42-012-072. John Oehler **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

(3) Rolling Hills Subdivision – Rob Zisko **moved** to give an extension to July 28, 2014 for the Rolling Hills Subdivision located at TMP #42-012-105. John Oehler **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Old Business

(1) Discussion on Draft Parks and Recreation Plan and comments from 8/21 public meeting – The Board reviewed the comments from the public meeting report prepared by Ann Toole and a letter received from a resident. The changes made to the plan would be ready for the next meeting, so the Board tabled this discussion until then to wait for the revised final plan. Barbara Lindtner asked to meet with Ann Toole and Rich Schilling before receiving the revised plan to discuss the changes.

New Business

(1) Request from resident on Povenski Road for speed reduction – John Oehler **moved** to adopt ***Resolution 2013-14*** establishing a maximum speed limit of 25 miles per hour on Povenski Road and establishing penalties for violations thereof. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; Voting **Yes**: Barbara Lindtner, Volker Oakey, John Oehler and Rob Zisko Voting **No**: Dave Long. The motion **passed**.

(2) Township Facilities Improvement Plan – The Board discussed the issues of the Township building safety after the recent events in Ross Township. Barbara Lindtner stated she was concerned for the safety of employees due to the set up of the Township Municipal office. The consensus of the Board was to have Rich Schilling get pricing on security cameras and a duress button.

Correspondence

The Board reviewed all correspondence. The Board recognized receiving the regulations regarding standard for outdoor lighting and proposed alternative energy facilities prepared by the Planning Commission. These would be reviewed by the Board in upcoming fall meetings. The Board also recognized the correspondence received by the Mayor of Richlandtown who would be coming to a future meeting.

Public Comment

Township resident Angela Kirkpatrick expressed her disappointment over the Dushant Sharma Land Development and how he was able to continue over the last four years and how he was able to walk away. She was very disappointed in the process. She also stated that Springfield Street was previously posted at 35 mph and that the sign was knocked down. She stated she would like this looked into. Mrs. Kirkpatrick stated at one point they asked for speed humps on Springfield Street because of the speeding and was told that was not possible. Rich Schilling stated he would research the prior posting of 35 mph. She asked for at least a curve sign be put in.

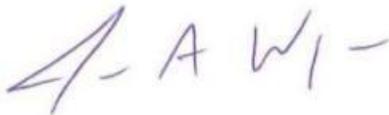
Supervisor Comments

There were no Supervisor comments.

Adjournment

At 10:52 p.m., John Oehler **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason A. Wager
Township Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: September 3, 2013

Approved: October 8, 2013