

**Board of Supervisors**

**MINUTES**

**January 26, 2021**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Supervisors Present:** Jim Nilsen, Tony Matzura, Raymond Kade and Bill Ryker.

**Also present:** Jason Wager (Township Manager), Debra Godshall (Treasurer) and Scott MacNair, Esq. (Township Solicitor).

Mr. Nilsen called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board met in an Executive session to discuss Open Space matters and potential litigation.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Ryker and carried unanimously approving the November 10, November 24, December 8, December 22, 2020 and January 4, 2021 minutes as presented.

**Bills**

(December 18, 2020 – January 21, 2021)

General Fund	\$24,250.04	Open Space Fund	\$2,031.59
Capital Reserve Fund	\$0.00	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$1,165.44
Escrows	\$23,727.44	Street Light Fund	\$441.49

Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Matzura and unanimously carried approving payment of bills from December 18, 2020 through January 21, 2021.

**Reports**

**Road Department** – The Board reviewed the Road Department report as presented.

Road hours November 19, 2020 – January 20, 2021

Road Maintenance	404 hours	Equipment Maintenance	313 hours
Building Maintenance	83 hours	Sign Maintenance	74 hours
Roadside Mowing	0 hours	Park Maintenance	18 hours
Admin	50 Hours	Winter Maintenance	282 hours

**Police Department** – The Board reviewed the October Police report as presented. Chief McDonald reported 169 calls for service with 40 handled by PSP and 12 motor vehicle crashes. He stated they are still working on uniforms and are trying US Armor and have one as a trial. He noted the department has ordered 7 more to provide 2 each for each officer. Chief discussed truck #2, which hit a deer and the damage was minimized by the push bar on the truck. We received the check from our insurance carrier and Koch 33 Auto has been notified of the need to repair. Chief stated “Shop with a Cop” was a huge success again, the process was as low risk as it could get and still delivered the same fundamentally essential program for the kids. Palisade’s school district has developed a District Threat Assessment Team. They are looking for guidance from councilors, administrators, mental health professionals and law enforcement. We will be meeting monthly and then quartile after this is up and running.

**Treasurer** – The Board reviewed the treasurer report and financials as presented.

Fund Balances as of December 31, 2020

General Fund	\$2,479,302	Liquid Fuels	\$421,901
Open Space	\$892,724	Street Light	\$2,717
Escrow	\$539,312	Special Fees	\$391
Capital Reserve	\$395,573	Sewer Maint Escrow	\$85,301

**Manager/Zoning – 2020 recap:** Mr. Wager stated Zoning and Code enforcement processed 482 permits, with 271 sewage pumping permits and 78 were U&O inspections. We completed the 10 year service franchise agreement with Service Electric, Park and Land Board was able to start doing business now that they have three members, Sealcoating of 4.03 miles of roads, inter-municipal agreement with Bridgeton Township, installation of new fuel tanks, Historic Commission did the Gallows Hill Cemetery bank stabilization, sewage maintenance amendment ordinance, new policies for employee credit cards, resident concern policy, opening of the Upper Bucks Rail Trail, several Township building repairs/upgrades and EAC held a Soil Health information event for landowners/farmers/residents. Mr. Wager gave a Covid-19 update as to the vaccine locations. Would the Board like to be part of the Rail Trail over site Committee? Frank Hollenbach explained to the Board that we do work with Saucon Rail Trail and we should hold off on the over site committee for now. Mr. Wager stated Palisades School District is requesting the flashing light/sign for school zone be replaced at a \$13,200 for the two lights to be replaced, the signs are not working correctly and are very old. Mr. Wager noted he will look into this request further and report back to the Board.

**Solicitor’s report** – Mr. MacNair gave the Board members an updated solicitor’s report of litigation matters and noted the Traditions of America subdivision had their consultant meeting and the plans have been recorded. He stated the Brinley Court subdivision has not been recorded yet, we are working on a tri-party agreement with Upper Saucon for a final security escrow. Mr. MacNair noted the Metzger Subdivision, which the Board approved at its January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Engineer report** – The Board reviewed the Township Engineer report as presented.

**Public Comment**

**Pete Jones**, 1876 Salem Road, stated the Keller Road intersection has an easement when you are looking into drainage issues in that area.

**Business**

**Planning Commission** – Mr. Carson discussed the Comprehensive Plan update, with the Planning Commission advising the Township puts together a Comprehensive Committee with representatives from our ABC committees. Mr. Carson feels we should look into the Bucks County Planning Commission before we hire a consultant. The Board stated it would table this discussion for the Boards next meeting to discuss more in more depth and allow for comments from Mr. Hopkins who is not present at this meeting.

**Goals/Objectives for 2021 & beyond**– Mr. Wager presented a spreadsheet for the Board to add/delete or change/more detail. The Board stated it liked the format and would like to discuss the goals and objects when all Board members are at the meeting.

**Conservation easement (42-022-001) – Resolution 2021-02** – It was noted 66 acres had been in conservation easement with 14 more acres to be recorded at this time. Motion by Mr. Matzura, seconded

by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried adopting **Resolution 2021-02** authorizing the acquisition of a conservation easement on an additional 14 acre portion tax map parcel 42-022-001 in Springfield Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

**2021 BCATO Annual Convention** – Mr. Wager stated the annual BCATO breakfast will be held virtually on February 20, 2021 and registration is \$25 per attendee.

**2020 Financial Recap** – Mr. Wager presented the 2020 budget performance. He noted the completed work that have been done this year including items purchased (10 wheel truck) and work around the Township building.

The Board discussed possibly having more hearing meetings per month for the quarry application. Mr. Wager will reach out to H&K to inquire if they would be interested and let them know this will be discussed at the next hearing.

**Tax Resolution – Resolution 2021-03** – Mr. Wager stated the Street Light Tax had not been updated since 2016. He directed Tim Fulmer, Township Engineer, to update the tax which actually decreased since the previous update. Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously adopting **Resolution 2021-03**, the 2021 Tax Resolution for Springfield Township, which includes a 5% collection fee for delinquent real estate tax from the County.

### ABC Reports

**Planning Commission Annual Report** – The Board reviewed the 2020 Annual memo from the Planning Commission as posted.

**EAC** – Lorna Yearwood stated Scott Motorsports has agreed to host the Purple Air Monitor. Pete Jones, Salem Road, offered his property for a Purple Air Monitor. She discussed the hay lease for Peppermint Park noting the park is being used a lot more since Covid-19. The EAC would like to see the field mowed rather than hayed, the field has become a place for many birds and other wildlife. The EAC requests that the Township only approves non-toxic OMRI approved fertilizers on the field at Peppermint Park. Sue Boyd would like to see the park stay a safe park and would like to know what the purpose of the hay lease is for. Mr. Nilsen explained that it is for invasive plants with pickers, poison ivy and ticks and other invasive plants, which can affect surrounding farm fields.

**Park & Land Preservation Board** – Frank Hollenbach stated that there is an issue about signage on the Rail Trail and he reached out to other Townships. He stated Richland does have a boardwalk in their Township and they have no signage on it, he will do more research. Flags have been placed for two park benches, one from a resident and another for a Board of Supervisor request. He noted plaques for these benches will be made. Mr. Hollenbach stated the memorial garden design at the Township building has been completed and the work should be done this done this spring.

**Historic Commission** – Mr. Wager stated they will be meeting tomorrow night. They are working on software to prepare for the historic resource inventory before they will come to the Board for guidance.

### Public Comment

**Pete Jones**, 1876 Salem Road, stated having the H&K meetings increase each month instead of the one we have now, please consider the fifty plus who attend the meetings and those that have party status that work during the day should be able to weigh in on this decision. He noted for Mr. Hollenbach, the dinosaur footprints were discovered in 1978 and Pete has some paperwork for this if needed.

**Frank Hollenbach**, 600 Rocky Valley Road, would like to thank the Touchstone family for hosting the Purple Air Monitor.

**Supervisor comments**

**Mr. Matzura** stated he would like the information for the Bethlehem Landfill sent to the Board members.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Godshall  
Township Secretary/Treasurer