

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

January 5, 2015

Supervisors Present: Rob Zisko, Dave Long, Karen Bedics, John Oehler and Volker Oakey

Also Present: Scott MacNair, Esq. (Township Solicitor), Bob Wynn, P.E. (Township Engineer), Michael Brown (Township Manager) and Jason Wager (Secretary/Treasurer)

Chairperson Long called the meeting to order at 7:52 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Zisko **moved** to approve the December 9 minutes as amended. Mr. Oehler **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Approval of Bills List

Mr. Oehler **moved** to approve the following bills paid from December 6 to January 2, 2015:

1. General Fund	\$ 107,717.80	4. Subdivision & Escrow	\$ 4,077.74
2. Liquid Fuels	\$ 12,456.59	5. Street Light	\$ 565.49
3. Open Space	\$ 95,284.31	6. Knecht's Bridge Fund	\$ 21.04

Mr. Long **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

There was no public comment on non-agenda items.

Governmental Matters

Tax Collector Stipend – Mr. Brown explained the County Finance Director refused to pay the invoices from Keystone Collections that are a result of collecting the County's real estate taxes. The County will only pay the "official" tax collector, Debra Godshall, and will only pay the County's approved compensation rate, even though that rate is roughly 550% higher than what is being invoiced. Mr. Brown reported that Debbie Godshall had volunteered to donate the County's compensation to the Township once she was paid by the County, and only asked to be held harmless from any additional tax liability. This will result in a net financial gain to the Township as the County's compensation will effectively cover the Township's entire cost of real estate tax collection in 2015. The Board expressed gratitude to Ms. Godshall for her willingness to help her community and discussed offering a modest stipend for her trouble, and how the Township would handle the additional tax liability to the Tax Collector. Mr. MacNair confirmed that the Township followed the statute for replacing the outgoing Tax Collector last year and the appointee appointing a third party collector.

Mr. Zisko **moved** to authorize a stipend of \$2,000 for 2014 and 2015 to Debra Godshall as thanks for saving Township residents \$30,000 in real estate tax collection costs. Mr. Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** 4-1 with Mr. Long, Mr. Zisko, Mr. Oakey and Mr. Oehler voting **yes** and Ms. Bedics voting **no**.

Mr. Long **moved** to authorize the Township Manager to ensure there is no additional tax liability to Ms. Godshall for her 2014, 2015 and 2016 tax returns. Mr. Oehler **seconded**; the motion **passed** 4-1 with Mr. Long, Mr. Zisko, Mr. Oakey and Mr. Oehler voting **yes** and Ms. Bedics voting **no**.

BCATO Requests – The Board discussed submitting resolutions to the Bucks County Association of Township Officials for submission to PSATS for providing flexibility to the governing body to choose the best option for tax collections in its municipality and to encourage the state legislature set a no later than time for the Act 537 reimbursement.

Mr. Long **moved** to submit a request to BCATO for submission to PSATS to amend the various municipal and county codes and the Local Tax Collection Law that would allow municipal and county governing bodies to appoint qualified collection firms to collect real estate taxes on behalf of the municipality. Mr. Oehler **seconded**; the motion **passed** 4-1 with Mr. Long, Mr. Zisko, Mr. Oakey and Mr. Oehler voting **yes** and Ms. Bedics voting **no**.

Mr. Oehler **moved** to submit a request to encourage BCATO for submission to PSATS to demand the state legislature set a time limit to pay the reimbursement for the Act 537 plan. Mr. Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Planning Matters

Public Hearings for Ordinances 173, 174, 175 & 176

Mr. MacNair opened the hearing for Ordinance 173 and gave a summary of the ordinance. **Hans Reimann**, 2915 Springtown Hill Road, stated he was a proponent for alternative energy. **Jay Fuggiti**, 1878 Peppermint Road, asked if any health problems related to the public health and safety had been looked into in regards to the wind turbines and expressed his concern for them being put up in residential areas. The Board stated it had complete confidence in the extensive research the Planning Commission did for this ordinance. The hearing was closed. Ms. Bedics **moved** to adopt ***Ordinance 173***, which amends the Springfield Township Zoning Ordinance to establish standards and regulations for solar power and wind energy generating systems within the Township. Mr. Long **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Mr. MacNair opened the hearing for Ordinance 174 and gave a summary of the ordinance. **Hans Reimann**, 2915 Springtown Hill Road, inquired if there was science used to make the change to the Stormwater ordinance, which Mr. Long affirmed. The hearing was closed. Mr. Oehler **moved** to adopt ***Ordinance 174***, which amends the Springfield Township Stormwater Management Ordinance #152 deleting the words “swimming pools” from the current definition of “Impervious surface” and the entire third sentence of the definition of “Impervious surface” and further, stating that water surface area of pools constructed after July 28, 2009 not be included when calculating total impervious surface. Mr. Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** 4-1 with Mr. Long, Mr. Zisko, Mr. Oakey and Mr. Oehler voting **yes** and Ms. Bedics voting **no**.

Mr. MacNair opened the hearing for Ordinance 175 and gave a summary of the ordinance. There was no public comment and the hearing was closed. Mr. Zisko **moved** to adopt **Ordinance 175**, which amends the Springfield Township Subdivision and Land Ordinance #163 by redefining the “Lot, Width” and deleting the words “swimming pools” from the current definition of “Impervious surface” and the entire third sentence of the definition of “Impervious surface”. Mr. Oehler **seconded**; the motion **passed** 4-1 with Mr. Long, Mr. Zisko, Mr. Oakey and Mr. Oehler voting **yes** and Ms. Bedics voting **no**.

Mr. MacNair opened the hearing for Ordinance 176 and gave a summary of the ordinance. **Jay Fuggiti**, 1878 Peppermint Road, expressed his concerns for opening up the Township’s industrial area to parks and his hope the Board takes in account one of the Township’s main revenue generating base. The Board confirmed they would consider those when reviewing recreation park use. **Hans Reimann**, 2915 Springtown Hill Road, stated he believes industry will create park area between locations giving the flexibility for dedication of land to the Township. The hearing was closed. Mr. Zisko **moved** to adopt **Ordinance 176**, which amends the Springfield Township Zoning Ordinance by amending and adding certain definitions, increasing the maximum floor area of accessory apartments and accessory dwellings, revising the B-9, residential conversion use to be internally consistent, adding a C-14, municipal passive recreation park use, permitted by right in all districts, adding a C-15, detention facility use, permitted by conditional use approval in the PI(Planned Industrial) and HC(Highway Commercial) districts and by adding a section to prohibit fences from being installed in the public right-of-way. Ms. Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Floodplain Ordinances Authorizations

The Board reviewed and discussed with Mr. Wynn the flowchart pertaining to the floodplain permit process and the flood insurance rate maps/panels. Mr. Wynn noted that these maps/panels would be effective March 16, 2015. The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed stand-alone floodplain ordinance and amendments to the SALDO and Zoning ordinances pertaining to floodplains.

Ordinance 178 – Mr. Oehler **moved** to send Ordinance 178, the SALDO amendment to deleting certain floodplain related definitions and to revise the definition of a floodplain to the Bucks County Planning Commission for review and authorize advertisement for an adoption hearing at the February 10 regular meeting. Ms. Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Ordinance 179 – Mr. Oehler **moved** to send Ordinance 179, the Zoning Ordinance amendment to revise the definition of a floodplain and floodplain protection standards to the Bucks County Planning Commission for review and authorize advertisement for an adoption hearing at the February 10 regular meeting. Ms. Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Ordinance 177 – Mr. Oehler **moved** to authorize the Township Manager and Solicitor prepare the ordinance for advertisement and adoption at their January 27th meeting requiring all persons, partnerships, businesses, and corporations to obtain a floodplain permit for any construction or development, providing for the issuance of such floodplain permits, setting forth certain minimum requirements for new construction and development within areas of Springfield Township which are subject to flooding and establishing penalties for any person who fail or refuse to comply with the requirements of this ordinance. Ms. Bedics **seconded**; the motion

passed 4-1 with Mr. Long, Ms. Bedics, Mr. Oakey and Mr. Oehler voting **yes** and Mr. Zisko voting **no**.

Old Business

On-lot Septic Letter and Pumping Report - The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed pumping report and explanation letter to be used in the sewage management enforcement program. The Board revised the pumping report to only require name, property address of the tank, mailing address, date of pumping, whether the tank was for commercial or residential, tank capacity, tank type and the pumper signature and information and suggested the report be a two-part form so the resident will be able to send a report to the Township and keep a copy for themselves. They also amended the letter that will accompany the pumping report form. Mr. Oehler moved to endorse the amended explanation letter and pumping report form to be used in the sewage management enforcement program. Mr. Long seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Recycling Grant Renewal – Mr. Brown reviewed the performance of Hough Associates under the one-year agreement signed last year in regards to the Township recycling reporting in 2013. He stated that the Township would receive a 2013 grant award projected to be \$16,000 at a cost of \$2,500 going to Hough Associates. Mr. Brown noted the Environmental Advisory Council voted to recommend the Board accept the three-year agreement.

Mr. Zisko moved to accept the Hough Associates proposal to submit the Township’s recycling grant application as part of the Richland Township Group for the years 2014-2016 at a cost not to exceed \$2,500 per year. Mr. Oehler seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Zisko moved to use \$2,000 of the recycling grant award to match a proposed resident donation for the 2015 Community Day. Mr. Oehler seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

2014 Audit Proposal – Ms. Bedics moved to accept the audit proposal from Hutchinson, Gillahan & Freeh, P.C. to continue as the Township auditors for 2014. Mr. Long seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Joint Meeting Process – The Board tabled the discussion for a joint meeting process to a later meeting to allow the Planning Commission and other Township committees/boards/commissions provide feedback to Board.

Correspondence

Mr. Long acknowledged the Clemons, Richter & Reiss rate schedule, Codemaster rate schedule, Borough of Riegelsville “Thank You” letter for use of the Springtown Fire Police, Silver Creek AA lease renewal for 2015 Community Day, Palisades School District request for land use data (which was already provided by the BCPC on 12/19), ASA application for Patricia Young-Walentine’s property located on Deer Trail Road and the Doylestown Township request for supporting a resolution to ban tobacco in County parks. The Board tabled this discussion supporting a resolution to ban tobacco to a later meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

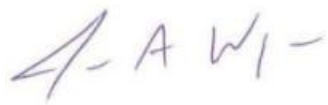
Supervisor's Comment

There were no Supervisor comments.

Adjournment

At 10:03 p.m., Mr. Oehler moved to adjourn the meeting into an executive session to discuss personnel. Mr. Zisko seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A Wager". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "A" followed by "Wager".

Jason A. Wager
Township Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: February 24, 2015
Approved: February 24, 2015