

Springfield Township, Bucks County
Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

March 12, 2019

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

Also present: Michael Brown (Township Manager), Debra Godshall (Treasurer) and Mike McDonald (police chief). Chairperson Long called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Bedics asked to add a line that she requested residents to keep watch for violations of Springtown Hill Road one way signs.

Motion by Mr. Zisko, seconded by Mr. Nilsen, to approve the February 26 2019 minutes as amended. All in favor. Motion carries.

Business

Septic Management enforcement—Mr. Brown reported approximately 500 properties were non-compliant with the initial deadline and about 160 have become non-compliant over the intervening 14 months. The Board settled on two implementation policies.

- Those who are currently non-compliant will receive a final warning in the form of a Notice of Violation to be consistent with the announcement sent in January 2015. After 60 days any remaining non-compliant properties are eligible for a citation without further notice.
- Beginning April 1st, the Township will send “pending expiration/non-compliance” reminders 60 days in advance of the expiration of the permit. Properties which become non-compliant after getting the reminder are eligible for citation without further notice.

Gary Atherholt, Route 212, said he pumped his tank every 11 years.

Deb Yerger, Richlandtown Pike, suggested putting the names of non-compliant owners on the Township’s website.

Bruce Whitesell, Route 212, said most attention should be given to failing systems.

Pete Jones, Salem Road, suggested sending reminders with tax bills.

Septic Management program modifications—The Board discussed if it should revise the pumping requirements. The current 3 year interval is completely consistent with DEP requirements but there are small households that wish to extend the interval to more closely reflect actual use. Mr. Brown informed the Board that such modifications could be possible, but they require DEP endorsement and have to be based on something more than just a blanket change. The Board could opt for technical markers, like the level of septic sludge, or it could possibly gather household census data to justify longer time intervals. The Board decided to explore whether it could increase time intervals if the Township gathered census data, but the program would be voluntary. If a property owner didn’t opt into the alternative, the interval would remain 3 years.

Truck restrictions on Richlandtown Pike—The Board discussed at length whether it should adopt policies to reduce the amount of truck traffic on Richlandtown Pike. The biggest drawback to doing so is it doesn’t guarantee the traffic won’t simply shift into the middle of the Township along Route 212. Richland Township sent an email stating it could find no engineering based evidence for a restrictive ordinance and would not be taking up any further discussion. The Board was unwilling to ask PennDot to study the road for the purpose of restricting trucks, but agreed the structural composition was an issue where the ditches are undercutting the pavement.

Motion by Karen Bedics, seconded by Jim Nilsen, to request PennDot perform a study on the structural soundness of Richlandtown Pike and Route 212. All in favor. Motion carries.

2019 Community Day—Mr. Nilsen informed the Board he had sufficient volunteers to put on the event and offered to lead it.

Motion by Dave Long, seconded by Rob Zisko, to appropriate \$5,000 towards Community Day and to hold it on the 4th Saturday in September. All in favor. Motion carries.

Website overhaul—The Board reviewed the website overhaul proposals from Evco, EvoGov, Civic Plus and 110 Front. It eliminated Evco from consideration and asked for clarification on 110 Front's proposal for ongoing site maintenance and whether the new website would be mobile device friendly.

Chapter 154.514, Historic Resources—The Board reviewed the regulatory framework for managing historic resources and concluded it was unwilling to require property owners to submit to extra permit review process or permit approval criteria for historic structures. The Board is willing to keep the regulations that provide adaptive reuse opportunities for historic resources. Dave Long volunteered to draft an ordinance amendment.

Soil Conservation plans—Motion by Dave Long, seconded by Karen Bedics, to authorize the Township to hire a consultant to create soil conservation plans for OSC Case #2019-001 and 2019-002 in an amount not to exceed \$2000 per plan. All in favor. Motion carries.

Supervisor comments: Ms. Bedics asked to expedite the RFQ for landscape maintenance around the building.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Brown
Township Manager