

Springfield Township, Bucks County  
**Board of Supervisors**

**MINUTES**

**September 24, 2019**

**Supervisors Present:** Karen Bedics, Dave 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). Chairman Long called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m and announced the Board met in executive session prior to the meeting on a personnel matter.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Ms. Bedics, to approve the September 10, 2019 regular meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Bills (Aug 22-Sep 18, 2019)**

General Fund	\$113,961.60	Open Space Fund	\$124.00
Capital Reserve Fund	\$60,789.15	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$131,279.37
Escrows	\$1,740.88	Street Light Fund	\$523.69

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

**Reports**

Road hours Aug 14-Sep 11, 2019:

Road Maintenance	251 Hours	Equipment Maintenance	133 hours
Building Maintenance	42 Hours	Sign Maintenance	4 hours
Roadside Mowing	107 hours	Park Maintenance	8 hours
Admin	19 Hours		

Police Department—Chief McDonald reported 205 calls for service in August, 30 handled by PSP.

Treasurer Fund Balances as of August 21, 2019:

General Fund	\$1,214,845.64	Liquid Fuels	\$303,964.48
Open Space	\$973,060.93	Street Light	\$3,785.72
Escrow	\$501,376.98	Special Fees	\$384.87
Capital Reserve	\$421,339.31	Sewer Maint Escrow	\$84,828.65

**Public Comment**

Helene Bell, School Road, expressed concern about trash trucks headquartered on Grouse Lane causing damage to the roads. She also asked the Township to investigate the condition of a property on Maple Road.

Amy McCallister, Richland Township Fire & Rescue Relief Association, distributed its response to the recent Auditor General's report on the Association's management of Relief Funds.

## Business

**E27 Firearms Target Ranges and accessory residential target shooting**—The Board discussed the “reserved” provision in the Township’s zoning ordinance for firearms target ranges and the proposal from the Planning Commission (version 5, dated 11/12/2018) for handling future applications for said use. Mr. Long explained that as currently written, an application to establish a firearms target range would default to a conditional use application for land within the VC, HC and PI zoning districts. The new proposal would allow outdoor E27 uses as conditional uses in the PI, RR and AD districts and indoor E27 uses in any district. The Board endorsed the following changes from the Planning Commission’s proposal:

- Revise the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence in the definition to read, “A firearms target range does not encompass incidental target practice by a property owner or invited guests on his or her private property.”
- Increase the time for an independent assessment for lead contamination of the ground and water at the range from 2 to 5 years.
- Correct the Section reference for noise standards from 507 to 508.
- Decrease the minimum lot size from 50 acres to 25 acres.
- Specify that indoor E27 ranges are allowed in any zoning district upon grant of conditional use.

The following people made comment:

Paul Belkey—allow outdoor ranges to operate from dusk to dawn.

Bob Bell—don’t spend money to adopt an ordinance, use criminal laws, wants to allow the Bucks County SWAT team to practice shooting on his property.

Volker Oakey—likes to shoot with family and friends.

Pat McGinnis—allow E27 uses to permit shooting automatic weapons if part of a demonstration.

Pat Armstrong, Esq (representing Jay Ruhle)—would like to see a draft of the proposed ordinance prior to the next public discussion.

The Board then discussed residential accessory shooting. Mr. Long explained that under the current ordinance a landowner shooting on his or her own property was allowed and was also exempt from the noise standards in Section 508. The Board declined to limit the number of invited guests, days of the week or lot size where the activity is an accessory use. The Board opted to extend the exemption from noise standards to invited guests in addition to the property owner. The Board opted to limit this type of shooting to 7:00 am to dusk.

The following people made comment:

Paul Belkey—the Township should restrict shooting on weekends.

Bob Bell—wants to allow the Bucks County SWAT team to practice shoot on his property.

Pat McGinness—the Township should ban fireworks 3 days after Independence Day.

Wilson Hallman—Ridge and Valley Gun Club permits shooting at night at their facility.

Paul Neumayer—wants to sight in his telescopic sight at night.

Calvin Huntzinger—someone may mistake hunting coyotes and raccoons at night for target shooting.

Arlene Rumbold—write the regulations simply and understandably.

The Solicitor will draft the next iteration of the ordinance for the Board’s authorization to advertise at a future meeting.

**FY2020 revenue estimates**—Mike Brown reviewed the FY2019 revenue performance and predicted the Township would take in \$39,000 more than budgeted. He forecasted the following amounts for FY2020 (without a change in real estate tax rates):

- Real Estate Transfer--\$144,000
- Earned Income--\$825,000

- Local Services--\$48,500
- Cable Franchise Fee/Licenses--\$66,200
- Fines--\$13,000
- Intergovernmental--\$146,000
- Interest earned--\$8,000
- Fees for Service--\$60,000
- Insurance rebates--\$80,000
- Total of \$2,373,700 or 2.4% over 2019 performance

The Board directed that LST be reduced by \$2,500 and otherwise endorsed the forecast for GF revenue.

The Board then discussed the exact dollar amount of the Township's fund balance that should be considered fenced as a result of the Environmental Advisory Council's activities. In October 2016 the Board endorsed allowing the EAC to spend any revenue left over after expenses on lawful activities the EAC wanted to carry out. At the time, the estimate of that amount was \$4,000. The EAC asked the Board to consider all activity from 2007 when it started the tire recycling events. As of the end of 2018 that balance would work out to \$9,535.

Motion by Dave Long, seconded by Karen Bedics, to confirm that \$9535 of the Township's Fund Balance at the end of 2018 is as a result of the EAC donation activities, and in accordance with the policy of October 25, 2016 the EAC may spend that amount on lawful activities as allowed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Township Code. All in favor. Motion carries.

Mr. Zisko issued a reminder that expenditures over \$1000 still had to be cleared by the Board on a case-by-case basis, but the EAC could budget their activities in confidence the Board would recognize the use of the funds.

**Pension MMO's**—Motion by Dave Long, seconded by Jim Nilsen, to establish the 2020 Pension MMO's as follows: Police--\$127,448, Non-Uniformed Defined Benefit--\$76,980, Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution--\$7,004. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Replacement Mower**—Motion by Karen Bedics, seconded by Rob Zisko, to accept the quote from Trumbauersville Lawn and Garden in the amount of \$10,100.30 for a new Exmark mower. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Disposal of Township Equipment**—The Board discussed the Roadmaster's memo listing 4 pieces of equipment that could be disposed of via auction. The equipment is a 1995 International dump truck, a John Deere Model 301 tractor, a Gledhill 10 foot snowplow and a 2004 Ford Expedition.

Motion by Rob Zisko, seconded by Karen Bedics, to auction items #1-3 of the Roadmaster's equipment disposal memo dated September 20, 2019, and donate item #4 to the Springtown Volunteer Fire Company for use as crash extraction practice and thereafter junked. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Short Term Rental license ordinance**—The Board continued discussing a new Chapter 114 for addition to the Township Code, creating a licensing scheme for those property owners who want to operate short term rentals such as found on popular travel apps like AirBnB and TentRR. The Board reviewed the Planning Commission's recommendation, version 8/8/2019.

The Planning Commission offered an addendum to regulate outdoor rental (campers/tents) by limiting the area to 2500 square feet within the building setback line as defined in the district, and to not more than 15 people, and to either 1 RV plus 1 tent or 3 tents.

The Board directed the following changes:

- Lower the age to hold a STR license from 21 to 18.

- Endorse the addendum changes for square footage and number of people, but reject the proposal for limiting numbers/types of sleeping units.
- The Solicitor explained that if the Board wanted to keep this activity as an accessory use it could do so by limiting it to the primary residence of the licensee and by placing restrictions on other aspects of the use to keep it accessory to the primary use. If the Board wanted to have no restrictions on licensee residency or other factors it would be creating a de facto principle use that should be enumerated in the zoning ordinance and assigned to specific zoning districts.
- The Board discussed various caps on the number of days to allow rental and tentatively agreed on 300, subject to continued discussion about principle vs accessory use designation.

The Board will continue the discussion at its next meeting.

The following people made comment:

Deb Yerger—will want to register a principle use STR as a non-conformity.

Dawn Nicholson, Bobb Carson—The PC deliberately wanted to keep this activity as an accessory use and not a principle use. The primary residence requirement and cap on number of days was a critical part of that. The PC's recommendation of 60 days could be modified upward, but 300 days is too close to a principle use.

**Supervisor comments:** Mr. Nilsen reminded everyone that Community Day was September 28th.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Brown  
Township Manager