

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

MARCH 28, 2023

IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL MEETING

Supervisors Present: Pete Kade, Tony Matzura, James Nilsen, Bill Ryker and Jim Hopkins (Via Zoom at 7:11 p.m.)

Also present: Rich Pursell (Township Manager/Public Works Director), Lisa Gerhart (Secretary), Michael McDonald (Chief of Police), and Scott MacNair, Esq. (Township Solicitor).

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Kathleen Warchol, 3202 Rt 212, again discussed the street light tax. She quoted from the Second-Class Township Code that BOS can illuminate, alter and remove lighting in the township. She said the light she has on her property has been out since she moved in, worked one night and then has been off since. She said since it is not working, she wants her tax bill adjusted. Mr. Pursell advised he contacted PPL about the light being out last Thursday and they have 5-7 business days to deal with it. Mr. Nilsen mentioned the Township cannot know about every light being out in the Township without someone notifying us. Once it was brought to the Township’s attention, the Township acted. Ms. Warchol said she does not work for the Township. She said she needs a copy of the PPL bill for the year and a hard copy of the Second-Class township code. Mr. Matzura stated there is a process regarding Right to Know. Mr. Nilsen advised that is what a manager is for, to discuss these things. Mr. Kade said when he met with Ms. Warchol last week he gave her the website to find the entire code. BOS stated her three minutes to speak was up.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Matzura stated the financial report and balances are posted.

Fund Balances as of February 28, 2023

General Fund	\$ 278,824	COVID Relief Fund	\$531,910
- CD General Fund	- \$243,000		
Open Space Fund	\$ 647,077	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$245,722
Escrow Fund	\$ 500,618	Street Light Fund	\$3,336
Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 243,000	Act 537 Escrow Fund	\$86,123

PAYMENT OF BILLS

(February 1, 2023 – February 28, 2023)

General Fund	\$188,616	Open Space Fund	\$1,537
Capital Reserve Fund	\$12,049	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$9,952
Escrows	\$11,480	Street Light Fund	\$0

Motion by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried approving payment of bills from February 1, 2023 – February 28, 2023. It was mentioned there will be a new fund showing the EMS and Fire dedicated tax.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously carried approving the February 14, 2023, minutes as presented. Motion by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Matzura and unanimously carried approving the February 28, 2023, minutes as presented.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Citation for Catherine Marek – Mr. Matzura presented Ms. Catherine Marek with a citation (**Resolution 2023 – 06**) for her 33+ years of voluntarily serving Springfield Township Historic Commission. Mr. Ken Joire, Peppermint Road, who served on the Historic Commission along Ms. Marek, stated it was an honor to serve alongside her, he learned a lot from her and values her friendship most. Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously carried a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-06, issuing a citation to Ms. Catherine Marek.

Appointment to EAC – Mr. Kade thanked Mr. Michael Clime, 2212 High Meadow Road, for his interest in joining the Environmental Advisory Council. Mr. Kade said Mr. Clime's previous volunteer experience is impressive. Motion by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Kade, unanimously carried approving Mr. Clime's appointment to the EAC for a term ending December 31, 2025.

Zoning Hearing Board Application – Ryszewski – Solicitor MacNair discussed the new zoning hearing board application for 1746 Route 309. He advised the applicant is seeking a variance on G-13 Contractor service use, which is not allowed, in the Highway Commercial District. Mr. MacNair advised the applicant would need land development if his variance is approved therefore if the Board has any restrictions they could be put in place at that time. Assistant Zoning Officer Gerhart will provide a letter to the Zoning Hearing Board advising the BOS will not be taking a position regarding the application.

Mink Road Resolution – Solicitor MacNair reminded the Board about the 2010 Ordinance that gave certain roads, which met a criteria, the speed limit of 25 m.p.h. Mink Road is one of those roads that would qualify. **Resolution 2023-07** establishes 25 m.ph. as the speed limit for Mink Road, which allows it to be posted and enforced. Reminder was given that this action was prompted by a petition signed by every resident on Mink Road. Motion made by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution 2023-07 establishing a maximum speed limit for Mink Road.

Municipal Consortium Resolution – Mr. Hopkins discussed the offer a few months ago by Aqua to purchase Bucks County Sewer & Water. There is a resolution proposed from the Consortium. It was amended for Springfield Township to be an associate member therefore not paying the annual fee.

Mr. Dave Long, Drifting Drive, asked for clarification on if this is a resolution or ordinance. It is a resolution. Ms. Kathleen Warchol, of Route 212, stated Aqua is a bad company.

Mr. Ryker stated he feels it is a good move in solidarity there fore he made the motion, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried to adopt **Resolution 2023-08** to join the municipal consortium to propose legislation amending Act 12 of 2016; to oppose legislation and other actions that would negatively impact water and sewer customers.

Tax Response Draft Update – Mr. Hopkins advised the Tax Collector was asked a question about the dedicated tax and if they will still be billed by EMS and other questions related to the dedicated tax. Mr. Hopkins has been working on a draft response to distribute via Facebook, Newsletter and Website. Mr. Ryker read aloud the draft thus far. Board agreed to accept the draft letter with minor edits.

Mr. Dave Long, Drifting Drive, questioned about subscription drives for EMS. Mr. Nilsen explained those are still necessary.

Fire Company MOUs – Solicitor MacNair discussed the need for MOUs with all the Fire Services in the Township. If the fire services receive money from the Township, they are required to file financial reports yearly showing allocation of the funds. The draft MOU to Palisades Fire and Rescue was discussed and mentioned that each fire service would have their own specific agreement.

Mr. Matzura stated he liked the format Shelly Fire and Rescue submitted their financials and wondered if all fire services can do that. Mr. Graziano, assistant chief of Shelly Fire and Rescue, stated he prints it off the software all the fire companies use so that should be possible unless the software gets changed in the future. Solicitor MacNair stated he was looking for feedback and any revisions on the draft MOU. All Supervisors agreed that MOU draft looked alright.

April Meeting Date – Due to most Supervisors and staff being in Hershey for PSATS Conference for the April 25, 2023 meeting, the regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting will be moved to a week earlier – April 18, 2023. Proper notice and advertisement will be given about the new meeting date.

REPORTS / COMMENTS

Zoning – A report was received and is on file.

Police – A report was received and is on file.

Public Works – A report was received and is on file.

Solicitor – A report was received and is on file.

Engineer – A report was received and is on file.

Planning Commission – No report was given.

Parks & Land Preservation Board – No report was given. Mr. Frank Hollenbach, of Rocky Valley Road, discussed they are working on a draft application for use of the park facilities and rail trail.

EAC – No report was given.

Historic Commission – No report was given.

CORRESPONDENCE

Board Correspondence was accepted as presented. Mr. Pursell stated that Richland Township Comprehensive Plan Map was sent over for review. Mr. Pursell stated a letter from PEMA was received that Alexander Poniktera, Emergency Management Coordinator, passed his background check and an endorsement has been sent to Governor Shapiro's office for signature. Mr. Pursell stated there is a correspondence with a resident on Old Bethlehem Road. Penndot agreed to do a speed study that will recommend keeping the speed limit at 45 mph or reducing it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kathleen Warchol, Route 212, asked if the speed signs on Route 212 collect date. Chief McDonald stated it does. Ms. Warchol asked if the Springfield Township tax collector has a physical place of business. Few Supervisors explained where Ms. Deb Yerger's location on Richlandtown Pike is located.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Ryker stated last Saturday at Silver Creek there was a CPR, AED, Narcan training. He stated Officer Sepulveda of Springfield Township PD stopped by along with staff from UBREMS.

Mr. Matzura reminded everyone there will be no BOS meeting on April 25, 2023.

Mr. Nilsen stated recently the Lions Club had their game dinner. Springtown Inn donated the cake for auction and it went for \$1,600. He stated their yearly event was a success.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Nilsen, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Gerhart
Secretary