

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

February 22, 2022

IN-PERSON MEETING - VIRTUAL OPTION AVAILABLE

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

Also present: Jason Wager (Township Manager) and Colleen Pursell (Secretary / Treasurer), Michael McDonald (Chief of Police) (virtual), Rich Pursell (Roadmaster), Scott MacNair, Esq. (Township Solicitor) and Tim Fulmer (Township Engineer) (virtual).

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Pat McGinness, 2796 Bodder Road, urged the Board to continue negotiations with the police department and avoid arbitration.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The consensus of the Board was to accept the report as presented.

Fund Balances as of January 31, 2022

General Fund	\$709,202	COVID Relief Fund	\$233,728
Open Space Fund	\$903,364	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$332,435
Escrow Fund	\$569,144	Street Light Fund	\$1,272
Capital Reserve Fund	\$474,409	Act 537 Escrow Fund	\$85,626

PAYMENT OF BILLS

(January 21, 2022 – February 15, 2022)

General Fund	\$64,605.49	Open Space Fund	N/A
Capital Reserve Fund	\$35,067.99	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$25,678.59
Escrows	\$20,082.64	Street Light Fund	\$542.65

Motion by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously carried approving payment of bills from January 21, 2022 – February 15, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously carried approving the January 11, 2022 minutes, as presented.

Motion by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously carried approving the January 25, 2022 minutes, as presented.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Preliminary Subdivision Plan – Burke Subdivision – Scott Mease of Mease Engineering P.C. provided the Board with an overview of the proposed Burke Subdivision, subdividing the 3.77 acres (gross) into three single family detached dwelling lots (one existing dwelling plus two proposed dwellings). The subject

property is located along the south side of Township Road within the Village Residential (VR) Zoning District.

As per Township Engineer Tim Fulmer's letter dated January 17, 2022, the plan has been revised to propose a diversion berm and storm sewer to connect on the Municipal Building parcel to capture and convey stormwater runoff to existing drainage facilities owned by the Township along Township Road. The consensus of the Board was to waive the capital contribution fee of \$8,000 for this subdivision which was asked by the applicant who is incurring additional costs hooking into the Township's system.

Motion by Mr. Ryker seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously carried approving the preliminary Burke Subdivision Plan as outlined in the Township Engineer, Tim Fulmer, January 17, 2022 and February 9, 2022 letters.

Street Tree Waiver Request – Herman Subdivision – Mr. Fulmer provided the Board with an overview and current site photographs of the Herman Subdivision located on Hottle Road which was previously approved. Mr. Herman is requesting relief from installing the required street trees as shown on the approved plan.

Motion by Mr. Kade seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously carried approving the street tree waiver request for Mr. Herman as per Tim Fulmer's letter dated November 30, 2022.

Participation in Mosquito Program – Bucks County Department of Health – Motion by Mr. Kade seconded by Mr. Matzura and unanimously carried approving Participation in the Bucks County Department of Health Mosquito Program.

Appointment of Special Counsel for H&K Conditional Use Hearing – Mr. MacNair recommended that Grim, Biehn and Thatcher be appointed as Special Counsel to the Board for entering evidence and witnesses into the record for the H&K Conditional Use Application / Hearing.

Motion by Mr. Nilsen seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried appointing Grim, Biehn and Thatcher as Special Counsel to the Board of Supervisors for the H&K Conditional Use Hearing at the rate of \$175/hour.

Request for Fire Police – Amy's Ride/Run/Walk 2022 – Motion by Mr. Nilsen seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously carried authorizing the use of Springtown Fire Company Fire Police at the Amy's Ride/Run/Walk 2022 scheduled for May 21, 2022.

Regional Deer Management Committee – Mr. Wager stated the Township has received correspondence regarding the establishment of a regional deer management committee. The committee will be studying deer population within southeastern Pennsylvania. The goal is to have representatives from municipalities in Bucks and Montgomery Counties in order to hear various perspectives and to have a large presence if and when the group approaches county or state leaders about the need for a regional deer management approach. This was discussed at the annual Bucks-Mont EAC Summit. Initially the request was asking if we had an EAC member interested. The consensus of the Board was to encourage participation. At this time, we have two (2) interested volunteers from our ABCs.

2021 DCED Financial Condition – Motion by Mr. Nilsen seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried accepting the 2021 DCED Report CLGS-69 as presented.

2022 Road Projects – Bid Authorization – Motion by Mr. Ryker seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried authorizing advertisement of the bids for the 2022 seal coat work and the 2022 paving of Cherry Road.

Township Property – Removal of Old Salt Shed – Motion by Mr. Ryker seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried authorizing the removal of the old salt shed at a cost not to exceed \$15,000. (It is anticipated that the total cost for debris removal will be much less than \$15,000).

Peppermint Park – Tree Work – Motion by Mr. Ryker seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously carried authorizing the removal of dead ash trees at Peppermint Park, by Tree Ex, with a total cost not to exceed \$4,500 and further authorize the bill to be paid out of the Open Space Fund for maintenance.

Conditional Use Hearing – 793 Mine Road – Mr. MacNair opened the hearing for the application received from Ryan Scheetz to allow encroachment of an existing stormwater BMP into the minimal disturbance area of the riparian buffer. The property is zoned Planned Industrial. Mr. MacNair gave a brief explanation on how a formal Public Hearing is held. After his explanation, he asked if anyone in the audience wanted to obtain Party Status. There were no responses to the request in the audience. He then explained that a court stenographer was present to swear in witnesses and record verbatim testimony and that a copy of the hearing would be available through the court reporter directly.

Mr. MacNair introduced the following exhibits:

- T-1 Conditional Use Application – December 30, 2021
- T-1A Letter from Mr. Metzger to Ryan Scheetz - December 23, 2021
- T-2 Proof of Publication – Advertised February 8, 2022 and February 15, 2022
- T-3 Letter from Scott MacNair to Ryan Scheetz – February 1, 2022
- T-4 Affidavit of Mailing – February 1, 2022
- T-4A List of Property Owners within 500 feet of Property
- T-5 Affidavit of Posting – February 15, 2022
- T-6 Springfield Township Planning Commission Draft Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2022
- T-7 Memorandum from Environmental Advisory Council to Board of Supervisors – February 10, 2022

Mr. MacNair confirmed that the Planning Commission’s recommendation to the Board is that they do not approve the conditional use application unless Mr. Scheetz meets with the Board and can provide satisfactory information regarding his plans for stormwater management and how the water will be used.

The applicant, Ryan Scheetz, and his engineer, Scott Mease, were sworn in by the court stenographer to provide testimony.

Mr. Mease introduced the following exhibits:

- A-1 Sheet 3 of 3 of the Land Development Plan for 793 Mine Road

The Board reviewed the conditions and asked questions of the applicant. Public comment was made by Pete Jones and Lorna Yearwood. Mr. McNair closed the hearing.

Motion by Mr. Ryker seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously carried approving the disturbance with no conditions on Mr. Scheetz’s property.

REPORTS / COMMENTS

Zoning – A report was received and is on file.

Police – A report was received and is on file.

Road – A report was received and is on file.

Solicitor – A report was received.

Engineer – A report was received.

Springtown Fire Company Report – A report was received and is on file.

OTHER BOARD COMMENTS

Planning Commission – Draft minutes from February were received.

Parks & Land Preservation Board – Frank Hollenbach stated that Mr. Wager will be meeting with a representative from the group that will be providing trees along Deer Trail Road. Parks and Land is looking forward to working with the high school students in the spring. He has reached out to Heritage Conservancy to discuss preservation in the Township.

EAC – A report was received and is on file.

Historic Commission – No report was given.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board received correspondence from Nicholas Gawronski regarding the Eagle Scout Project, PennDOT Connects, Center for Rural Pennsylvania, STIC Innovation in Motion Newsletter, letter from Pat McGinness and Newsletter of the Cooks Creek Watershed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pete Jones, 1876 Salem Road, stated that firearm safety classes are currently being held in Hellertown and Upper Perk.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Ryker recommended that seniors take advantage of saving money on their taxes by becoming a Pearl Volunteer at Palisades School District. He recommended that information on this opportunity be included in the next Township Newsletter.

Mr. Matzura reminded everyone to come to meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Ryker, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen M. Pursell
Secretary / Treasurer