

Springfield Township, Bucks County
Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

May 22, 2018

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

Also present: Michael Brown (Township Manager), Debra Godshall (Treasurer), Mike McDonald (police chief) and Scott MacNair (Solicitor).

Mr. Long called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and announced the Board met in executive session prior to the meeting to discuss a bid limit on a publicly auctioned item.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Bedics suggested the minutes reflect Supervisor Nilsen’s arrival at 8:45. Mr. Long noted the motion approving park benches was actually a motion to support Lower Saucon Township’s grant application for a dog park. Motion by Mr. Zisko, seconded by Mr. Nilsen, to approve the May 8, 2018 meeting minutes with those corrections. All in favor. Motion carries.

Bills (March 24-May 15, 2018)

General Fund	\$99,187.12	Open Space Fund	\$23,292.65
Capital Reserve Fund	\$5088.50	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$5520.00
Escrows	\$5858.76	Street Light Fund	\$1,128.34

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

Reports

Road hours (March 15-May 8, 2018):

Road Maintenance	507 Hours	Equipment Maintenance	262 hours
Building Maintenance	24 Hours	Sign Maintenance	18 hours
Winter Maintenance	277 Hours	Park Maintenance	23 hours
Admin	38 Hours		

Police Department—Chief McDonald reported 520 calls for service in April and May, 59 handled by PSP.

Treasurer Fund Balances as of May 22, 2018:

General Fund	\$1,306,450.53	Liquid Fuels	\$354,190.63
Open Space	\$833,704.25	Street Light	\$4,959.84
Escrow	\$529,782.36	Special Fees	\$22,722.71
Capital Reserve	\$289,119.88	Sewer Maint Escrow	\$84,197.99

Public Comment

Steve Doncevic, Pleasant View Road, complained about the condition of State Road.

Lorna Yearwood, Woodbyne Drive, asked the Board to create an ad hoc committee to manage Peppermint Park.

Frank Hollenbach, Rocky Valley Road, informed the Board the average daily use of Peppermint Park is potentially much higher than 17 people/day if only ½ of the visitors are repeat users.

Business

Sealcoat and Paving Contracts—Mr. Zisko encouraged the Board to consider budgeting for more paving. Motion by Rob Zisko, seconded by Karen Bedics, to award the asphalt paving contract to Bracalente Construction in the amount of \$43,485.60, and the sealcoat contract to Asphalt Maintenance Solutions in an amount not to exceed \$192,000. All in favor. Motion carries.

Bidding on Truck #5 replacement—Motion by Dave Long, seconded by Rob Zisko, to authorize the Township Manager to place electronic bids on Muncibid for a 2003 GMC Dump Truck being sold by Ruscombmanor Township in an amount determined by the Board previously. All in favor. Motion carries.

Legal Services for cable franchise renewal with Service Electric—Mr. Brown informed the Board there was only one response to the RFP because this is a specialized legal field and most of the other municipalities in Bucks County use the same firm.

Motion by Karen Bedics, seconded by Jim Nilsen, to accept the proposal from Cohen Law Group in the amount of \$7,900 and add a franchise fee audit at a cost of \$2,900. All in favor. Motion carries.

Adelphia Gateway Environmental Assessment Comments—The Township has the opportunity to file comments on the project with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to shape the scope of Adelphia's Environmental Assessment. Comments are due by June 1st. The Board opted not to request the Assessment be upgraded to an Environmental Impact Statement. The Board opted not to have the Solicitor research the easement language on the properties the pipeline crosses. The Board's primary issue of concern was ensuring the pipeline was physically capable of handling the proposed use, as the owner intends to increase the gas pressure piped through it. The Board also said it would look unfavorably upon any suggestion the owner could rely on volunteer or land owner solutions to vegetation management in the pipeline right-of-way.

The project does not propose any new construction in Springfield Township.

Motion by Karen Bedics, seconded by Jim Nilsen, to authorize the Township Solicitor to draft a response to the FERC request for comments capturing the points above. In favor—Bedics, Long, Matzura, Nilsen.

Opposed—Zisko. Motion carries.

Staffing level—The Board considered various options for skill/educational requirements for the Township's future needs and opted to stay with an Admin Assistant/Permits Coordinator as a full-time position. The Board also directed that part time hours during the transition be limited to 8 hours per week during normal working hours.

Trail Maintenance Agreement with Bucks County—The Board reviewed the proposed agreement and directed the following changes :

- Remove line 26-27, suggesting the Agreement doesn't increase the County's current obligations.
- Remove the phrase in line 45 that Township maintenance has to be satisfactory to the County.

- Change line 68 to read, “Any and all maintenance, repairs and replacement costs for the boardwalk are County responsibilities.”
- Remove line 86 & 87 requiring the Township to leaf blow grass clippings after a mowing cycle, and remove weeds by other than mowing.
- Add “Township’s Request” to line 111.
- Delete line 133-134, which absolved the County of Major Repairs to the Trail

Mr. Brown will coordinate with Richland Township to ensure both municipalities’ issues are included in the next iteration.

Public Hearing; Ordinance 190-Park and Land Preservation Board—The Board announced in advance that it would continue the hearing to June 26th given the late hour, but it opened the hearing to receive public comment. Mr. MacNair entered the Board Exhibits and the following citizens made comments:

- Frank Hollenbach, Rocky Valley Road, urged the Board to use the exact ballot question language from the EIT referendum in 2000 instead of summarizing. He encouraged Section 4B to clarify what certification was needed for annual budget preparation.
- Lorna Yearwood, Woodbyne Drive, suggested changing the name of the agency to, “Parks, Recreation and Land Preservation Board,” or “Public Recreation and Land Preservation Board.”

The hearing was continued to June 26th.

Public Meeting Conduct—Dave Long introduced changes he proposed to Resolution 2005-3 to streamline the public meeting process. The changes include posting the agenda on the website the Friday before the meeting, limiting comment on non-agenda items to 30 minutes, limiting individual comments to 3 minutes, and requiring large groups with the same topic to appoint a spokesperson. Mr. Brown will draft a resolution incorporating the changes for the Board’s consideration.

Supervisor comment:

The Board announced TMP 42-20-23 had applied to join the Ag Security Area.

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Brown
Township Manager

Approved: