

**Board of Supervisors**

**MINUTES**

August 25, 2015

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

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

Vice Chairperson Zisko called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board held an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss collective bargaining, real estate and litigation.

**Presentation**

Dr. Joel Ackerman & Dr. Donnie Bell presented Jason Bate, Upper Bucks Regional EMS EMT, and Ryan Pankoe, Upper Bucks Regional EMS Executive Director, the St. Luke’s University Health Network “Time is Burning/Beat the Clock” award for providing care for a stroke patient from Coopersburg on June 1, 2015. Mr. Pankoe accepted the award for Matthew Compton, Upper Bucks Regional EMS EMT, who could not be present.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Bedics **moved** to approve the August 11 minutes as presented. Mr. Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** with Mr. Zisko abstaining for not being present at that meeting.

**Approval of Bills List**

Mr. Oehler **moved** to approve the following bills paid from July 25 to August 20, 2015:

1. General Fund	\$ 75,691.57	4. Street Light Fund	\$ 532.15
2. Liquid Fuels	\$253,507.89	5. Knecht’s Bridge Fund	\$ 21.81
3. Open Space	\$ 2,858.28	6. Subdivision & Escrow	\$ 16,757.40

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

**Reports**

**Road Department (posted)** – The Board reviewed the 7/16 – 8/15/2015 Road Department report. The Road Department performed 297 hours of road maintenance, 49 hours of equipment maintenance, 102 hours of building maintenance, 50 hours of sign maintenance, 44 hours of roadside mowing and 41 hours of paperwork during this period.

**Police Department** – Chief McDonald reported the STPD had 170 calls for service in July with the PSP handling 13 calls and 7 reportable crashes totaling 190 calls for service. Chief McDonald noted that the department covered eight vacant shifts for the officer who is currently recovering from surgery and he has received 21 applications for the open full-time police officer position as of 8/25. He stated the Bucks County emergency services radio switchover should happen sometime in October.

**Treasurer** – Mr. Wager reported on the budget performance for the General Fund, Liquid Fuels Fund and Capital Reserve through July 31. He stated the following: EIT revenue up 8.8% from 2014 at \$436,637, Real Estate Transfer revenue up 39.6% at \$53,805 and Real Estate/Delinquent Real Estate tax up 48.2% at \$696,628. Total revenue for 2015 was \$1,723,731, which was up 17.8% from 2014 and \$53,607 over budget. Total expenses were \$1,205,505, which was up 17.1% from 2014 and \$25,016 under budget. The Township net income was a \$518,226 compared to \$434,511 in 2014 and \$78,623 over budget.

**Township Manager/Zoning** – Mr. Brown conducted three Use & Occupancy resale inspections in July.

**Solicitor** – Mr. Clemons stated the Lindtner Conservation Easement was close to being finalized. He asked the Board to consider a resolution agreeing to the Lindtner’s original request to add a right-of-way for Springhouse Lane should the Township decide to widen the current road.

Mr. Oehler **moved** to adopt a resolution accepting the additional right-of-way for Springhouse Lane with any physical relocation of the road in the future to be at no cost to the Township and shall be at the cost of the property owner; and further, the physical relocation of the road in the future shall conform to the Township’s performance requirements for new roads as contained in its Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance in effect at the time of relocation, unless waived by the Board of Supervisors then holding office; and further, any physical location of the road in the future is contingent upon a conservation easement being placed that is in conformance with the Conservation Easement plan drafted by C. Robert Wynn Associates dated May 5, 2015; and further, in the event the road is physically relocated onto the new right-of-way, the original road is to remain open while the new road is constructed and the Township shall be considered to have vacated the existing road and right-of-way that parallels the new right-of-way, and shall no longer have maintenance responsibility for the vacated portion of Springhouse Lane. Mr. Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

### **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

**John Katelas**, 1842 Highpoint Road, asked the Board to waive the fee to apply for a variance request to the Zoning Hearing Board. The Board declined to waive the fees.

### **Planning Matters**

There were no planning matters to discuss.

### **Governmental Matters**

**Actuarial assumptions endorsement** – The Board discussed the actuarial valuation information options suggested by the Township actuary and previously discussed by the Pension Committee. The Pension Committee determined the mortality and disability tables, investment return rate and salary scale as the four main factors affecting the valuation report assuming there is no large change in staffing levels. Mr. Oakey

**moved** to endorse the actuarial assumptions of 6% investment return and 3.5% salary scale as recommended by the Pension Committee. Ms. Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

**Road turn back** – The Board discussed the memo from Rich Pursell, Roadmaster, dated 8/06 referencing taking back the Springfield Township portion of California Road. Ms. Bedics **moved** to authorize the Township staff to take the necessary steps to investigate the feasibility of taking back California Road. Mr. Oehler **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

### Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

### New Business

#### 2016 Budget Projects, Plans and Initiatives

- **Upper Bucks Regional Emergency Medical Services** - Ryan Pankoe, UBREMS Executive Director, discussed the current financial situation and the performance of the service in 2015. They currently have 14 full-time, 22 part-time and 4 volunteers on staff and have responded to 1141 total incidents with an average response time of 8.4 minutes within Springfield Township and 10.4 minutes average overall. UBREMS total projected revenue and expense are \$1,051,000 and \$914,000, respectively, in 2015. Mr. Pankoe noted that they have not received a \$200,000 foundation grant yet and have only received \$458,000 of \$1,000,000 requested billings from insurance companies. They will be looking to replace two ambulances at a cost of around \$245,000 each in 2016 and would like to continue to receive the current support of \$81,000 in 2016.
- **Springtown Volunteer Fire Company** – Cathy Albee, President of SVFC, presented their financials and hours worked year to date. The company has responded to 65 fire calls (23 company hours), trained (32 company hours), performed vehicle maintenance (18 company hours), fund raising (21 company hours) and meetings (18 company hours). Ms. Albee reported \$96,217 (\$181,900 budgeted for 2015) and \$66,000 (\$175,400 budgeted for 2015) in revenue and expenses, respectively. They have recently received a new computer system, laptops and accounting software from a grant and plan to build a storage shed (\$20,000) for their burn prevention trailer in 2016 and purchase a new engine in 2017 for \$350,000. They requested to maintain their current funding level of \$146,913 in 2016, which will provide them sufficient funding for the operations and future capital purchases.
- **Open Space Committee** – Pete Sleeman, Open Space Committee Chairperson, stated the committee has 10 properties in the cue ready to settle by August 2016. The Committee has identified preservation projects that encumber all \$626,000 of the Township's allocation of County MOSP funds. The committee would like to budget \$3,000 in 2016 for legal and advertising to put an EIT referendum on the 2016 General Election ballot that would increase the EIT rate by 1/8% and raise \$175,000/year for future easement purchases. The Committee would not be recommending another bond issue immediately. The Board would not need to impose the tax until after all other funds were spent and there were worthy projects to pursue. If passed, the referendum would be valid for 10 years and could be rescinded as long as no debt was tied to it. Mr. Nilsen, Open Space Committee Vice Chairperson, discussed adding a Transferable Development Rights provision to the zoning ordinance as part of ongoing Comp Plan/land use review. The Committee is requesting \$12,000 for the study

and ordinance adoption. TDR's could provide the environment to execute and motivation to develop the 309 corridor with no additional cost to taxpayers.

- **Planning Commission** – Scott Douglas, Planning Commission Chairperson, discussed the current and future projects of the Planning Commission with the Board. This includes sign ordinance review, home office regulations and internet business and non-conforming uses and structures which could be rolled into the codification effort. The commission is requesting \$2,000 to completely overhaul the old and obsolete junkyard ordinance and \$4,000 to create a fracking ordinance. The costs would cover Engineer and Solicitor review, BCPC review and advertisement. Mr. Douglas noted the Planning Commission would like to do an updated comprehensive plan telephonic survey to probe the current feelings of residents regarding development issues including open space, recreation land, density and environmental regulation. The cost would cover a consultant expert to perform the survey for \$10,500.
- **Historic Commission** – Mr. Brown, speaking on behalf of the Historic Commission, stated the commission is requesting \$14,000 in 2016 to restore the Township owned lime kiln on Woodbyne Road. Mr. Brown noted the Springfield Township Historical Society has agreed to takeover long term O&M once the lime kiln is fully restored.

### Correspondence

Mr. Zisko recognized the letter from Mr. Lepore dated 8/19 for Drifting Drive, the Springfield Chronicles Third Quarter Newsletter from the Springfield Township Historical Society, the Springfield Township Third Quarter Newsletter, the July/August Rural Perspectives Volume 24 newsletter and the July/August PSATS News Bulletin.

### Public Comment

**Tony Matzura**, 1895 Route 212, noted how a telephonic survey may not work since several people use cell phones instead of landlines. Mr. Matzura stated that since the Township is following another Township's lead on the Rails-to-Trails project that will go under Springfield Street Bridge, someone should ensure or be aware of how the trail is built since if the rail bed is removed; the cost to restore the bed if SEPTA takes back the trail could be significant to the Township.

**Hans Reimann**, 2915 Springtown Hill Road, thanked the Board for initiating the presentations given by the ABC's of the Township. Mr. Reimann feels it has helped bring the groups together and provided valuable information to the public on what is going on within the Township.

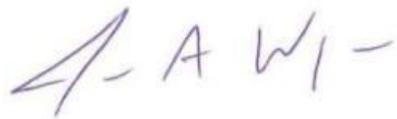
### Supervisor Comments

There were no Supervisor comments.

### Adjournment

At 9:50 p.m., Mr. Oehler **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bedics **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: September 22, 2015  
Approved: September 22, 2015