

Springfield Township, Bucks County
Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

April 10, 2018

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, Dave Long, Jim Nilsen, Tony Matzura, Rob Zisko.

Chairperson Long called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and announced the Board met in executive session on April 5th for a real estate matter.

Hay Lease at Peppermint Park—Mr. Nilsen read a statement on file with the Township office recusing himself from the matter due to potential conflict of interest.

Motion by Rob Zisko, seconded by Karen Bedics, to terminate the hay lease at Peppermint Park under the following conditions:

1. There shall be no application of fertilizer, pesticide or herbicide this year.
2. The farmer shall be allowed to cut and harvest hay until December 1st, per the original terms.
3. The Township shall pay the farmer \$23,292.65 to settle all potential future claims.
4. The Chair and Township Manager are authorized to execute the settlement agreement between the parties.

The following citizens made public comment:

- Irene Black, Deer Trail Drive, agreed with the motion
- Scott & Jeanette Sciss, Rowland Drive, agreed with the motion
- Susan Rosetti, Gallows Hill Road, agreed with terminating but disagreed with the amount paid
- Richard Foster, Rowland Drive, made a complaint about a pile of fertilizer on non-Township owned property
- David Bretz, Peppermint Road, agreed with the motion. He also complained that the minutes from January 23rd originally posted on the website didn't mention his public comment.
- Mary Blessing, High Meadow, complained about Supervisor Matzura's comments from a previous meeting
- Karen Jones, Peppermint Road, expressed concern about stormwater discharge from Rowland Drive onto her property as well as well contamination
- Michael Clime, High Meadow, said you can't trust chemical companies testing products and he had been fighting agent Orange for 40 years.
- Jean Nick, Gallows Hill Road, agreed with the motion
- Christy Rice, Peppermint Road, agreed with terminating but disagreed with the amount paid
- Kevin Boyd, Route 412, complained about the lease terms
- Sue McKinnon, Deer Trail Road, offered to help clean and maintain bluebird boxes in the park

In favor—Bedics, Long, Matzura, Zisko. Abstain (conflict)—Nilsen. Motion carries.

Business

Minutes of March 27, 2018—Motion by Karen Bedics, seconded by Jim Nilsen, to approve the minutes. All in favor. Motion carries.

Ordinance 190; Creation of Park and Land Preservation Board (version 5, 4/10/2018)—Motion by Rob Zisko, seconded by Tony Matzura, to authorize advertisement of Ordinance 190 creating a Park and Land Preservation Board. All in favor. Motion carries.

RFP for Legal Services; Service Electric Cable Franchise Agreement—Motion by Karen Bedics, seconded by Rob Zisko, to authorize the advertisement of an RFP for legal services to allow joint negotiation with Nockamixon Township for a cable franchise agreement with Service Electric Cable . All in favor. Motion carries.

Select Building Code Official—Motion by Tony Matzura, seconded by Rob Zisko, to name Barry Isett Associates as Building Code Official for Springfield Township effective July 1, 2108 for a period not to exceed three (3) years. In favor—Long, Nilsen, Matzura, Zisko. Opposed--Bedics. Motion carries.

Ed Ziegler asked how current permits would be closed during the transition.

Adelphia Gateway pipeline project—Responding to the EAC’s request, the Board discussed whether or not to file as an out of time intervenor with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Solicitor explained that filing out of time meant the admin law judge would need to specifically grant intervenor status, and that once that status is achieved the Township would be required to attend FERC hearings on the matter at minimum. Gaining intervenor status also gives the Township the right to produce its own expert witnesses and make legal argument before the decision. It also preserves the Township’s right of appeal. The Board had no objection to filing for intervenor status for preliminary information and to preserve the Township’s rights, but wants to ensure its legal costs don’t spiral out of control.

Arianne Elinich, Lorna Yearwood and Sue Boyd spoke in favor of the action.

Motion by Karen Bedics, seconded by Jim Nilsen, to file as an intervenor out of time on the Adelphia Gateway project currently before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. All in favor. Motion carries.

Land Development wavier for Lee Antenna Systems—Motion by Jim Nilsen, seconded by Rob Zisko, to waive the land development process to allow Lee Antenna Systems to install a training tower on its property located at 30350 Route 212 under the condition the applicant shall install adequate physical anti-climbing barriers to prevent unauthorized access. All in favor. Motion carries.

Sealcoating and Paving projects—Motion by Rob Zisko, seconded by Karen Bedics, to authorize bid advertisement for sealcoating and paving projects as outlined in the Roadmaster’s memo dated April 5, 2018. All in favor. Motion carries.

Passer Community Center—Motion by Rob Zisko, seconded by Tony Matzura, to authorize the Roadmaster to patch potholes within the right-of-way at the Passer Community Center parking lot. All in favor. Motion carries.

Supervisor Comments:

Dave Long announced the Art of Preservation Committee had chosen the lime kiln to the beneficiary of its annual fundraiser in September. Lorna Yearwood encouraged everyone to attend on September 22nd.

Jim Nilsen encouraged the staff to get the roof repair specs done and prepared for bidding.

Rob Zisko expressed sorrow to dog owners who pets have recently died. He also explained the decision to enter into a hay lease was made as a cost saving measure.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Brown, Township Manager

Approved: