

Springfield Township, Bucks County
Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

January 23, 2018

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

Also present: Scott MacNair (solicitor), Michael Brown (Township Manager), Debra Godshall (Treasurer) and Mike McDonald (police chief). Chairperson Long called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m and announced the Board met in executive session prior to the meeting for personnel matters.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Ms. Bedics, seconded by Mr. Nilsen, to approve the January 2, 2018 reorganization meeting minutes. In favor—Bedics, Long, Nilsen, Matzura. Abstain—Zisko (absent). Motion carries.

Motion by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Matzura, to approve the January 2, 2018 regular meeting minutes. In favor—Bedics, Long, Nilsen, Matzura. Abstain—Zisko (absent). Motion carries.

Bills (December 8, 2017-January 19, 2018)

General Fund	\$50,579.92	Open Space Fund	\$875.00
Capital Reserve Fund	\$13,927.97	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$16984.68
Escrows	\$6,647.03	Street Light Fund	\$559.47

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

Reports

Road hours (Nov 23, 2017-January 18, 2018):

Road Maintenance	154Hours	Equipment Maintenance	336 hours
Building Maintenance	12 Hours	Sign Maintenance	24 hours
Winter Maintenance	331 Hours	Park Maintenance	2 hours
Admin	10 Hours		

Police Department—Chief McDonald reported 238 calls for service in August, 18 handled by PSP.

Treasurer Fund Balances as of January 19, 2018:

General Fund	\$557,049.74	Liquid Fuels	\$63,338.28
Open Space	\$702,757.63	Street Light	\$2,286.44
Escrow	\$423,453.51	Special Fees	\$22,649.44
Capital Reserve	\$336,717.86	Sewer Maint Escrow	\$84,180.11

Citizen Comment—Bob Bell, School Road, encouraged the board not to rely on technology as a substitute for integrity.

Helene Bell, School Road, asked the Board why the survey had randomized section sequences and answers. Ms. Bedics and Mr. Long explained it was designed to mitigate primacy bias from the respondent.

David Bretz, Peppermint Road, asked the Board to reconsider the park's dual usage as a public park and active agricultural use, or at least to ban chemical fertilizer and herbicides on park land. Mr. Bretz's dog developed lymphoma, which he said has a high degree of correlation to the 2,4-D herbicide and he walked his dogs in the park frequently. The Board agreed to consider the question at a future meeting.

Business

Officer Arnold Melton—The Board acknowledged Officer Melton's completion of his probationary period and status as a non-probationary police officer.

Disposition of excess police equipment—Motion by Dave Long, seconded by Rob Zisko, to authorize the Township staff to dispose of the Trafcon traffic trailer, the non-recording speed board and the 2012 Chevy Tahoe via online auction. In favor—Long, Nilsen, Zisko. Opposed—Bedics, Matzura. Motion carries.

Motion by Karen Bedics, seconded by Jim Nilsen, to dispose of 1995 International Dump Truck, 2001 Rhino Boom Mower and 11' Gledhill snowplow via online auction. All in favor—Motion carries.

Labor accountability policy—The Board continued the discussion of whether to implement digital time tracking and to what level. A majority of the Board was not opposed to simple time tracking linked to the accounting system and payroll system, but believed it was not completely necessary either. A majority of the Board did not want to attempt detailed task tracking via smartphone apps. A majority of the Board was against creating a ride along program to allow citizens to observe police operations first hand, citing liability and safety concerns. The Board settled on having the Chief add time/task splits to his monthly report. The Chief will provide a recommendation for the categories and process at the next meeting.

Social Media and Communications policy (draft 4, 1/19/2018)—Mike Brown presented the Board with of the policy for comment.

- Remove line 91, pertaining to business transactions via the web as a goal.
- Employees aren't required to post work photos, videos or text on the Township's social media
- Granted the ability for ABC's to appoint a representative to have editor's rights on the Township's Facebook page
- Included lost pets as a matter not for inclusion on the Township's website or social media
- Prohibited paid advertising on the Township's media platforms
- Reserved the newsletter email database for the newsletter or emergencies only
- Limited links on Township platforms
- Affirmed that volunteers who post violent or dehumanizing material on personal social media accounts are subject to removal from the Township's service
- Employees will vote whether to include personalizing information such as photos and work biographies

Mike Brown will make revisions before a final vote.

Nominating business items for the agenda—The Board affirmed its policy of having Supervisors raise topics during Supervisor comment periods for inclusion on future agendas. It affirmed its policy of allowing non-agenda business topics to proceed during a meeting only if there was unanimous consent by all 5 supervisors.

Liaison assignments—The Board expressed its commitment to have Board members be liaisons to different Authorities, Boards and Commissions. Jim Nilsen offered to become liaison to the Park and Rec Board and Environmental Advisory Council. Rob Zisko offered to be liaison to the Historical Commission and to serve on an ad-hoc committee for Buildings and Grounds.

PALTA Leadership Award—Motion by Rob Zisko, seconded by Karen Bedics, to endorse the Township’s application for PALTA’s Government Leadership Award in Land Conservation. All in favor. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Brown
Township Manager

Approved: