

**Board of Supervisors**

**MINUTES**

**November 28, 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) & 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**

Ms. Arienne Elinich, 2755 Route 412, stated Adelpia pipeline was out cutting down trees in their right of way with no notice to homeowners. Ms. Elinich also stated she wishes Zoom option will come back for BOS meetings.

Mr. Steve Doncevic, 1821 Pleasant View, commented on some of the LED headlights cars have and how blinding they are at night. Mr. Doncevic questioned if they were legal.

Supervisor Kade presented Supervisor Nilsen and Supervisor Matzura with PSATS certificates for their service to Springfield Township as Supervisors.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

Fund Balances as of October 31, 2023

General Fund	\$ 928,534	COVID Relief Fund	\$451,092
- CD General Fund	- \$237,000		
Open Space Fund	\$ 578,305	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$194,151
- CD Open Space	-\$125,000	- CD Liquid Fuels	- \$125,000
Escrow Fund	\$ 494,069	Street Light Fund	\$4,591
Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 395,911	Act 537 Escrow Fund	\$86,871
- CD Capital Reserve	-\$237,000		
Dedicated EMS	\$841	Dedicated Fire	\$151,133
General Fund Reserve	\$335,459		

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

(October 16, 2023 – November 15, 2023)

General Fund	\$255,459	Open Space Fund	\$29,215
Capital Reserve Fund	\$22,499	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$0
Escrows	\$4,527	Street Light Fund	\$738
PLGIT Credit Card	\$3,423	Dedicated EMS Fund	\$10,000
Dedicated Fire Fund	\$108,953		

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously carried approving the October 24, 2023, minutes as amended. Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously carried approving the November 14, 2023 minutes as amended.

### BUSINESS ITEMS

**Reiss Land Development Waiver** - The applicant, Mr. Tim Reiss was present with his engineer, Scott Mease. Mr. Reiss is requesting a waiver of land development for the construction of a detached accessory structure (to replace two smaller accessory structures) associated with the existing nonconforming use (identified as a Solid Waste Facility, Use G-10, on the plan) on the 10.31 acres (gross) tract located within the RP Zoning District. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approved to authorize the Reiss Properties LLC Land Development Waiver for 1154 Passer Road, based upon the conditions set forth in the Township Engineers letter dated October 20, 2023.

**Knecht's Bridge Update** – Township Engineer, Tim Fulmer is estimating the cost to complete an analysis of Knecht's Bridge will be approximately \$4,500. This work would include a field survey of the area and a hydraulic study to see what impact altering the grade of the road would have. There may be additional costs if the Township pursues the road work. Manager Pursell has been in contact with Commissioner Harvie regarding the alarm system on the bridge to see if the County would be willing to take this over. Additionally, Jeff Lindtner is working on a meeting with George Hutt of the County Bridge Division and myself to further investigate costs and to see what the County would pay for.

**Advertisement for Police Officer** – Officer Jacoby retires January 15, 2024. Chief McDonald is looking to advertise to replace him with a full-time or part-time officer. Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously approved to advertise for the hiring of a new police officer.

**Ordinance 2023-205: No Parking - Allison Rd** – Solicitor MacNair summarized the proposed ordinance. He stated it was noted on the subdivision plan but never fully executed until now. Solicitor MacNair stated public notice was given in the Intelligencer on November 14, 2023. Solicitor MacNair paused for public comment on the proposed ordinance to which there was none. Motion made by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously approved to adopt **Ordinance 2023-205** Regulating parking of vehicles on Allison Road in Springfield Township and prescribing penalties for the violation of this ordinance.

**Ordinance 2023-206: Speed Limit - Buckwampum Rd** – Solicitor MacNair summarized the proposed ordinance and stated a traffic study was not needed to enact this ordinance. Solicitor MacNair advised public notice was given in the Intelligencer on November 14, 2023. Solicitor MacNair paused for public comment on the proposed ordinance to which there was no comment given. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approved move to adopt **Ordinance 2023-206** Establishing a twenty-five mile per hour speed limit on Buckwampum Road in Springfield Township.

**Ordinance 2023-207: Stop Sign/Speed Limit - Peppermint Rd** - Solicitor MacNair summarized the proposed ordinance and discussed the speed and traffic study completed there in August. This ordinance was advertised November 14, 2023. Mr. Nilsen mentioned this topic being on social media and clarifying the speed increase would only be on westside of Peppermint heading to Richlandtown Pk. Mr. Ryker stated this change is data driven. Mr. Matzura stated people are usually doing 10 mph over the speed limit anyway and doesn't think the limit should be raised. Motion made by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Ryker passed 4-1 adopting adopt **Ordinance 2023-207** establishing a four way stop intersection at the intersection of Peppermint Road and Parkland Road and Peppermint Road and Deer Trail Road and establishing a speed

limit of 35 mph on Peppermint Road between Parkland Road and Richlandtown Pike, with Mr. Matzura being the no vote.

**Resolution 2023-19: Adoption of 2024 Budget** – The budget was advertised in the Intelligence on November 1, 2023. Mr. Nilsen stated this is a good budget. Mr. Matzura stated lots of hours were put into preparing the budget. Mr. Ryker stated the capital allocation process works and happily there is no tax increase this year. Mr. Dave Long, Drifting Drive, suggested putting in the resolution the quantity of the budget. Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 2023-19, Adopting the 2024 Fiscal Year Budget.

**Resolution 2023-20: 2024 Tax Levy** – Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously approved to adopt **Resolution 2023-20** for the Tax Levy in Springfield Township Bucks County to be set at 14 mills for 2024.

**Resolution 2023-21: 2024 Fire-EMS Tax** – Motion made by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Kade and to adopt **Resolution 2023-21**, for the Fire-EMS Tax in Springfield Township Bucks County to be set at 3 mills for 2024. 2.5 mills are for the fire companies and 0.5 mill are for EMS services.

**Resolution 2023-22: Covid-19 Policy** – Solicitor MacNair discussed the memo previous Manager Wager put out in May of 2022. It had to do with payment and time off for Covid. This resolution will terminate any Covid policy. Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Matzura and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 2023-22, terminating COVID-19 return to work after positive test policy.

**Setting Township Meeting Dates and Times For 2024** - The Township needs to advertise the Reorganization Meeting and the 2024 Meeting Dates and Times. The Reorganization Meeting this year will be Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> because of Monday being an observed holiday. Supervisors determined 7 p.m. for the start time of the Reorganization meeting. Supervisors confirmed that the Board wants to continue holding its meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7p.m.

**Approval of ARPA Expenses** – The remaining amount of money left in the ARPA fund needs to be allocated or under contract by December 31, 2025. Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Nilsen and unanimously approved to authorize the transfer of \$204,324.88 from the ARPA Fund split between the General Fund and Capital Reserve Fund.

#### REPORTS / COMMENTS

**Zoning** – A report was received and is on file.

**Police** – A report was received and is on file. Chief McDonald advised the DEA drug takeback event last month netted 101.37 lbs countywide and 570 lbs of sharps. Officer Jacoby will participate in Shop-With-A-Cop this month which will be his final time before retirement.

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

**Solicitor** – A report was received and is on file. Solicitor MacNair advised he has some things to discuss in executive session following this meeting.

**Engineer** – A report was received and is on file.

**Planning Commission** – No report was given. Mr. Dave Long, member, advised the Planning Commission is still working on a draft of an event venue ordinance.

**Parks & Land Preservation Board** – No report was given.

**EAC** – No report was given. Ms. Lorna Yearwood, chair, advised their e-waste event was a success despite the lousy weather. EAC is working on a litter prevention campaign with the elementary school.

**Springfield Fire Co.** – Mr. Mease had to leave for a fire call but had previously submitted a report to BOS.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Karen Bedics, Chair of Planning Commission, is not seeking reappointment to Planning Commission and thus submitted a letter to BOS stating such. There is a volunteer application for Planning Commission from Ms. Aubrey Hendricks. There was a “thank you” from David Moyer son of Tate Moyer for the Citation the Board previously decided after her passing.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Bob Heitz, Shelly Fire Co, thanked the residents and the Board of Supervisors for stepping up and helping the Fire Companies with the dedicated tax.

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Ryker stated he attended the Springfield Historical Society event last Saturday and said how amazing it was.

Mr. Kade stated Springtown Water Authority is doing their work in Springtown and have a lot to get done including scanning all their documents and getting them digitalized.

Mr. Matzura congratulated Mr. Long and Ms. Yearwood the BOS Elect. Mr. Matzura announced there will be no regular BOS meeting at the end of December due to the holiday.

Mr. Hopkins advised the Comprehensive Steering Plan Committee meets tomorrow evening.


Mr. Nilsen stated Agriculture Security areas will start getting reviewed and monitored again based on guidelines by the state.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion by Mr. Nilsen, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Gerhart  
Secretary