

Springfield Township, Bucks County
Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

August 22, 2017

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, Dave Long, John Oehler

Also present: Scott MacNair (solicitor)

Chairperson Long called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The August 8th minutes were corrected for a typo and adding a sentence to the carbonate geology narrative. Motion by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Oehler, to approve the August 8, 2017 minutes as amended. All in favor. Motion carries.

Citizen Comment—Rose Strong, Hunter Road, asked the Board to increase the amount of public disclosure on police incidents and to publish it non-digitally. The Board will ask the Chief to provide information at the next meeting. Steve Doncevic agreed with Ms. Strong.

Bills (July 20th-August 16th 2017)

General Fund	\$40,683.00	Open Space Fund	\$3921.86
Capital Reserve Fund	\$0	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$0
Escrows	\$2816.79	Street Light Fund	\$0

Motion by John Oehler, seconded by Karen Bedics to pay the bills list. All in favor. Motion carries.

Reports

Road hours (Jul 18-Aug 7, 2017):

Road Maintenance	389 Hours	Equipment Maintenance	39 hours
Building Maintenance	34 Hours	Sign Maintenance	12 hours
Roadside mowing	48 Hours	Park Maintenance	2 hours
Admin	20 Hours		

Police Department—Chief McDonald was on vacation. The police report lists 213 call for service in July, 35 handled by PSP.

Treasurer Fund Balances as of August 16, 2017:

General Fund	\$1,323,375.00	Liquid Fuels	\$308,899.06
Open Space	\$846,516.53	Street Light	\$5851.88
Escrow	\$411,278.87	Special Fees	\$106.24
Capital Reserve	\$106,322.06	Sewer Maint Escrow	\$84,075.28

Business

2018 Budget Requests

- Richland Township Fire and Rescue—The members of the fire company reviewed its 2018 budget projections with the Board. The company is only projecting a \$3300 budget surplus for 2018 and has capital expenses worth \$1.7M that it's trying to pay for over the next 5 years. The company requested the Board continue to supplement the annual contribution by \$10,000 to pay for the engine it purchased 2 years ago in addition to the \$2800 the company normally receives.
- Tony Maguire and Chris Trauger of Springtown Volunteer Fire Company presented a projection through 2027 of the SVFC's needs. The company's biggest concern is creating a down payment to replace the quint vehicle in 2032, and suggested an 8% (\$11,000) increase in its annual budget over the next 10 years to accomplish that task. It currently has sufficient support from the Township to cover its annual operating expenses.
- Ryan Pankoe, Upper Bucks Regional EMS, presented the ambulance service's needs. The organization is facing the loss of substantial funding from a community foundation grant that it has relied on in the past. It also has faced a substantial shortfall from unreimbursed service. UBREMS asked the Board to increase its annual allocation by 3.7% (\$3500).
- Kim Kruchinski of the EAC requested the Board allocate \$500 to maintaining the native garden around the building, and that it be allowed to spend the money it raises through fund raising on projects it deems appropriate. The EAC doesn't have the labor capacity to maintain the garden since Hans Reimann passed. The EAC would like to have someone come in for 5 hours a month at \$12/hour to assist during the growing season.
- Mike Brown reported the Planning Commission has no funding requests, but the comprehensive plan review and update may require an allocation. The Board directed Mr. Brown to contact the Bucks County Planning Commission for an estimate.

Ordinance 187—Managing Township Rights of Way—Scott MacNair reviewed the proposed ordinance with the Board. Its purpose is to provide the municipality with the ability to control placement and operation of distributed antennae arrays that have popped up in the area. The Public Utilities Commission recently ruled these antennae are not public utilities. John Oehler offered several revisions to clarify the insurance and indemnification language.

Motion by John Oehler, seconded by Karen Bedics, to authorize the advertisement of Ordinance 187 establishing performance standards for municipal regulation of wireless antennae in rights of way. All in favor. Motion carries.

Separately the Board directed the Township Manager to prepare a resolution opposing the state legislature's adoption of HB 1620 which would preempt municipal control of distributed antennae towers.

Ordinance 185—Intergovernmental Agreement for recycling grant applications—Scott MacNair opened the hearing for public comment. There was no public comment.

Motion by Karen Bedics, seconded by John Oehler, to adopt Ordinance 185. All in favor. Motion carries.

Montag Variance application (TMP 42-15-14-2; 3174 Walnut)—The applicant was represented by Scott Mease, PE. The applicant seeks dimensional variances to subdivide his lot. The applicant owns ½ of a twin home, which shares a common sewer facility with the other side of the twin. To implement the sewer solution in the 1980's, a condo association was formed to own the land surrounding the two dwellings. The current owners wish to dissolve the condo association and revert to single ownership of the land, split between the two houses. The proposed split does not meet current ordinance standards.

Motion by Karen Bedics, seconded by John Oehler, to take no position on the application. All in favor. Motion carries.

Comments—Jim Nilsen suggested the Township should have 1st call through 3rd call fire boxes from the County to help it ensure funding ratios for fire service providers are equitable.

Steve Doncevic suggested that volunteers had to be informed of the commitments involved with various community opportunities.

Mr. Long announced that the 4H Club had won the BCATO Derstine Youth Award for its Passer Community Center restoration work. The group will be honored at the annual fall meeting on September 28th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Brown, Township Manager

Approved: