

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

June 22, 2021

IN-PERSON MEETING - VIRTUAL OPTION AVAILABLE

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

Also present: Jason Wager (Township Manager), Mike McDonald (Police Chief), Rich Pursell (Roadmaster) and Scott MacNair, Esq. (Township Solicitor).

Mr. Nilsen called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

An executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss personnel.

Mr. Wager noted that a candidate has been chosen out of 66 applicants for position of Secretary/Treasurer. The Board will act on this item at the next meeting.

Motion by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously carried, authorizing the Township Manager to proceed with the process for filling the Township Secretary/Treasurer position.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried approving the May 11, 2021 minutes as presented.

Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried approving the May 25, 2021 minutes as presented.

Bills

(May 21, 2021 – June 18, 2021)

General Fund	\$133,234.57	Open Space Fund	\$37,370.75
Capital Reserve Fund	\$488.27	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$5,593.11
Escrows	\$7,085.71	Street Light Fund	\$505.24

Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Matzura and unanimously carried approving payment of bills from May 21, 2021 through June 18, 2021.

Reports

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

Road hours May 20, 2021 – June 16, 2021

Road Maintenance	423 hours	Equipment Maintenance	97 hours
Building Maintenance	24 hours	Sign Maintenance	6 hours
Roadside Mowing	125 hours	Park Maintenance	19 hours
Admin	20 hours	Winter Maintenance	0 hours

Police Department – Chief McDonald gave the report. In May, the Springfield Township Police Department had 159 calls for service, PSP handling 39 calls with 13 motor vehicle crashes, totaling 211 calls or service.

The Cradlepoint router was installed a month ago, and after some technical issues is now working great.

Palisades School District is working with new Emergency Management software called Navigate 360. The software allows emergency personnel to have instant access to pertinent information for tactical and operational assistance during a school emergency. Examples include student and teacher information, events at the school and floor plan layouts.

Springfield hosted a Commercial Vehicle Enforcement detail at the Springtown Volunteer Fire Company. Chief noted that the volume of commercial vehicles traveling through Springfield with major safety violations is staggering. Over half of the 12 trucks inspected that day had out-of-service violations. The officers are trained in the general requirements of these commercial vehicles and the department tries to host as many Commercial Vehicle Enforcement details as possible. The event was held in conjunction with the Hilltown, Perkasio, Pennridge and Richland.

Chief thanked the road crew for their work on the public entry vestibule in the police department and adding the LED lights above that vestibule and on the flagpole.

Mr. Hopkins asked for a copy of the Policy Procedure Manual. There was also a discussion regarding the possible installation of security cameras near the informational signage that was vandalized along the Rail-Trail in the Township. The matter will be revisited again at the next meeting.

The Board accepted the report as presented.

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

Fund Balances as of May 31, 2021

General Fund	\$1,552,289	Liquid Fuels	\$655,731
Open Space	\$875,833	Street Light	\$5,902
Escrow	\$557,322	Special Fees	\$391
Capital Reserve	\$322,268	Sewer Maint Escrow	\$85,425

Manager/Zoning – Mr. Wager gave the report. 146 total permits have been issued for May 23 – June 18 with 106 septic pumping and 7 U&O inspections.

Mr. Wager is working through the registration process from the Covid relief funds. Also, the Treasurer’s bond has arrived and the signatures on file will be straightened out with the banks.

Scantek has been taking township files from the building and scanning them into digital files, freeing up cabinet and township meeting room wall space.

Meeting attendance included PC, Park and Rec, EAC, Historic Commission and a BOS meeting.

Mr. Nilsen inquired about the cost of the H&K hearings and how many more are anticipated to be held. Mr. Wager noted that the H&K hearings run about \$2,000.00-\$2500.00 with virtual options and professional services. There have been about 11 Board meetings and the Planners have had 3-4, with anticipation of the hearings going into next year. Mr. Wager noted that the virtual meeting costs could be covered by Covid-19 assistance monies.

Solicitor's Report – Mr. MacNair updated the Board on the June 10 state legislature's resolution that ended the Governor's Covid-19 pandemic emergency declaration. Because of this, Township meetings must now allow for in-person public participation but can still offer virtual participation. Mr. MacNair noted the conditional use hearing for H&K will need to be advertised as resuming to in-person and will need to be held in the fire hall. The possibility of utilizing the rod and gun club, the school and the Trinity Lutheran Church was discussed. Mr. Wager will contact the Springtown Fire Hall to reserve the evening of July 13 for a hearing.

There was a discussion regarding an agreement with the Heritage Conservancy and the Township. The OSC was utilizing Heritage with a contracted set amount per year to work on preservation. Later, they moved to an as-needed basis. The agreement will be passed on to the Parks and Land Committee for review. Kris Kern, Heritage Conservancy, noted she would have a discussion with the committee to work out the details. Ms. Kern will forward Heritage's reports to the Township Manager and the Parks and Land Committee and will provide the Township details of their property monitoring.

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

ABC's Reports/Updates

EAC - Lorna Yearwood, EAC Chair, presented a video to the Board from one of the recipients of the Hans Reimann Memorial Scholarship for Environmental Education. Ms. Yearwood also noted the E-waste recycling will be held Saturday October 16th and will be looking for volunteers. There was also a discussion on litter on area roadways, such as an Adopt-A-Highway program.

Public Comment

Frank Hollenbach, Park and Land Preservation Board, inquired about submitting a written report to supplement his verbal report to the Board. Mr. Hollenbach also inquired about drainage on Peppermint Road. Mr. Wager noted that it should be remedied through the dirt and gravel program later this year or the road crew will get it cleaned out. The flagpole garden area was treated with vinegar mixture for weeds and Mr. Hollenbach thanked the road crew for mulching around the flagpole. There was discussion on options for replacement and reinforcement of the informative sign on the rail trail. Mr. Hollenbach asked if the committee could get copies of the OSC expense transactions. There was also a discussion on drafting an ordinance on the official rules and regulations of township parks.

Pete Jones – Mr. Jones thanked the Police Chief for his quick response to a vehicle accident that Mr. Jones called in. He also thanked the Board for continuing the virtual option for meetings. Mr. Jones also commented on how the conservation easement is set up on his property.

Amanda and Mark Robert- Quarry Road residents voiced their concerns over the speeding and volume of traffic that continues to be excessive along their road, mostly from the bridge closure on Richlandtown Pike.

Business

Historic Resource Ordinance Amendment Draft - Ken Joire and Gabe Schumacher of the Township Historic Commission, gave a PowerPoint presentation on their proposed recommended changes to the 514 Historic Resources Overlay District. The proposed changes to the ordinance were distributed to the Board. A review of the historic resource inventory is something that is done every 10 years. These changes were also proposed and approved by the Township Planning Commission. The ordinance was tabled to the next meeting.

Resignation of Historic Commission Member – Motion by Mr. Matzura seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously carried to accept the resignation of Stephen Fitzgerald from the Historic Commission.

Municibid items- Mr. Purcell noted the old 12” hydraulic conveyor went on Municibid and came in at \$410.00. The old Mack truck that was replaced this year also went on Municibid with a reserve of \$20,000, and that came in at \$13,000, the highest bid.

Motion by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Hopkins to unanimously accept the offer of \$410.00 through Municibid for the purchase of the hydraulic truck conveyor, and to accept the bid for the Mack Truck for \$13,000.00.

Road Crew Vehicle Request Mr. Pursell requested purchase of either a 2022 Mack or 2023 International. The Mack comes in at \$209,812 and the International \$165,029.

Motion by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Hopkins and unanimously approve the purchase of the 2023 International without a plow through E.M. Kutz, not to exceed \$150,000.

Grant of Extension for Scheetz Land Development – The Board acknowledged the receipt of an extension for the Scheetz Land Development through October 31, 2021.

UCC Building Code Ordinance Draft – Tabled to the next meeting.

Open Space Discussion – The consensus of the Board is to move forward with contracting with a planning service for the comprehensive plan. It was suggested to put the draft proposal on the agenda for the July 13th meeting.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Open Space process, including what channels/programs to go through, how different types of preservation effect the tax base and who or what groups the applicants contact through the process. Frank Hollenbach will be handling applicants inquiries.

Public Comment

Supervisor Comments

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather DiSario
Recording Secretary