

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

March 14, 2023

IN-PERSON - VIRTUAL OPTION AVAILABLE

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

Also present: Scott MacNair, Esq. (Township Solicitor) and Rich Pursell (Township Manager/Public Works Director).

Mr. Matzura, Chair, 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 Route 212, stated she has concerns with the street light tax. She moved into the Township in the fall. She said no one told her there would be a street light tax until she received her tax bill just a few weeks ago. The supervisors discussed the resolution for street light tax and street light districts/cost per parcel. Mr. Hopkins said non-payment is not an option. She will have an upcoming meeting with Mr. Pursell to further discuss her issues.

Frank Hollenbach, 600 Rocky Valley Road, wanted to thank Public Works for taking care of things on the rail trail. Road Crew removed graffiti on boardwalk and a tree that had come down around the trail.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Mink Road discussion – Solicitor MacNair advised Chief McDonald did a speed study on Mink Road. Past ordinances have stated that the Township is allowed to post a road with 35 mph if the road is considered rural and within a residential district. The speed limit is not enforceable until it is posted. Mink Road is on the 2010 list of rural residential roads within a residential district. According to Ordinance 159, when looking to post any of the roads on the list, BOS can do so through resolution. The Board discussed truck restrictions on roads around Mink. Mr. Hopkins advised he would like Trolley Bridge Road looked at for a speed study. Motion made by Mr. Matzura, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously approved to make a resolution to address Mink Road speed limit. Mr. Dave Long, asked if this was prompted by a complaint which Mr. Pursell said yes.

School Road widening - Mr. Pursell advised School Road has been narrow and concerning for a bit. There have been two complaints since November 2022. Mr. Pursell advised he met with Mr. Fulmer, Township Engineer, and developed a plan to widen 50 ft of it in a section. Mr. Pursell said he is meeting with a resident tomorrow to discuss adding a 100-foot pipe along her property. There is no catch basin there and Mr. Pursell said he recommends adding one. Mr. Nilsen stated that part is essential a single lane road. Mr. Matzura asked if there are any trees in the concerned area. Mr. Pursell stated there are 5-6 trees over the gas pipe that shouldn't have been planted to begin with. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Nilsen, and unanimously carried authorizing the widening of a section of School Road at the cost not exceeding \$9,500.00 which will be paid out of the Township ARPA fund.

2023 Seal Coating authorization to bid – Mr. Pursell said many roads are due to be seal coated. It was discussed how the Township missed two years of seal coating because of financial issues. Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously carried authorizing the advertisement of Option 1 of 4.65 miles of road for 2023 seal coat work.

Township Parking lot discussion – Mr. Pursell said he received a quote to double seal coat the Township parking lot. It was last done in late 1990s. The parking lot is showing signs of severe cracking and by doing this work will prolong the life of the parking areas. Mr. Kade said keeping up with it will save the Township money in the end. Mr. Matzura said the quote seemed high. It was discussed putting the project out to bid. Mr. Hopkins made the motion, seconded by Mr. Nilsen, and unanimously carried to put the township parking lot seal coating project to bid.

Participation in Mosquito Program – Bucks County Department of Health – Mr. Pursell stated at the EAC meeting Monday night, Ms. Yearwood, chair, gave her recommendations that the County does not use any toxic chemicals. Mr. Hollenbach questioned the standing water in the Peppermint Park rain garden. Mr. Nilsen made the motion, Mr. Matzura seconded the motion, unanimously carried that Springtown Township participate in the 2023 Bucks County Department of Health Mosquito Control Program and further authorize the Township Manager to provide written approval to the County.

Budget update – Amended agenda posted added a budget update. Mr. Pursell advised of the ARPA funds. The Township received \$557,381.78 from covid relief. In 2021, the Township spent \$29,000, in 2022, \$108,000 and there are \$419,381.78 left. Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Matzura and Mr. Pursell advised equipment is something the funds can be used on. If the new Public Works truck is paid for with ARPA funds, that would help free up capital money to help pay for the Comprehensive plan. The addition to the Township building can be paid for with ARPA also. It was discussed that the Public Work's garage heating system failed and needs replacement. Solicitor MacNair clarified the ARPA rules state the funds need to be allocated by December of 2024 and dispersed by 2026.

Tax Response draft – Mr. Hopkins said he drafted a response letter and once approved by the Board will give it to tax collector. The letter will give a general understanding of the dedicated tax and Springfield Township's operating budget and income.

April 15th Open House – Mr. Hopkins suggested the open house but stated since the proposed open house is one month away that it be a priority next year. Mr. Kade said he likes the idea of attracting volunteers. Mr. Hopkins said it would make residents aware of local government and teaching children to think locally. Mr. Ryker said he would post something on website and work on a design. He said it can be a teaser for next year to be bigger.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathleen Wachol, 3203 Rt 212, she said one question she has is about ARPA. She questioned where the money came from. It was explained by the Board it comes from the state and county for Covid relief. Ms. Wachol asked about ambulance subscription. Mr. Nilsen explained that it

happens in the Spring and she would be getting it soon. Mr. Warchol's second question was about the agendas and how they are given out. Mr. Pursell explained the website has the agenda and there are hardcopies for the public at the meetings.

Frank Hollenbach, 600 Rocky Valley Road, mentioned the event at the elementary school last year with ice cream. He thinks it would be a good idea to have the Township there at that event and meet new residents.

OTHER BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Matzura reminded everyone to Shelly Fire and Rescue cheesesteak fundraiser this Friday and breakfast fundraise on March 19th. Mr. Nilsen reminded everyone about the Springtown Fire Company pancake breakfast on the first Sunday of the month.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

An executive session will be held after the public meeting to discuss personnel matters and conditional use hearing deliberation.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Gerhart
Secretary