

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

September 26, 2023

IN-PERSON MEETING

Supervisors Present: Anthony Matzura, Pete Kade, James Nilsen, Bill Ryker and Jim Hopkins.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Jeff Litner, Springhouse Lane, and Ms. Donna Holmes, Palisades School District, resident of Buckwampum Road, and Palisades Community Foundation, discussed the desire to celebrate Knechts Bridge 150-year anniversary in the Spring of 2024.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Fund Balances as of August 31, 2023

General Fund	\$ 1,133,946	COVID Relief Fund	\$447,160
- CD General Fund	- \$237,000		
Open Space Fund	\$ 516,156	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$407,920
- CD Open Space	-\$125,000	- CD Liquid Fuels	- \$125,000
Escrow Fund	\$ 494,871	Street Light Fund	\$5,997
Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 330,014	Act 537 Escrow Fund	\$86,670
- CD Capital Reserve	-\$237,000		
Dedicated EMS	\$20,556	Dedicated Fire	\$203,550

PAYMENT OF BILLS

(August 16, 2023 – September 15, 2023)

General Fund	\$91,185	Open Space Fund	\$0
Capital Reserve Fund	\$0	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$0
Escrows	\$3,846	Street Light Fund	\$674
PLGIT Credit Card	\$2,177	Dedicated EMS Fund	\$0
Dedicated Fire Fund	\$0		

Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously agreed to accept the financial report as presented. Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approving the payment of bills from August 16 – September 15, 2023.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried approving the August 22, 2023, minutes. Motion by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously carried approving the September 12, 2023 minutes.

BUSINESS ITEMS

PRFR Update- Mr. Jeff Mease, resident and member of Springtown Fire Co. (Palisades Regional Fire & Rescue) was present to give an update on PRFR. He provided copies of budget information for PRFR to the Supervisors. Mr. Mease advised he will be the representative for PRFR and will be present at the BOS regular meetings. Mr. Mease and PRFR Chief Bill Schick, discussed call boxes and gave a map to the Township showing their response to calls. The status of the MOU agreement between the Township and PRFR was discussed. Solicitor MacNair talked about the language revisions proposed to the MOU. Manager Pursell asked the status of the workers compensation insurance policy that Nockamixon Township was supposed to be handling. Mr. Schick stated he has been unable to get an answer regarding that policy either and hopes to have more clarity in the new year. Mr. Hopkins stated he looks forward to working with Mr. Mease as the PRFR liaison.

Holley Land Development Waiver – Mr. Tim Fulmer, Township Engineer, stated the Springfield Township Planning Commission approved Mr. Holley’s land development waiver request at their meeting on September 6, 2023. Mr. Fulmer advised Mr. Holley runs the business elsewhere but was looking to build an 1,800 square foot pole building to work on his trucks in. The property he owns is on Route 309. Mr. Fulmer advised his review letters were provided to the Board. Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker, and unanimously approved to approve Mr. Holley’s land development waiver subject to compliance with Mr. Fulmer’s review letters. Mr. William Holley was present and thanked the Board for their approval.

Deily Preliminary Subdivision Plan – Mr. Fulmer, Engineer, stated this subdivision is located in the Resource Protection zoning district off Winding Road. Mr. Fulmer stated the preliminary plan was recommended approval from the Springfield Township Planning Commission at their meeting on September 6, 2023. Mr. Scott Mease, engineer for applicant, was present. Mr. Mease stated he took all the Planning Commission recommendations and put them in the plan. Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously approved to authorize the approval of the Deily subdivision.

Route 309/Hilltop Road Traffic Study - A traffic study has been completed for the intersection of Route 309 and Hilltop Rd / Springfield Street. Mr. Tim Fulmer discussed the results. The results will be sent to PennDOT to request a speed analysis study.

Peppermint Road Stop Sign – Mr. Tim Fulmer, Engineer, and Chief McDonald discussed the studies recently done on Peppermint Road. The first study had the Police look into the stop sign on Peppermint Rd and Parkland Rd to see if it seemed necessary. Their report shows that it does seem necessary and that they also recommend installing a stop sign on Peppermint Rd and Deer Trail Rd thus making this a 4-way stop.

The second study had the Police look into the speed limit on Peppermint Rd. Their report shows that the speed limit could be increased based on the data they received. Motion by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Nilsen to prepare an ordinance that makes the Peppermint Road/Deer Trail Road intersection a four-way stop and increase the speed limit to 35 m.p.h. on Peppermint Road after the stop sign towards Richlandtown Pk. Motion approved 4-1 with Mr. Matzura being the opposing vote.

Update on Speeding Issues – Chief McDonald stated he met with the Police Board of Supervisor Liaisons to discuss the speeding complaints. The Chief advised he met with the driving instructor at Palisades school district to discuss education as a means to deter speeding. He said social media posts and newsletter updates will continue as well as enforcement and visibility. He said he will continue to gather speed data with the speed board and do the best he can with such a large township.

Resolution 2023-16 Citation to Carol Clemens – The board wanted to recognize Ms. Clemens and her contributions to the community. Mr. Hopkins read the citation in her honor. Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously approved **Resolution 2013-16**.

Pay adjustment for Public Works Department – Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously approved to amend the agenda to add the topic of Public Works Compensation. Mr. Hopkins discussed since the new hire is above or close to existing employees, adjustments need to be made. Mr. Nilsen advised this is also known as a market adjustment. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approved new compensation for the Public Works Department employees retroactive to September 25, 2023.

REPORTS / COMMENTS

Zoning – A report was received and is on file.

Police – A report was received and is on file. Chief McDonald mentioned Gasket Goons rescheduled event is coming up. Chief McDonald discussed the recent joint police bust in the township regarding the seizure drugs and guns. He advised that even though Springfield P.D. was not mentioned in the news article, our officer's tip led to the investigation. Chief reminded residents, Trick-or-Treat is on October 31st and Springtown Halloween Parade is October 29th.

Public Works – A report was received and is on file. Manager Pursell stated Bridge Street is now open.

Solicitor – A report was received and is on file.

Engineer – A report was received and is on file. Mr. Fulmer discussed the Pleasant View Culvert issue and looking upstream to the course to help the issue.

Planning Commission – No report was given.

Parks & Land Preservation Board – No report was given.

EAC – No report was given.

CORRESPONDENCE

Emailed letter from Ms. Arienne Elinich, Rt 412, stating her displeasure with Zoom discontinuation. Mr. Pursell asked which Supervisors will be attending the BCATO event on 9/28/23. Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Nilsen and Mr. Kade will attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None given.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

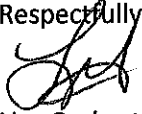
Mr. Ryker mentioned residents being patient with the Gaset Goon event traffic. Mr. Kade mentioned the continued digging happening with the water authority in Springtown. Mr. Hopkins mentioned the Comprehensive Plan meeting tomorrow evening at the Township Building at 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Matzura noted there will be an executive session held after this meeting to discuss personnel and real estate.

Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Gerhart
Secretary