

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

September 24, 2013

Supervisors Present: Barbara Lindtner, Dave Long, Volker Oakey and Rob Zisko **Not Present:** John Oehler
Also present: Bob Wynn (Township Engineer), Terry Clemons (Township Solicitor), Roadmaster Rich Pursell, Chief Michael McDonald, 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 September 3, 2013 minutes as presented. Dave Long seconded; the motion passed unanimously. The August 27 minutes were tabled for the 10/8 meeting to allow Jason Wager to rewrite and make a correction.

Approval of Bills List

Dave Long moved to approve the following bills paid from August 24 – September 20, 2013:

1. General Fund	\$ 51,886.34	4. Subdivision & Escrow	\$ 3,247.46
2. Liquid Fuels	\$ 4,864.92	5. Street Light	\$ 521.98
3. Open Space	\$ 3,773.71		

Volker Oakey seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Road Department (posted) – The Board reviewed the 8/21 – 9/17/2013 Road Department report as presented. The Road Department performed 432 hours of road maintenance, 8 hours of equipment maintenance, 16 hours of building maintenance, 28 hours of sign maintenance and 78 hours of roadside mowing during this period. Barbara Lindtner moved to authorize line striping by Guidemark Inc. on Pleasant Valley Road and Drifting Drive. The cost will be 0.08/LF and be paid out of the Liquid Fuels fund. Volker Oakey seconded; the motion passed unanimously. Dave Long inquired how often this is done and Rich Schilling stated that it is normally done every two to three years.

Police Department – Chief McDonald discussed his report from August 23 - September 19, 2013. There were 192 calls for service that included twenty calls for service performed by the State Police. Thirteen reportable crashes happened during this period. \$17,189 of property was stolen with \$300 of property recovered. Officer Sepulveda completed Glock Armorer training. The firearms range is coming along slowly. Chief McDonald reported that an email account has been set specifically for the range to provide nearby residents when the range trainings will occur. The radios have been picked up from the county.

Chief stated the department has been participating in a "Teen Seat Belt Mobilization" traffic detail and there have been 90 contacts made by the officers during this detail. He reported officers have logged a total of thirteen hours enforcing/monitoring traffic along the Route 412 bridge closure and between the two details, 28 warnings and 21 citations were issued. Chief McDonald said he and his officers attended Community Day. He said their booth along with the K9 demonstration was well received and they got many positive comments. He also reported the Pennsylvania State Police audited the department and they had no discrepancies found with their policies and procedures.

Treasurer Report – Jason Wager reported on the budget performance through September 22, 2013. EIT revenue was up 1.9% from 2012 at \$546,078. Real Estate Transfer revenue was up 21.7% from last year and Real Estate and Delinquent Real Estate tax was up 6.4% from 2012. Zoning Permits were down 16.4% from 2012. Total revenue year to date was \$1,193,824 (\$52,552 over budget) and was up 6.5% from last year. Total expenses were \$1,193,824 (\$24,971 over budget) and they were up 7.1% from 2012. The Township net income was \$177,789 (\$27,581 over budget) compared to \$220,268 in 2012. Jason stated that the foreign fire relief and pension funds were not received yet this year causing the difference compared to last year's numbers. Jason reported our estimated liquid fuels for next year will be \$186,718 and that we received both the foreign fire relief and pension fund payments from the state yesterday, September 23. Jason reported on Community Day stating that the Silent Auction raised \$1,684.50 for the Silver Creek AA playground fund and that 943 people attended.

Township Manager/Zoning – Rich Schilling reported that the Parks & Recreation Plan has been advertised for adoption on 10/8. He expects to hear in early November about the Peppermint Park DCED Grant. He received a request from Senator Mensch to hold a meeting at 6:30 pm on October 8 at the Township building which Chairperson Lindtner authorized to advertise. Rich thanked everyone for Community Day, which the Board authorized the money for and the staff and committee performed well.

Rich gave an update on the bridge closings. Rich attached the updated schedule from Grace Industries for the Route 412 bridge repair for the Board to review. Rich said the contractor was still waiting to receive their NPDES from the county to start the bridge repair on Township Road. He expects to hear from them shortly. Rich reported that he spoke to Bucks County Special Project Administrator Joe Bush about the steel bridge in Pleasant Valley and the Board's concern about the bridge repair happening very quickly along with the current bridge repairs. Rich said Mr. Bush stated money had already been spent bid specs for this bridge project and that the Board could ask the County Commissioners to defer the project, but they would not be very happy. Rich said Mr. Bush suggested that the bridge repair should not be very complicated and that if the project was deferred, it would not be done anytime soon. Barbara Lindtner asked about the time of completion and Rich didn't think it could happen this winter. The consensus of the Board was to have Rich not ask for a deferral for this bridge project to avoid the possible lengthy closing of this bridge and keep the project within the current County cycle. Zoning activity has remained strong and he performed eleven Use & Occupancy inspections for resale in August and processed thirty-six permits for total revenue of \$7,172. Barbara Lindtner asked about the application for the Municipal Open Space funding, which Dave Long replied had not been started, but would be done by the end of October. Barbara also asked about the schedule from Grace Industries and noted the job shows paving on 10/24. Rich stated Tim Penrose from PennDOT said there was concern Grace Industries might not be able to get to stream bank restoration during this cycle. Rich said it was his understanding from PennDOT that it would be the decision of Grace Industries to open the bridge before this was completed, but that PennDOT would not release the funds until restoration was finished.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Township resident Sue Ziegler asked if the Traffic Calming discussion was about Peppermint Road. She had heard some of the discussion and comments from other meetings and she feels safety is the primary concern. She stated she values the Roadmaster's expertise and that we don't jump to the most drastic remedy before reviewing all kinds of signage and other alternatives before installing speed humps.

Township resident Joan Metter stated she has resided on Peppermint Road for twenty-nine years. She said there had been multiple accidents that have come to conclusion on her property. Her husband and she feel the next accident could cause serious injury and have installed red reflectors across the street to make drivers aware of the turn. They respectfully defer to the Board's knowledge on how to lower speeds on Peppermint Road and would appreciate any attention the Board could give on this matter.

Township resident David Bretz stated he felt speed humps are the most effective traffic calming measure because they regulate themselves and that they are the best way to go on Peppermint Road. He said they could also enhance the Peppermint Park aspect, as more people would be going on this road. He said he fully respects the Board and Roadmaster's opinion on this matter and think openly on this and consider speed humps because they would not require a police presence and they are cost effective.

Township resident Scott Sciss stated he was in agreement with the speed humps. He said after the police leave, speeding continues and he feels signs won't do anything.

Governmental Matters

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

(2) House Bill 515 – The Board reviewed the bill and Township Solicitor Terry Clemons gave a brief explanation of the bill.

Planning Matters

(1) Request to subdivide farmland lot via a lot line adjustment – The Board discussed with property owner James Herman a proposed subdivision of seven acres off of a farmland lot located at TMP# 42-009-172-004 to an adjoining property. The Board tabled the request to have the adjoining property owner, Mr. McGuire, come to a meeting and discuss his plans with the Board. Mr. Herman signed an agreement to a further extension for action on his conservation easement proposal to November 1, 2013. Dave Long **moved** to give an extension for necessary improvements by James Herman on TMP# 42-009-172-004 to October 26, 2014. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Old Business

(1) Traffic Calming Discussion – Dave Long discussed the information on traffic calming measures he researched and provided to the Board. Dave said they've done what they've done because of information provided by residents on the increased speed on Peppermint Road. He stated there is science made out of traffic and there are many forms of traffic calming devices such as speed humps, cushions, tables or signs. Dave also stated the some devices actually increase speed and he felt besides enforcement, speed boxes were a good deterrence. Dave said he thought an ordinance would need to be done along with a traffic study before any traffic-calming device could be installed. Terry Clemons confirmed a traffic study and adopting an ordinance to establish the criteria should be done. Rich Pursell suggested painting the roadway pavement with the speed limit at a cost of around \$500 per set. Barbara Lindtner stated that the Board of Supervisors was not traffic experts or engineers and that they do not know enough about what's out there and they need to look at engineering for help and legal for a process. They would need to get better research on what's available to enforce or encourage proper speed within the Township. Barbara also stated they needed to look at what could be done more immediately for traffic calming while a speed study and ordinance were being done. Bob Wynn said nothing could be done quickly and signage does not work. One thing that could be done would be to narrow roads, but this road is already narrow and this is only marginally effective. He said an 85-percentile speed study would need to be done. Chief McDonald stated the new speed boxes have data collection capability to support the speed study. Bob Wynn stated speed humps should not be used on a road with an average speed over 35 mph.

Barbara Lindtner stated that if the Board wanted to move ahead with the speed humps, the Township would be looking at a traffic study and ordinance to establish the process and criteria for establishing traffic calming devices. She asked if it was their recommendation collectively to start making an ordinance that would allow the Township to go through with the criteria of having a traffic study done on Peppermint. Bob Wynn said the ordinance and traffic study could be done simultaneously. Bob Wynn said the cost for a traffic study to be done on one road would be around \$1,500 and Terry Clemons said he could an ordinance that would be adaptable to any roads and that would cost around \$500 to \$750. Chief McDonald said it really comes down to enforcement and having police on the street. He feels having police on Peppermint Road to condition drivers not to speed. Township resident Peggy Oehler stated she appreciates the police presence because it has been a difference. She said being outside by the road can be quite terrifying and that painting a decal on the road would not be money well spent. Township resident Dave Bretz said he felt more police presence and enforcement was good since it seemed speed humps might not be practical. Township resident Chuck Metter feels police presence is great short-term, but the costs long term might not be worth it because of the continued need for the police to be on the road. He said the speed humps would be cost effective long term. He is concerned about someone dying because his property has had ten accidents on it. Rich Pursell said new chevron signs have been installed recently at the curve Mr. Metter was referring to. Bob Wynn stated a traffic study could be completed by the end of October and Terry Clemons said an ordinance could be ready for adoption at the first meeting in November. Dave Long questioned if the existing speed box could be enabled to collect data or if they needed another one, which Chief McDonald stated it could be costly, but it could be enabled if needed. The Board also felt that money used towards enforcement would be more effective than painting on the roads. Township resident Tony McGuire said enforcement is the best method not only on Peppermint Road, but also on every road in Springfield Township. He felt to spend more money on law enforcement makes more sense than to waste money on engineering for a temporary issue on Peppermint Road since the issue is everywhere. Township resident David Bretz stated speed humps on roads such as Peppermint Road could help the police force allowing them to focus on other roads and be effective on some roads throughout the Township. Volker Oakey stated he feels the Board should try to find a way to get the police out on the road more and development a system to evaluate side roads and what options can be used for controlling speed. Barbara Lindtner **moved** to authorize the Township Solicitor to create the ordinance establishing the criteria for traffic calming devices on Township roads and for a traffic study to be done by the Township Engineer on Peppermint Road. Dave Long **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. The Board instructed Chief McDonald to determine what would be needed cost wise to do more enforcement.

(2) Lighting Ordinance – The Board reviewed and discussed the lighting ordinance that determines the regulations regarding standards for outdoor lighting. Bobb Carson stated the Planning Commission was asked to review the ordinance by the Board and they determined it was inadequate. They rewrote the regulations and he said it could be a stand-alone ordinance or incorporated into the zoning ordinance. Mr. Carson also stated Township Solicitor Scott MacNair reviewed it. The Board decided to table the discussion and directed Bob Wynn time to review and discuss with the Planning Commission at their next meeting.

(3) Updated Fee Schedule – Rob Zisko **moved** to adopt ***Resolution 2013-15*** which is the schedule of fees and charges used by the Township for subdivision, land development, zoning and other fees and charges. Dave Long **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

New Business

(1) Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for pensions – Barbara Lindtner **moved** to accept the 2014 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the Non-Uniform and Police Pension Plans as presented. Dave Long **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

(2) Springhouse Lane – Roadmaster Rich Pursell stated there was a broad based dip installed on Springhouse Lane. He applied for grant from the Bucks County Conservation District in November 2010 and it was installed August 2011. They installed DSA (Drive Surface Aggregate) on a section of Springhouse Lane along with one broad based dip and signage for

the dip to see how it works. Rich said the dip worked really well and it lowered the maintenance due to washout. Rich stated he was told to remove it last Thursday by Rich Schilling. Rich Schilling inquired about the signage posted which said it was a bump. Rich Pursell verified the sign said bump was it was in fact a dip. Rich Schilling read the dimensions of a broad based dip and that they were meant to divert water away from streams, which this dip wasn't. Rich Pursell stated there was no choice and that they installed a catch basin on the lower side to catch the water. Rich Schilling talked to legal about posting of this as a bump without an ordinance and how comfortable they would be defending it. Terry Clemons felt there was some miscommunication because Rich did not have the broad based dip information and only had information about it being posted as a hump. Terry stated the question asked to legal if this was a traffic calming measure and was it installed to the proper requirements. Mr. Clemons said that to do this as a traffic calming measure it would require an ordinance, but that this information was not made available. Barbara Lindtner asked how the discussions happened that this was a speed hump and the removal of it without the issue coming before the Board. She said now there is no broad based dip on the road, that there was some disagreement about what it actually was, and whether it was through misunderstanding or not having clear communication that the dip was working effectively on a road. She said the Roadmaster wanted to try this and now wants to use this technology on other dirt roads to save the Township money. Rich Pursell stated he had a conversation with Rich Schilling and did not refer to it as a hump, but as a broad based dip. He said Springfield Township was reimbursed for the work and that the county inspected it and okayed the dip and if it were not installed correctly, the Township would not have received the money for the grant. Terry Clemons asked if Rich Schilling had this information and Rich stated he received the information on broad based dips yesterday and had no application on file. Volker Oakey asked if Rich was concerned about it being a speed hump. Rich Schilling stated he called Lisa Dziuban from the Conservation District and she said she recalled this being precipitated by a speed complaint on the road. Rich said she later sent an email apologizing for the confusion and that it was a broad based dip approved as a BMP for the program. Rich based his decision on what Lisa previously told him and it was his recollection that it was not installed per the information provided on the installation of broad based dips and that they were not meant to divert water towards the stream because originally Ms. Dziuban stated they do not divert water towards the stream. Rich Pursell said she knew how it was being installed and approved it. Township resident Bill Ryker questioned if the broad based dip was working effectively, why they were not installed on gravel roads such as Martin and Walnut Lanes that have more residents living them than Springhouse Lane. Rich Pursell confirmed that the County chose Springhouse Lane for the installation of the broad based dip.

The Board discussed how to remedy this for the future and have something like this come before the Board before any action is taken. They determined this was a miscommunication and that they must move forward. The Board asked Rich Pursell what it would cost to reinstall and he said around \$500 in material cost and one day of labor. Volker Oakey **moved** to reinstall the broad based dip on Springhouse Lane and for it to be posted with the proper signage describing it as a dip. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Barbara Lindtner **moved** to authorize advertisement of the 1987 GMC dump truck that didn't sell previously on Municibid. Dave Long **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Correspondence

The Board reviewed all correspondence.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Supervisor Comments

There were no Supervisor comments.

Rob Zisko **moved** to authorize overtime up to \$1,500 for the Police Department to provide enforcement along the Route 412 detour until the next Board meeting. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Rob Zisko **moved** to authorize overtime for Chief McDonald to cover the shifts that the officers were unable to cover during this detail only. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Adjournment

At 10:52 p.m., Barbara Lindtner **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Rob Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason A. Wager
Township Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: October 8, 2013

Approved: October 8, 2013