

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

August 24, 2010

Supervisors Present: Karen Bedics, Jim Brownlow, Barbara Lindtner, Volker Oakey **Absent:** Rob Zisko
Also present: Terry Clemons, Solicitor; Sandy Everitt, Secretary/Treasurer; Mark Laudenslager, Chief of Police; Rich Schilling, Township Manager and Bob Wynn, Township Engineer.

Jim Brownlow, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Legal and personnel issues were discussed in an executive session held prior to the meeting.

Minutes

Volker Oakey **moved** to adopt minutes from the July 27, 2010, meeting. Karen Bedics **seconded**. Voting **Yes**: Karen Bedics, Volker Oakey and Jim Brownlow. **Abstaining** - Barbara Lindtner (not present at July 27 meeting). The motion **carried**.

Bills for Approval

Barbara Lindtner **moved** to approve the following bills paid from July 27 - August 23, 2010:

1. General Fund	\$ 29,415.91	4. Subdivision & Escrow	\$24,227.94
2. Liquid Fuels	\$ 21,142.55	5. Farmers Market	\$ 412.59
3. Open Space	\$426,697.00	6. Highway Capital Improvement	\$ 80.00

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

Reports

Road Report – Report posted on bulletin board. The Springtown paving is completed. The Road Department will be installing the handicapped accessible bathroom for which the township will receive grant funding.

Police Report – The department handled 200 incidents in August, of which 23 were criminal offenses. Property valued at \$11,751 was stolen; property valued at \$50 was recovered. There were 6 automobile crashes involving 8 vehicles with no injuries. (The police report is posted on the Police portion of the Township website.) Karen Bedics commended Officer Sepulveda for his outstanding traffic assistance for the Flea Market held at the Passer Community Center recently.

Township Manager's Report – The Act 537 plan was submitted to DEP for their review. There were nine RFP's received for the Recreation Plan. Barbara Lindtner and Rich Schilling will meet on August 26 to review the quotes. Bucks County authorized the township to proceed with the CDBG Grant project approved for \$33,569 for the handicapped accessible bathroom and handicapped accessible doors into the Township building. Materials have been ordered and work will begin when they are received. The initial GIS seminar was held on August 9 with 9 attending. Rich and Mark Laudenslager provided additional information requested for the COPS Grant. Our Police identified and notified PennDOT of critical safety work needed where Route 412 merges onto Route 212 over 2½ years ago, but it was not corrected. Recently, at the township's request, Paul Clymer interceded with PennDOT, and the work was completed within a week. 26 permits were issued in May totaling \$8,895. Follow-up work continues on zoning violations on several properties.

Public Comments on Agenda Items - None

Public Hearing on Ordinance Amending Zoning Ordinance

Terry Clemons opened the hearing for public comment on an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance which will revise the conditions of Section 500, subsection K, relating to setbacks from protected resource lands. Springfield Township's and Bucks County's Planning Commissions reviewed the ordinance and recommended its approval. Notice of the hearing appeared twice in the legal section of The Intelligencer (August 10 & 17) and the draft has been

available for public review. There being no public or supervisors comments, Barbara Lindtner **moved** to adopt Ordinance 158 amending the Zoning Ordinance. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Governmental Matters

Representative Paul Clymer's Response to Springfield Township's Resolution 2010-017 re. HB 2431/SB 1357

Representative Clymer indicated he was in agreement with the Township on these bills directed at forcing mergers and consolidations of local governments in Pennsylvania, basically placing local governments under County control. Representative Clymer will vote "No" if and when these bills come before the General Assembly for consideration. Terry Clemons added that PSATS participated in public hearings on these bills and indicated their opposition to both bills on behalf of local governments.

PSATS Legislation Update - Karen Bedics had several questions on recently enacted legislation for Terry Clemons.

Act 32 Bucks County (EIT) Tax Collection Committee - A discussion was held about a topic to be discussed at the August 31 meeting of the TCC Committee relating to fees for collection of late earned income tax payments. The Keystone Collection Service, appointed by the Bucks County TCC to collect taxes for Bucks County beginning January 1, 2011, for those who desire an early startup and mandatory for all municipalities and school districts in Bucks County as of January 1, 2012. It was the consensus of the Board that there should be provision within the fee structure for lower collection fees for past due EIT taxes in true hardship situations.

Presentation of 2009 Audit by Hutchinson, Gillahan & Freeh

Cheri Freeh, from Hutchinson, Gillahan & Freeh highlighted several areas from the 2009 Audit report. She referred to page 14 as the "report card" for the township for 2009. She indicated the Township is functioning in a fiscally responsive manner, having exceeded our budgeted revenue expectations by almost \$50,000. She noted that we did not have to use as much of our fund balance as was forecast. The revenues were slightly higher than anticipated, mainly in the "fees" and "charges for services" areas and from grants received that were not budgeted for. The expenses, although slightly higher, did not exceed the income. The largest expense increase was in "legal services" because of PPL litigation. There were no "findings" or "material weaknesses" in the 2009 audit. She suggested that the Township review its investment policy and either revise it or ensure that pension funds are deposited in securities with an A rating or higher. Cheri will obtain an article—GASB Statement #54—regarding changes that will take effect in 2011 that will change the Township's reporting method. Although the statements will look the same, GASB is changing the terms "designated" or "restricted" fund balance; therefore, this section of the financial statement will be broken into different categories: spendable vs. non-spendable, restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned. Although the Township is not required to have a fund balance policy, they will have to determine what is "spendable" versus "non-spendable" prior to the audit of 2011, and how they want the various funds designated. These changes will be reflected in the report presented on page 7 of the 2009 Audit report, where there will likely be extra lines in the various categories. Cheri gave several examples of funds currently in place that are "restricted" funds: Farmer's Market, Street Light, Liquid Fuels. It is these types of funds that will need to be reclassified by the Township. Basically, the changes are semantic in nature to make the reports easier for non-financial people to understand. When PSATS or some other agency provides a policy on this issue pertaining to townships, she will provide a copy to Springfield. The Board thanked Cheri Freeh for her presentation of the audit report and Sandy Everitt, Treasurer, for her handling of the financial records.

Planning Matters

1. Dushant Sharma Land Development (service station located on 5+ acre tract on Route 212/Old Bethlehem Road in the VC Zoning District.) The Board moved to deny this plan (to expand the use to provide a convenience store) unless an extension was provided by the applicant before August 11, 2010. The applicant's engineer provided an extension on August 18 (after the current extension had expired). The applicant requested that the plan denial be rescinded and the extension until November 10, 2010, be accepted. Karen Bedics **moved** to rescind the denial and that the late extension be accepted. Jim Brownlow **seconded**. DEP advised that Mr. Sharma is moving forward with remediation of the problems on this property. Rich Schilling requested that Cowan Associates talk with Mr. Sharma about having someone cut down the weeds growing on this property. Jim Brownlow called for the question. The motion **passed** unanimously.

2. Herman Subdivision (proposed 4-lot subdivision located on Hottle Road in the Agricultural District) - The original version of this plan received preliminary/final approval by the Board on October 27, 2009. Subsequently, the applicant submitted a revision of the approved plan dated July 13, 2010. The Planning Commission recommended denial of the revised plan and the waivers requested on the basis of items contained in the July 26, 2010, engineer's review letter and because the Board does not have a meeting prior to September 19, 2010, the date by which action must take place according to the current extension on file. A second revision was received dated August 10, 2010, and the applicant requested to be on the Planning Commission meeting agenda on September 1. Robert Newton, P.E., of Urwiler & Walter, attempted to present the August 10 revision to the Board on behalf of the applicant James Herman, who was also present. He briefly discussed what the Planning Commission's objections were to the July 13 revised plan that the applicant has now addressed in the August 10 revision. After discussion regarding township procedures for plan review, the Board accepted the applicant's extension until September 30, 2010, but referred the applicant back to the Planning Commission to permit them to review the August 10, 2010, revised plan. Mr. Herman provided a letter dated August 24, 2010, outlining action to this point on his plan(s).

3. Bouloux Sewage Planning Module approval - Bob Wynn indicated that this planning module is ready for approval and it contains a resolution that needs to be approved. The Supervisors were notified via email that this planning module was available at the Township Building for their review prior to this meeting. After a brief review/discussion, Barbara Lindtner **moved** to approve the Bouloux planning module resolution. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. An Operation & Management Plan, approved prior to this meeting, will be sent to DEP along with the planning module.

Old Business

1. Approval of Draft Newsletter - The Board approved the draft of the Fall 2010 newsletter, with the understanding that the layout will be changed but not the content. with the exception of deleting one of the three fire department articles. The article being removed will be reproduced and made available to residents at the Township booth on Community Day. After discussion, the Board approved the newsletter content.

New Business

1. Acceptance of Resignation of Charles Rodenbach, Road Department - Charlie is resigning to go into his own business effective August 18, 2010. Barbara Lindtner moved to accept Charlie Rodenbach's resignation and the Board requested that a letter of appreciation for his work be sent. Karen Bedics **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

2. Authorization to Hire a Part-Time Employee for CDBG Project – Rich Schilling explained that this project requires someone skilled in tile installation and requested Board approval to hire a temporary, part-time employee at a pay rate not to exceed \$25/hour for this specific project. Karen Bedics **moved** that Rich Schilling be authorized to hire a temporary, part-time employee to complete the tile work involved in the CDBG handicap accessible bathroom at an hourly rate not to exceed \$25. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

3. Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance Draft - Because there may be additional editorial changes by the Planning Commission, Bob Wynn copied the document so that the Board could begin to review it. After all editorial changes have been made, the Planning Commission will recommend that the SALDO be forward to Bucks County Planning Commission for review. This will be placed on the second September meeting for Board discussion. The current SALDO was revised in 1997, so this document is a major revision.

Public Comment

Steve Doncevic suggested that the Board consider expressing a consensus statement to Robert Casey, who has stated that he wants drilling to be done properly, encouraging Mr. Casey to follow that course. Karen Bedics offered to get some talking points and forward them to Steve Doncevic to review for feedback. She will provide those points to the Board prior to the next Board meeting for possible inclusion in a letter from the township.

Supervisors Comments

On behalf of UBREMS, **Karen Bedics** invited the supervisors to visit the Revere station to enable the Board to understand better how UBREMS functions. Rich Schilling will coordinate a date that will work for the Board to visit the site. Karen noted that the next UBREMS meeting is September 20. She updated the Board on activities of the

AdHoc Committee formed to look at job creation. She notified the Board that Mrs. Glansman asked to be added to the AdHoc Committee. They are reviewing parking options in the Pleasant Valley and Springtown areas. There was concern expressed that the zoning regulations discourage smaller businesses, which they plan to review in the future. Karen asked that a thank you letter from Palisades Middle School Students for Rob Zisko be added to the next agenda.

Volker Oakey asked whether a study exists comparing the cost (on a per capita basis) of governments of different density areas. Terry Clemons suggested that years ago, Maryland had county level governments, and perhaps they have statistics. Volker is concerned that if the township voices opposition to county government, that somewhere there may be statistics that support the two bills currently proposed of which the township is not aware. Jim Brownlow suggested we ask Paul Clymer if such information is available. Rich Schilling will email Paul Clymer to see if such information is available. Sandy Everitt referred Volker Oakey to contact David Sanko, President of PSATS, using the contact information available on the Township's home page where his press release now appears.

Barbara Lindtner asked several questions on the year-to-date budget.

Jim Brownlow asked the Board to re-establish the regular meeting schedule for the rest of 2010. Barbara Lindtner **moved** to make the meeting on the second Tuesdays of September through December a work session and continue to make the fourth Tuesday meeting the regular meeting where action will normally be taken. Volker Oakey **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously. Action can be taken on items discussed at the work sessions, as long as the item was on the agenda. If the item is not on the agenda, the unanimous approval of supervisors present is required to adopt such items. Unless specifically needed, the township engineer and the solicitor will not attend the meetings on the second Tuesday of the month, but will attend the fourth Tuesday meetings.

Adjournment

At 9:30 p.m., Jim Brownlow **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Barbara Lindtner **seconded**; the motion **passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Everitt
Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting: September 14, 2010
Approved: September 14, 2010