

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

July 28, 2015

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, David Long, Volker Oakey, John Oehler and Robert Zisko

Also present: Scott MacNair, Esq. (Township Solicitor), Chief Michael McDonald, Michael Brown (Township Manager) and Jason Wager (Secretary/Treasurer)

Chairperson Long called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Oehler **moved** to approve the June 26 minutes as amended. Mr. Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** with Ms. Bedics abstaining for not being in attendance.

Approval of Bills List

Mr. Zisko **moved** to approve the following bills paid from June 20 to July 24, 2015:

1. General Fund	\$153,800.91	5. Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 6,958.80
2. Liquid Fuels	\$ 31,665.78	6. Knecht's Bridge Fund	\$ 20.35
3. Open Space	\$166,821.98	7. Subdivision & Escrow	\$ 52,866.16
4. Street Light	\$ 537.80		

Ms. Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Reports

Road Department (posted) – The Board reviewed the 6/11 – 7/15/2015 Road Department report. The Road Department performed 547 hours of road maintenance, 63 hours of equipment maintenance, 69 hours of building maintenance, 19 hours of sign maintenance, 157 hours of roadside mowing and 14 hours of paperwork during this period.

Police Department – Chief McDonald reported the STPD had 148 calls for service in June with the PSP handling 16 calls and 7 reportable crashes totaling 171 calls for service. He noted the radar sign purchased in 2013 had a bad motherboard and has been fixed. It was posted on Peppermint Road and has the ability to provide valuable traffic information for the department.

Treasurer – Mr. Wager deferred his report to the mid-year financial review item on the agenda.

Township Manager/Zoning – Mr. Brown conducted two Use & Occupancy resale inspections in June. Mr. Brown discussed the Sewage Enforcement Ordinance. He contacted Elizabeth Mahoney, PA Southeastern Sewage Planning Supervisor, who confirmed the language in the Township sewage enforcement and Act 537 ordinances is a replica of the language approved by PA DEP. That language states that systems must be pumped at least every three years. Mr. Brown asked Ms. Mahoney to instruct her staff to not give Township residents false hope that they don't have to pump every 3 years, since the ordinance requires it and conforms to DEP's approval. The Board instructed Mr. Brown to reach out to Riegelsville Borough to confirm if its sewage ordinance approved by DEP requires pumping every five years.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Winfield Hill, 3465 Route 212, asked if his daughter's improvement escrow check would be available to tomorrow as promised. Mr. Wager confirmed it would be.

Joel Lepore, 3638 Woodbyne Road, had a septic truck drive into his house. He asked the Board if anything could be done to control large vehicles driving down Drifting Drive. Chief McDonald reported the road has had minimal accidents. The truck had four out of six brakes fail due to wear and that is what caused the vehicle to lose control. The Board authorized the Township Engineer to examine the problem for potential solutions.

Phil Pattison, 965 Povenski Road, asked if the Board could do something more about the requirement for households with one resident to pump every three years.

Planning Matters

Rolling Hills Subdivision – Mr. Oehler moved to approve the extension request for Rolling Hills Estates Subdivision to July 29, 2016. Ms. Bedics seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Governmental Matters

2014 Audit Report – Cheri Freeh, Township Auditor, presented the findings and review for the 2014 Township financial audit. Their only finding was for the Township to establish a uniform policy regarding interest charges in the Zion Hill Sewer Fund. Overall, the Township took \$74,000 instead of the budgeted \$49,000 from the reserve. Capital purchases and the revenue items, such as earned income tax and real estate transfer, performed below budget causing the additional loss. Ms. Freeh noted the uniform and non-uniform Township pension funds are funded at 87% making them minimally distressed. She noted that the Township Municipal Minimum Obligation for its pension funds will go up with more realistic rates of returns.

2015 mid-year financial review and projections – Mr. Wager presented the 2015 mid-year financial review for the general fund, liquid fuels and reserve accounts. Overall, the funds are \$64,000 over budget for revenue as of June 30 and projected to surpass budget by \$78,000 at year end. Real estate transfer, earned income tax, reimbursements and liquid fuels are projected to outperform their budgeted revenue. Expenses are \$21,000 under budget at mid-year and projected to be over budget by \$68,000 at year end. Winter maintenance, network administration and labor OT are projected to be over budget with most other expense expected to be on target. Overall, the projected net income is \$10,000 for 2015 with the general fund and capital reserve balances at \$227,000 and \$155,483 respectively. Mr. Wager noted that the projections had the overtime costs built in that the Board will authorize or not authorize later in this meeting.

Police hiring process modification – Chief McDonald modifications to better streamline the police hiring process. The current policy was adopted in 2005. The current procedure requires a written test to pre-screen candidates. The Chief does not believe the test adds value to the Township’s hiring process. The Chief is requesting the written examination and the 1.5 mile run be removed from the process, and a physical fitness test endorsed by the PA Police Chief’s Association be used instead.

Ms. Bedics **moved** to endorse a modification to the uniformed personnel hiring policy as outlined in the updated Springfield Township Police Department Selection and Hiring Standards and Procedure presented by Chief McDonald. Mr. Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Police Staffing Options – Mr. Brown and Chief McDonald presented a spreadsheet to the Board showing the police staffing options and probable financial impact of hiring three part-time officers or one full-time officer to fill the current shifts and beyond while a current STPD officer is out recovering from surgery and the probability of when the current member might come back on active duty. The Board recognized that the Township needs coverage whether by overtime for the current officers, coverage from the Pennsylvania State Police or hiring part-time or full-time officers.

Mr. Long **moved** to authorize Chief McDonald to hire a full-time officer no earlier than November 1, 2015. Ms. Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Budgetary authority for police overtime – Mr. Oehler **moved** to authorize overtime up to \$35,000 for the remainder of 2015 to cover the open shifts of the officer recovering from surgery, and authorizing Chief McDonald to fill open shifts not covered by the other officers; and further, for this amount to be paid out of the general fund reserve if necessary. Mr. Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Appointment to Planning Commission – The Board discussed the two candidates it had interviewed for the open Planning Commission seat. Mr. Zisko **moved** to appoint Jay Fuggiti to the Planning Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2018. Mr. Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** 4-1 with Mr. Zisko, Mr. Oehler, Mr. Oakey and Mr. Long voting yes and Ms. Bedics voting no.

Springfield Street Traffic Signal – Mr. Brown briefed the Board on PennDOT’s proposal to update the traffic signal at Springfield Street and Route 309, which would be included in the bridge bundling program the Springfield Street bridge was accepted into. Since the Township had previously replaced the lights with LED’s and the signage was adequate on the street, PennDOT is requesting to amend the traffic signal permit to upgrade the loop detectors previously installed with video detectors mounted on the traffic signal poles.

Mr. Oehler **moved** to approve the revised traffic signal permit at Springfield Street & Route 309 with the upgrade costs to be covered under the bridge project. Mr. Zisko **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Old Business

Non-uniformed personnel manual – Mr. Brown noted Mr. Oehler and Mr. Zisko had met with the Township staff to discuss the current non-uniform personnel manual and that the staff was okay with the changes to the updated manual.

Mr. Long **moved** to approve the Non-uniform personnel manual with an effective date of 7/28/2015. Mr. Oehler **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

New Business

Resolution 2015-08 – No action was necessary for this item as Mr. Brown noted finding a resolution from 1997 that delegates the authority to authorize the fire police activation for other communities' events.

Correspondence

The Board discussed the Planning Commission memo dated 6/12. The Board directed the Planning Commission to begin/discuss the following topics in order:

1. Discussion on Home Office regulations in regards to internet sales
2. Review the Junkyard ordinance
3. Review the Route 309 sewage capacity analysis
4. Review the Sign ordinance
5. Discuss revising the less than definitive Zoning ordinance provisions regarding expansion of non-conforming uses and structure.

The Board removed the cable franchise agreement discussion as that does not include internet. It decided that Mr. Zisko and Mr. Brown would sit down within a week of this meeting with the property owner where Brandywine Transportation is located to discuss the current violation of the conditional use permit.

Mr. Long recognized the letter for the Buckeye Pipeline vegetation maintenance dated 7/2015, Bucks County EMS letter on the Papal visit dated 7/2, Central Bucks Bicycle Club letter pertaining to Covered Bridge Ride dated 6/15 and a thank you from Amy's ride dated 6/7.

Public Comment

Debby Yerger, 1400 Peppermint Road, noted Buckeye Pipeline during their previous yearly vegetation maintenance doesn't do what they say they will do. Ms. Yerger noted she was informed they wanted the area located on her property to look like a meadow eventually, but they never come back to mow and the vegetation is killed by the herbicide application.

Supervisor Comments

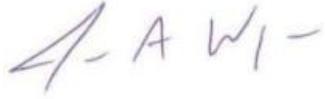
Mr. Oehler thanked Mr. Zisko for representing the Board and the Township residents at the Skrilletz property auction.

Ms. Bedics stated she was approached by residents about zoning violations within the Township and provided an email noting these to Mr. Brown, who reviewed this email with Board. Ms. Bedics asked who's common sense as noted in the 6/23 minutes would be used. The Board confirmed the Zoning Officer's common sense would be utilized regarding zoning within the Township

Adjournment

At 10:00 p.m., Mr. Zisko moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Oehler seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue 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: August 11, 2015
Approved: August 11, 2015