

**Board of Supervisors**

**MINUTES**

**March 23, 2021**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Supervisors Present:** Jim Nilsen, Tony Matzura, Raymond Kade, Jim Hopkins 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 7:32 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried approving the February 9, 2021 minutes as presented.

Motion by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Matzura and unanimously carried approving the February 16, 2021 minutes as presented.

Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously carried approving the February 23, 2021 minutes as presented.

**Bills**

(February 19, 2021 – March 18, 2021)

General Fund	\$130,383.99	Open Space Fund	\$2,029.18
Capital Reserve Fund	\$0.00	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$18,988.31
Escrows	\$4,864.92	Street Light Fund	\$474.29

Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously carried approving payment of bills from February 19, 2021 through March 18, 2021.

**Reports**

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

Road hours February 17, 2021 – March 17, 2021

Road Maintenance	170 hours	Equipment Maintenance	110 hours
Building Maintenance	109 hours	Sign Maintenance	17 hours
Roadside Mowing	0 hours	Park Maintenance	13 hours
Admin	20 Hours	Winter Maintenance	380 hours

**Police Department** – The Board reviewed the February Police report as presented. Chief McDonald reported 153 calls for service with 20 handled by PSP and 20 motor vehicle crashes. He stated the drug takeback will be April 24, 2021 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Springfield Elementary School. Chief noted Truck #2 has been repaired from the deer accident.

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

Fund Balances as of March 31, 2021

General Fund	\$934,740	Liquid Fuels	\$661,315.60
Open Space	\$866,047	Street Light	\$2,570.37
Escrow	\$530,781	Special Fees	\$391
Capital Reserve	\$395,498	Sewer Maint Escrow	\$85,375

**Manager/Zoning – 2020 recap:** Mr. Wager stated we have done 58 total permits with 11 Certificate of Occupancy permits. He noted Mr. Nilsen, Mr. Matzura and himself had a meeting with Springtown Volunteer Fire Company on March 18. They discussed grant issues, covid relief and monthly reports to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Wager stated Traditions of America blasting letter was posted on Facebook with our engineer, solicitor and himself staying on top of the blasting and other stuff happening on the project. He noted a PSATS email he received that mentioned a relief package for the coronavirus to be shared with municipalities and that we may receive \$497,603. He stated he will keep the Board posted.

Mr. Wager stated we have started the interviews for the new Admin Assistant/Permit Coordinator position. He asked the Board to make the office hours 10:00 am to 4:00 pm so that we can catch up on work, emails and phone message and also to give Ms. Godshall a bonus of \$2,500 due to her picking up a lot of the extra work while we going through the hiring process. Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried authorizing a bonus of \$2,500 to give Ms. Godshall for the extra work she will be doing during the hiring process and training she will do once we hire a new Administrative Assistant/Permit Coordinator and further, authorize the admin office hours of 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday thru Thursday and 10:00 am to 2:00 pm Fridays for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Wager stated he was not able to find any paperwork if we paid to have the Springfield Elementary School sign (blinking lights) installed or any legal obligation for the Township to cover the costs. The School District has been in contact with the Township over replacing the lights. He noted the only paperwork he found was an agreement for the Township to plow the parking lot, which the school district currently handles. The consensus of the Board was to not provide financing for new blinking lights.

**Solicitor’s report** – Mr. MacNair gave the Board members an updated solicitor’s report of litigation matters. He stated there is a hearing to bring 793 Mine Road with land development being requested to bring the property into compliance. He noted the Brinley Court Subdivision has been recorded.

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

**ABC’s Reports/Updates**

**Park & Land Preservation Board** – Frank Hollenbach, PLPB Chair, stated they had an informal meeting with only 2 members at the meeting in March.

**EAC** – Lorna Yearwood, EAC Chair, stated they worked on a revised ordinance detailing the duties of the EAC which will be discussed later during this meeting and they will start with the by-laws update. She thanked the Board for sending a letter the Federal Energy Regulation Commission regarding safety concerns with the Adelphia Gateway Pipeline. Ms. Yearwood noted there are now 3 Purple Air Monitors located to the east of the proposed quarry in place with a fourth possibly being installed in the near future. The EAC’s monitor will be placed to the west at Scott Motorsports within the month. She stated the Township Manager brought up the possibility of the EAC advising on stormwater problems within the Township, which they are interested in doing. Ms. Yearwood stated they are waiting to receive the Bucks

County Model Renewable Energy Ordinance document to review from the Township Manager. She stated the EAC's roadside cleanup will be April 10<sup>th</sup> starting at Springfield Elementary and the Cooks Creek Watershed roadside cleanup scheduled of the same day will start at the Springtown Firehouse. She noted the e-waste and tire recycling events are yet to be determined.

#### **Public Comment**

**Pat McGuiness**, 2796 Bodder Road, stated he supports the police.

#### **Business**

**Shooting Range Ordinance hearing postponement – Ordinance 195** – The consensus of the Board was to postpone this hearing to September 28, 2021.

**EAC Ordinance DRAFT** – The Board discussed the draft EAC ordinance. The Supervisors would like some wording changed, which the EAC can do and send the updated draft to the Township Manager.

**Township building memorial garden quote** – The Board discussed the quote with Jerry Fritz, member of the Park & Land Preservation Board. Mr. Fritz, who owns a garden design business, gave a quote for \$29,556.00 to show the scope of work. Mr. Fritz discussed possibly getting donations; Scott Douglas representing Cooks Creek Watershed stated they will donate monies and time. It was noted the cost of the quote for the memorial garden would surpass the bid threshold. The consensus of the Board was to have Mr. Fritz submit another plan not to exceed \$11,500. Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Matzura and unanimously carried authorizing the work to commence based on the Solicitors determination if Open Space funds can be used and further for the project not to exceed \$11,500.

**Police vehicle purchase request**– The Board reviewed the quote presented by Chief McDonald. Chief has spoken with Koch 33 about the new truck, which would be received in December 2021 if ordered now. He noted the quote included the trade in of the 2016 police vehicle. The Board also discussed lettering which could be determined at a later date. Chief noted the cost of the truck is \$44,418.00 and the Kelly Book trade-in value is \$14,941.00. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker and carried 4-0 with Mr. Matzura abstaining for having relative work for Koch 33 to authorize purchase of a 2021 F-150 black police vehicle with upfit and trade-in of the 2016 F-150 not to exceed \$31,000 from Koch 33.

**Discussion on legislation to pay for State Police coverage** – The Board discussed the article from Bucks County Herald and information provided by Mr. Wager. It was noted this would cost Springfield Township \$43,818.80 or \$8.69/person. Mr. Wager stated legislation for monies to pay Pennsylvania State Police coverage has been out there for decades and that it has gained traction over the last few years. He noted a couple years ago it was \$25.00 a person. The consensus of the Board was write a letter to Governor Wolf on this issue and further tasked Mr. Hopkins with drafting the letter.

**Ratify advertisement of 2021 Road projects** – To advertise for the 2021 projects. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously carried ratifying the authorization to advertise the 2021 annual sealcoat paving project and 2021 bi-annual road paving.

**Cooks Creek Watershed cleanup request** – Mr. Douglas spoke about the road clean up on Saturday, April 10, 2021. He stated they will meet at the Springtown Fire Company, and everything will be outside. He has spoken to Penn Dot and will talk with them again to confirm they have a truck at the Township for trash pickup. The consensus of the Board was to authorize assistance from the Police and staff on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Annual Bucks County Health Department West Nile Program** – Mr. Wager stated this was tabled in February so that the EAC could review the chemicals and concerns. He stated the EAC talked to Bucks County Health Department with some concerns about the chemicals being used. It was noted the EAC is requesting the Health Department contact them before treatment. Mr. Wager is looking to participate in the program as we did in the past years. Motion by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Hopkins and unanimously

carried authorizing participation in the 2021 Bucks County West Nile Mosquito Program with the requests outlined in the EAC's memo from 3/19/2021.

**Winter maintenance by Township on State roads discussion** – Met with the rep at Penn Dot district 6 to discuss taking over maintenance roads on State Roads which came up at our Budget meeting. Winter maintenance starts October 15 and ends April 30 for our two lane roadways. Mr. Matzura would like to see some more information before he makes a discussion. We have logged 10 storms this year, discussion with the Supervisors, Mr. Wager and Mr. Pursell. Mr. Pursell reported that approximately 1 ton of salt is used per mile of road. Based on when it starts snowing, stops snowing, ice storms the roads will get more salt. It depends on the size of the storm. This year the average was about \$50.00 a ton, man power is more difficult. I wouldn't take more than one or two roads; will we find part time help? I would recommend Stony Garden Road; we could turn around on Haycock Run Road which is our Road. State Road has a lot of water runoff and there is heavy ice on that road, we would have to have someone up every day checking ice issues. Route 212 also has ice issues, which would be another every day check. Mr. Pursell will take Mr. Wager out to check the roads after a good rain and then pick another road.

**Bucks County TCC delegate resolution – Resolution 2021-05** – Mr. Wager stated this is a resolution needed to participate with Bucks County TCC which controls our Earned Income Tax. Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously carried adopting **Resolution 2021-05**, appointing Jason Wager as the Primary Voting Delegate and Debra Godshall as the First Alternate Voting Delegate to the Bucks County Tax Collection Committee.

**Re-appointment to the Zoning Hearing Board** – Mr. Wager stated Russell Benner was interested in being reappointed to the Zoning Hearing Board after his term had run out at the end of 2020. Motion by Mr. Nilsen seconded by Mr. Matzura and unanimously carried re-appointing Russell Benner to the Zoning Hearing Board for a term ending in 12/31/2023.

#### **Public Comment**

**Pete Jones**, 1876 Salem Road, would like to thank the police and road crew; there has been some illegal dumping on Salem at least 5 different times.

**Frank Hollenbach**, 600 Rocky Valley Road, Park & Land Preservation Board has looked at some projects that you have asked about and will discuss it at the next meeting.

**Pat McGuiness**, 2796 Bodder Road, I would like to thank the Road Department and the Police Department for doing a great job. In regards to the paid State Police coverage he is not fond of going to just State Police due to the response time and professionalism.

#### **Supervisor comments**

Mr. Hopkins – for future meetings I would like to have on the agenda to meeting with the Police, Road Department and Engineer.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Godshall  
Township Secretary/Treasurer