

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

March 22, 2022

IN-PERSON MEETING - VIRTUAL OPTION AVAILABLE

Supervisors Present: Jim Hopkins, Tony Matzura, Jim Nilsen (virtual & in-person), Raymond Kade and Bill Ryker.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Patrick McGiness, 2796 Bodder Road, asked why the Board could not discuss the collective bargaining unit and encouraged the Board to continue negotiations.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Fund Balances as of February 28, 2022

General Fund	\$709,204	COVID Relief Fund	\$233,728
Open Space Fund	\$957,544	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$301,927
Escrow Fund	\$567,787	Street Light Fund	\$703
Capital Reserve Fund	\$441,375	Act 537 Escrow Fund	\$85,649

PAYMENT OF BILLS

(February 16, 2022 – March 15, 2022)

General Fund	\$111,420.18	Open Space Fund	N/A
Capital Reserve Fund	\$22,279.04	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$10,773.20
Escrows	\$6,706.53	Street Light Fund	\$533.64

Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried approving payment of bills from February 16, 2022 – March 15, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried approving the February 8, 2022 and February 22, 2022 minutes, as presented.

BUSINESS ITEMS

DCNR Application Discussion – Mr. Wager gave an overview of the Zisko / Brunner properties, totaling 161 acres, along Winding Road. Heritage Conservancy contacted the Township seeking support from the Board regarding a grant application they are submitting to DCNR for funding to preserve/purchase the property.

Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried supporting Heritage Conservancy's efforts in preserving / purchasing the Zisko / Brunner properties and further, authorize the Township Manager to send a letter to Heritage Conservancy in support of the initiative.

April 26th Regular Meeting Discussion – Mr. Wager stated that there is a conflict with the PSATS Conference and the regular meeting scheduled for April 26, 2022. He recommended that the Board cancel or schedule a special meeting to be held in lieu of April 26th. The Boards consensus was to schedule a special meeting to be held on April 19, 2022 at 5:00 pm.

Scheetz Land Development Extension Acceptance – Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Matzura and unanimously carried accepting the grant of extension of time to May 31, 2022 from Scott Mease, PE, for the Ryan Scheetz Land Development.

Traditions of America Escrow Reduction Authorization – Motion by Mr. Matzura, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried authorizing the reduction in the bond issued by Arch Insurance Company (known as Escrow Release #2) in the amount of \$369,692.14 for the Traditions of America – Locust Valley Subdivision for improvements completed and verified by Wynn Associates, Inc. per their letter dated March 7, 2022 and further, authorize the Township Manager to sign the reduction letter.

Zoning Hearing Board Applications Discussion – Mr. Wager stated that the Township has received two (2) Zoning Hearing Applications from Cornerstone Developers – Passer Road and Jacob Weinerth – 2410 Deer Trail Road, which will be heard by the Zoning Hearing Board on April 4, 2022. Mr. MacNair provided the Board with an overview of the benefits on why the Board would want to review a Zoning Hearing Board application prior to the hearing. The consensus of the Board was not to give a formal opinion on either matter.

Mr. Nilsen arrived in-person.

Open Space Refinancing Discussion – Mr. Wager stated that this is the tenth (10) year for the Open Space refinance. He noted we met with PFM to discuss refinancing options for our Open Space bond. The Township previously used PFM for the original GO Bond in 2008 and when we refinanced in 2012. The Board's consensus was to schedule PFM at the April 19th meeting to provide the Board with options to consider.

A-3 Forestry Use Ordinance Amendment – Mr. MacNair stated that the draft ordinance was sent to the Bucks County Planning Commission and Springfield Township Planning Commission for their review. He requested the Board authorize the advertisement for the adoption hearing.

Motion by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously carried, advertising the adoption hearing to be held on April 19, 2022 for Ordinance 2022-200 Amending the Springfield Township Zoning Ordinance Adopted October 2, 2007, by Amending the A-3 Forestry Provisions.

PSATS Defined Contribution Plan Change Authorization – Mr. Wager gave a brief overview of the current Defined Contribution Plan which is administered through PSATS and Nationwide. This plan does not allow for employees to make their own contributions into a retirement account.

At the direction of the Pension Board and the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Wager spoke with Morgan Stanley who currently handles the Townships Defined Benefit Plan. It was recommended that the Township utilize RPG Consultants as the plan administrator and Morgan Stanley as the advisors.

Motion by Mr. Nilsen seconded by Mr. Matzura and unanimously carried, authorizing the Township Manager / Pension Administrator to move its Defined Contribution Plan to RPG Consultants and further,

authorize the Township Manager / Pension Administrator to update the Defined Contribution Plan that was adopted in 2014.

Use of Township Equipment – Springtown Water Authority – Mr. Kade presented the Board with a draft Memorandum of Understanding between Springfield Township and Springtown Water Authority for the use of the Township’s backhoe.

Motion by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Hopkins and not carried with a vote of 1-4, with Mr. Kade voting yes, to move forward with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Springtown Water Authority for the use of the Township backhoe.

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 – No report was given.

Parks & Land Preservation Board – Frank Hollenbach spoke to Mr. Wager about the refinancing and support. The Board continues to plan with the Palisades STEM Club for tree planting at Peppermint Park on Earth Day.

Mr. Wager stated that there is a concern about water at Peppermint Park for the trees and requested the road department fill up the donated tanks on site for approximately a three (3) year period until the trees are established.

EAC – No report was given.

Historic Commission – No report was given.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board received correspondence from Center for Rural Pennsylvania, PennDOT Connects, PA Highlands Trail Network Steering Committee Meeting, Eastern Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Transportation, Costars Connection, Springfield Chronicles Cooks Creek Watershed, Springfield Township Historical Society Newsletter and a letter from resident Jamie Cooper regarding trash along Springfield Street.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank Hollenbach, 600 Rocky Valley Road, stated he is working on coordinating a cleanup along the Rail Trail on April 30th. The historical church tour is also coming up on June 11, 2022.

Pat McGinness, 2796 Bodder Road, offered the use of staging equipment at the Gun Club. He also stated that the Gun Club has a fish hatchery which has been run by Ron Fox for many years and the Club has renamed it in his honor. On April 9, 2022 the Club will be holding a kids fishing derby and invited Board to the event. The Board's consensus was to issue Mr. Fox a citation in gratitude of his years of service to the community.

Pete Jones, 1876 Salem Road, stated that he has a 550-gallon tank that he would be willing to donate as a water source at Peppermint Park.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Matzura reminded everyone not to forget about supporting of local events.

Mr. Kade asked if ARPA funds were being used to pay for the backhoe.

Mr. Ryker recommended that we advertise our Township newsletter in the PATCH.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Ryker, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen M. Pursell
Secretary / Treasurer