

Springfield Township, Bucks County
Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

September 25, 2018

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

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

Ms Bedics called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and announced the Board met in executive session prior to the meeting to discuss a real estate and personnel matter

Motion by Jim Nilsen, seconded by Rob Zisko, to approve an appraisal report for OSC case #2018-003. All in favor. Motion carries.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Zisko, seconded by Mr. Matzura, to approve the September 11, 2018 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carries.

Bills (August 24-September 20, 2018)

General Fund	\$194,122.78	Open Space Fund	\$225.00
Capital Reserve Fund	\$0	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$167,174.57
Escrows	\$3,705.47	Street Light Fund	\$517.90

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

Reports

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

Road Maintenance	448 Hours	Equipment Maintenance	26 hours
Building Maintenance	9 Hours	Sign Maintenance	4 hours
Winter Maintenance	0 Hours	Park Maintenance	6 hours
Admin	24 Hours	Roadside Mowing	26 hours

Police Department—Chief McDonald reported 228 calls for service in August, 27 handled by PSP.

Treasurer Fund Balances as of September 25, 2018:

General Fund	\$1,176,119.36	Liquid Fuels	\$161,058.68
Open Space	\$879,772.84	Street Light	\$4,225.42
Escrow	\$528,388.34	Special Fees	\$316.68
Capital Reserve	\$229,533.82	Sewer Maint Escrow	\$84,367.81

Business

Certify 2019 MMO's—Motion by Rob Zisko, seconded by Karen Bedics, to certify the nonuniformed pension plan MMO in the amount of \$77,011 and the uniformed pension plan MMO in the amount of \$126,625, and to authorize the release of \$40,000 budgeted for additional pension payments . All in favor. Motion carries.

Spotted Lantern Fly policy—The Board discussed several ideas about what role the Township should play in curbing the Spotted Lantern Fly. The Board concluded it didn't have enough accurate information and tasked the EAC with examining a spectrum of potential actions and report back.

EAC comments on Adelphia Gateway application—Arianne Elinich informed the Board that the EAC wished to express ongoing concern about Adelphia's acquisition of the pipeline to transport natural gas. Mr. Brown asked the Board to make clear to the staff if the Township's intervenor role was going to change from passively monitoring the application.

Motion by Karen Bedics to authorize the Solicitor to review a box of documents from when the pipeline was built by Interstate in the 1970's. There was no second. Motion fails.

Resolution 2018-10; Fee schedule—Mr. Brown pointed out an error on page 8 regarding stormwater permit fees. The permits are reviewed by the Township Engineer and not the Township Solicitor.

Motion by Rob Zisko, seconded by Jim Nilsen to adopt Resolution 2018-10 restating the Township fee schedule. In favor—Bedics, Nilsen, Zisko. Opposed—Matzura. Motion carries.

FY2019 revenue estimates—Mr. Brown took the Board through the various revenue streams and expected performance for 2018. FY2018 should end about \$75,000 over budget. He suggested the FY2019 revenue should be budgeted about 1.6% lower than 2018 to account for likely lower Real Estate Transfer Tax revenue and lower insurance rebates.

	2019 Estimate	\$ change	% change
RET	\$978,000	(\$6,000)	(3.1)
RTT	\$126,000	(\$12,300)	(17.7)
EIT	\$780,000	\$17,000	2.2
LST	\$46,000	\$1,600	3.6
CFF	\$60,000	\$2,000	3.4
Fines	\$12,000	\$9,500	2.6
Ins Rebates	\$65,000	\$19,300	(22.9)
Pension Aid	\$73,000	\$2,700	3.8
Interest	\$6,000	0	0
PURTA	\$2,500	0	0
Recycle	\$10,000	0	0
Permits	\$58,000	0	0
Charges	\$9,000	0	0
Comm Dav			
Misc	\$60,000	0	0
Total	\$2,285,500	(\$37,550)	(1.6)

Motion by Rob Zisko, seconded by Karen Bedics, to endorse the revenue estimate for 2019 at \$2,285,550. All in favor. Motion carries.

Richlandtown Pike truck restriction—The Board debated whether or not to request PennDot perform a formal study to determine whether truck restrictions should be imposed on Richlandtown Pike. PennDot’s informal study indicated it might be warranted, but that the restriction would extend from Route 212 in Richlandtown Borough to Route 412 in Lower Saucon Township. Chief McDonald gave a presentation on the various issues about signage on feeder roads, enforcement capability and the potential to push the traffic to Route 412/212.

The Board opted to not request the formal study. Ms. Bedics will approach Richland Township to request that new land development plans direct traffic westward towards Route 309. Chief McDonald will revise his budget request to provide more traffic details targeting Richlandtown Pike.

Server replacement—Motion by Mr. Zisko, seconded by Mr. Nilsen, to authorize server replacement immediately and allocate up to \$16,00 for the project to include a 5 year warranty per the quote from SystemsNet. All in favor. Motion carries.

ClearGov financial reporting website—Mr. Brown explained that the vendor was offering a substantial discount if the service was contracted by September 30th. The contract has an exit provision such that if the Board doesn’t budget for it for 2019 the Township can withdraw.

Motion Rob Zisko, seconded by Karen Bedics, to approve the ClearGov provisional quote in the amount of \$2125, under the condition that if the service is not funded in the 2019 budget the agreement is revoked with no cost to the Township. In favor—Bedics, Nilsen, Zisko. Opposed—Matzura.

Public comment: Steve Doncevic opined that the Board was making a mistake not to review the pipeline documents from the original construction.

Supervisor comment: All Supervisors thanked Jim Nilsen and Jim Hopkins for putting on a good event at the Community Day on September 22nd.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Brown
Township Manager

Approved:

Addendum Note

Regarding: Request for Solicitor to review Interstate Pipeline documents

September 25th, 2018

Springfield Township Board of Supervisors Meeting

At our Board meeting on Tuesday, September 25th, 2018, I made a motion for my fellow Board members to authorize our Solicitor's office to review files of the Interstate Pipeline documents that I found stored downstairs in the township building since the 1970's.

My reasons for the request were as follows:

After reading an eight page Intervenor letter within the file, I became aware that The Interstate Pipeline project was problematic and controversial from its inception in the early 1970's.

Springfield Township Board of Supervisors and Bucks County Planning Commission (along with others) perceived enough inaccuracies and deficiencies in the initial plans to file as Intervenors.

The file contents seemed to indicate that permits and documents for the Interstate Pipeline project were "rubber stamped", and insufficiently reviewed along with lacking some inspections and oversight. *However, I am not a litigator and wished this to be verified.*

I asked my fellow Board members to have our Solicitor review these archived files- since as an elected Board -we have a responsibility for the health, safety and welfare of Springfield Township residents and a qualified legal review would either confirm or refute initial indications.

At our meeting, when I made a motion to have our solicitor review the files -the three other Board members who were present simply sat there mute, and not one would second my motion to even take a vote on my motion.

I strongly feel that by their inaction and disregard, this Board has missed an opportunity to make sure that in the future, when this Pipeline changes owners, things would be done properly, along with rules, oversight and regulations being followed. If indeed, there *had been* deficiencies in the initial project, our township could have been a part of trying to remedy them.

My fellow Board members chose otherwise.

I would like this typed statement to be part of public record and included in the evening's minutes.

Respectfully,
Karen M. Bedics
Board Member