

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

July 27, 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), Colleen Pursell (Secretary / Treasurer), Mike McDonald (Police Chief), Scott MacNair, Esq. (Township Solicitor) and Rich Pursell (Roadmaster).

Mr. Nilsen called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

An executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss police collective bargaining.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Matzura and unanimously carried approving the June 22, 2021 minutes as amended.

Bills

(June 19, 2021 – July 23, 2021)

General Fund	\$97,841.30	Open Space Fund	\$0
Capital Reserve Fund	\$0	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$0
Escrows	\$12,721.88	Street Light Fund	\$505.24

Motion by Mr. Matzura, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried approving payment of bills from June 19, 2021 – July 23, 2021.

Reports

Road Department – The Board reviewed the Road Department report as presented. Additionally, Mr. Pursell advised the Board that the paving project on Lower Saucon Road was over on tonnage. Mr. Wager commented that as per the Township Engineers email dated July 7, 2021 the project increased from \$54,687.50 to \$65,666.86. It should be noted that the overall road project is still under budget.

Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Matzura and unanimously carried the Board amended the motion from April 27, 2021 for the Lower Saucon Road project, increasing the total from \$54,687.50 to \$65,666.86.

Road hours June 17, 2021 – July 21, 2021

Road Maintenance	590 hours	Equipment Maintenance	68 hours
Building Maintenance	18 hours	Sign Maintenance	47 hours
Roadside Mowing	74 hours	Park Maintenance	32 hours
Admin	24 hours	Winter Maintenance	0 hours

Police Department – Chief McDonald gave the report. In June, the Springfield Township Police Department had 164 calls for service, PSP handling 38 calls with 18 motor vehicle crashes, totaling 220 service calls.

Chief McDonald advised the Board that the County has updated their CAD system which allows more capabilities than the prior software. The police department had its JNET audit which was commendable.

Chief McDonald thanked John Dancey for his help with repairing the camera system. In the near future, the Attorney General’s Office will be hosting another Drug Take Back. The 2017 Ford F-150 is currently at Koch 33 for warranty repairs.

The Board requested that Chief McDonald provide them with a copy of the department’s policies for the DCED study.

The Board accepted the report as presented.

Treasurer – Mr. Wager advised the Board that the mid-year review would be taking the place of the Treasurer’s Report. The 2021 Mid-Year Budget Performance power point was presented to those in attendance. The presentation included the summary of the general fund including revenues, expenses and projects.

Fund Balances as of June 30, 2021

General Fund	\$1,288,847	Liquid Fuels	\$655,748
Open Space	\$916,396	Street Light	\$6,123
Escrow	\$513,827	Special Fees	\$391
Capital Reserve	\$74,271	Sewer Maint Escrow	\$85,450
COVID Relief	\$263,400		

Manager/Zoning – Mr. Wager gave the report. From June 19 – July 23 there were 93 total permits, 63 septic pumpings and 7 U&O inspections. There are several zoning/code enforcement issues to be addressed. Mr. Wager advised that he attended the ABC meetings, a pension meeting and a collective bargaining meeting. We are waiting on the receipt of the 2020 Audit for the pension.

Mr. Wager met with representatives from the Springtown Water Authority to discuss the tracking of their assets utilizing the Township’s iWorkQ program. Mr. Nilsen inquired about using GIS software with the iWorQ program for the Water Authority. Mr. Wager advised that the Water Authority has an ipad that they will be using to input the data. Their dashboard will be separate from the Township’s.

The paving of Hilltop Road is expected to be completed sometime in August before the start of the school year.

The conveyor and the 1994 Mack Truck were sold on Municibid and \$13,410.00 will be deposited into the Capital Fund.

Paperwork was submitted to DCED for the police study. Mr. Hopkins advised that the Township applied to DCED for an audit management study between the police department and Board of Supervisors to ensure that it is operating at its maximum capacity. Mr. Wager advised that the study will be conducted by Chief David Mettin.

Solicitor's report – Mr. MacNair referenced the Engineers Office report on Haycock Campground Ministries. The Township received a sketch plan on July 14, 2021. A staff meeting was held with the applicant to discuss a potential master agreement to comply with the development which is expected to happen over the next 20-30 years. Mr. MacNair will provide additional data to the Board with a legal analysis. Mr. Nilsen advised that this was started back to 2012/ 2013 when they were looking to preserve a portion of their property.

Engineer Report – The Board reviewed the Township Engineer report as posted. Mr. Nilsen questioned the project on Hottle Road and the amount of earth disturbance.

Mr. Ryker requested an update on the drainage issue on Nemeth Road. Mr. Wager advised that addressing the resident's runoff concern is in progress and the project is on the stormwater list.

Business

Springtown Fire Company – Mr. Wager advised that the Township received the fire company's financials but has not received their service calls.

Parks & Land Preservation – Frank Hollenbach, Chairman of the PLPB, advised they have two park benches to be installed at Peppermint Park. The Board approved the draft ordinance that was presented by the Township Solicitor. Mr. Hollenbach advised that he sent the 2018 survey data to the Board for the Historic Ordinance. He also requested that the Board set aside general funds for the flag pole garden.

EAC – Mr. Wager advised their presentation will be ready for the Board at their August meeting.

Historic Commission – The Board was presented a draft of the Historic Resource Overlay District Zoning Amendment. The Board addressed concerns with the draft ordinance as presented; specifically the ordinance does not include subjective items. The draft ordinance was tabled for future discussion. Additionally, the Board requested that the Historic Commission establish a presentation for residents at Community Day to educate them on the value of a historical home.

Public Comment

Albert Mullen of 3311 Route 212 requested the installation of brake retarder prohibited signs in the village of Springtown. He also requested the speed limit be reduced. Chief McDonald stated that the state did complete an audit recently and reduced the speed limit to 35 mph. Chief McDonald will reach out to PennDOT regarding the concern.

Business

Timber Harvest – Mr. Wager advised he has received concerns from residents regarding Timber Harvest in the Township.

Jon Regan of Future Forest Timber Management, LLC., spoke about his concerns with the Townships Timber Harvest Ordinance that it is stricter than state law.

Mr. MacNair stated that there are allegations of illegal items being in the Township's ordinance that violate the ACRE law. The Board requested Mr. MacNair to present a written recommendation for their review.

Comprehensive Plan – Mr. Wager advised the Board that Mr. Hopkins drafted the original Comprehensive Plan that was sent to the Board on June 8th. The Planning Commission reviewed the draft and submitted changes. Mr. MacNair reviewed those changes and provided additions on June 21st.

Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously carried approving the posting of the Comprehensive Plan Request for Proposal on PennBid.

Mr. Wager requested to table the UCC Building Code Ordinance amendment for a future discussion.

Public Comment

No comments were received.

Correspondence

The Board received correspondence from the Bucks County District Attorney’s Office, Keystone Collections Group, Center for Rural Pennsylvania, Eastern Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Transportation, PennDOT, PLGIT and Bucks County Planning Commission. Additionally, the Board received a letter from Albert Mullen of 3311 Route 212 requesting them to contact PennDOT to request “Brake Retarder Prohibited” signs in the village of Springtown.

Supervisor Comments

Mr. Ryker announced that Community Day is approaching. The next Community Day meeting will be held on Thursday at Silver Creek.

Mr. Matzura suggested the fire company sell t-shirts as a fundraiser.

Mr. Wager advised that UBREMS and the Fire Company are slated to speak at the next Board Meeting in August. He also announced that the Township has purchased a ½ page ad in the PSATS Centennial Celebration Booklet.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen M. Pursell
Secretary / Treasurer