

**Board of Supervisors**

**MINUTES**

**April 24, 2024**

**IN-PERSON MEETING**

**Supervisors Present:** Bill Ryker, Pete Kade, Jim Hopkins, Dave Long and Lorna Yearwood.

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

Mr. Ryker called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Ryker advised the Board did meet in executive session prior to this meeting to discuss potential litigation & personnel and will meet again after the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Linda Wenhold, 2175 Deer Trail Road, started to give public comment on Haycock Ministries Conditional Use Hearing. Solicitor MacNair stopped Ms. Wenhold as the conditional use hearing concluded. He advised Ms. Wenhold reached out to him about her written comment and the attorneys allowed it be admissible because they agreed upon it. Solicitor MacNair stated nothing further can be discussed at this time.

Ms. Arianne Elinich, Rt 412, again commented on wanting The Board of Supervisors meetings back on Zoom. Ms. Elinich said she is aware the recordings of the meetings will be available on the website but that was not her ask. Mr. Hopkins reminded Ms. Elinich that the Zoom option ended due to cost and the low attendance on Zoom meetings.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Ryker stated the financial report and balances are posted. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approved to accept the financial report as presented.

**Fund Balances as of March 31, 2024**

General Fund	\$ 1,121,492	COVID Relief Fund	\$253,187
- CD General Fund	- \$237,000		
Open Space Fund	\$ 775,333	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$445,444
- CD Open Space	-\$125,000	- CD Liquid Fuels	- \$125,000
Escrow Fund	\$ 450,413	Street Light Fund	\$3,706
Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 477,968	Act 537 Escrow Fund	\$87,377
- CD Capital Reserve	- \$237,000		
Dedicated EMS	\$8,734	Dedicated Fire	\$67,059
General Fund Reserve	\$325,306		

**Payment of Bills**

(March 16, 2024 – April 15, 2024)

General Fund	\$83,782	Open Space Fund	\$39
Capital Reserve Fund	\$4,037	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$0
Escrows	\$5,639	Street Light Fund	\$575
PLGIT Credit Card	\$2,516	Dedicated EMS Fund	\$0
Dedicated Fire Fund	\$0		

Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Ms. Yearwood, and unanimously approved the payment of bills from March 16, 2024 - April 15, 2024.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried approved the March 26, 2024, minutes as amended.

#### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

**County Health Services** –At the Supervisor's March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board asked to have a meeting to discuss the changes St. Lukes Emergency Transport Services is requesting. Ms. Gina Miller from Bucks County Department of Emergency Health Services was present along with Mr. Charles Barker from St. Lukes to discuss and answer questions the Board may have regarding the proposed change. Ms. Miller advised they have been working on revising the call boxes for a while to streamline services. The change would only occur in the West Side of the Township regarding St. Lukes Ambulance. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approved to authorize the Township Manager to sign and return all paperwork to the Department of Emergency Health Services.

**Hiring of Part Time Officer** - Mr. Stephen Greco completed and passed all his tests and evaluations for the hiring process. Chief McDonald stated Solicitor MacNair reviewed Mr. Greco's offer of employment. Mr. Ryker said Springfield Township doesn't hire police officers often, so this is a big deal. Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Long and unanimously approved to authorize the hiring of Stephen Greco as a part time Police officer with a start date of May 1, 2024. All Supervisors wished him luck.

**Donation Acceptance for Police** - Joseph & Kristi Daly donated \$100 to the Springfield Township Police Department. Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Long and unanimously approved to accept and acknowledge the Police donation. Chief McDonald will respond to the Daly's with a letter.

**Request for Fire Police - Milford Township (2) and Hellertown Borough** – Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approved to authorize the use of the Springtown Fire Company Fire Police a division of Palisades Regional Fire Company at the Milford Township Volunteer Fire Company Annual Carnival to be held on Tuesday June 18, 2024, through Saturday June 22, 2024; at the Milford Township Annual AG-Daze event to be held on Saturday September 14, 2024 and at the Hellertown Historical Society Inaugural Heritage Day scheduled for Saturday May 18, 2024, from 10 am to 3 pm.

**Appointment to Historic Commission** – Motion made by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approved to appoint Mr. Thomas Cline to the Historic Commission for a term ending December 31, 2026.

**2024 Sealcoating Project** - Bids were posted on PennBID and due by Monday, April 22, @10:00 am. They were advertised in the intelligencer on 4/3/24 & 4/10/24. T. Fulmer states all bid documents appear to be in order. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approved to accept the bid from Asphalt Maintenance Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$3.94/SY or \$190,944.22 for the 2024 Bituminous Seal Coating and further authorize the Township Manager to sign all necessary paperwork to complete the project.

**Facilities Usage Policy – Resolution 2024-07** - The attached Resolution for the Facilities Usage Policy has been in the works for the past year or so. The PLPB has authorized the form at their April 8, 2024, meeting for the Board of Supervisors to adopt Resolution 2024-07 Facilities Usage Policy. Solicitor MacNair has been involved with reviewing the policy and drafting the Resolution. Motion made by Ms. Yearwood,

seconded by Mr. Long and unanimously approved to adopt **Resolution 2024-07** for the Springfield Township Facilities Usage Policy.

**Revenue Generation Discussion** – Mr. Long gave some background on the Open Space Referendum from 2000. He discussed the .25% of additional EIT the Township collects. There was an open discussion about possible changes that can be made to these collections and uses.

### **REPORTS / COMMENTS**

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

**Police** – A report was received and is on file. Chief McDonald advised DEA Nation Drug Take back day is April 27, 2024 at the Springfield Township Elementary School from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Public Works** – A report was received and is on file. Manager Pursell advised the grant request of \$250,000 for Lakeview/Greenwood was approved.

**Solicitor** – A report was received and is on file. Solicitor MacNair gave an update on the outcomes of two enforcement actions, Asst. Zoning Officer Gerhart and he, are handling - 1911 Gallows Hill Road and 1617 Rt 309.

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

**Palisades Regional Fire Department** - Commissioner Mease was present. He submitted February and March reports to the Board. Mr. Ryker questioned if getting a breakdown of what equipment responded to calls is possible. There was discussion about PRFR possibly selling an engine and BOS questioned why they were not aware of it. Ms. Yearwood asked about seeing PRFR's Budget. Commissioner Mease advised they are looking to reduce their fleet to help with insurance and maintenance. He stated the Joint advisory Board for PRFD is going well and they had two meetings so far.

**Planning Commission** – No report given. Mr. Bobb Carson, chair, was present. He advised the Planning Commission has been working on an event venue ordinance for a long time now and wanted the Supervisors to approve the definition proposed to make sure they are going in the correct direction. Four Supervisors were in agreement with the proposed definition. Mr. Ryker abstained due to his connection to Silver Creek Athletic Association.

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

**EAC** – No report was given. Ms. Arianne Elinich, chair, was present and talked about the road cleanup day and that 30 bags of trash were picked up off the sides of the road. She advised there are two candidates who will receive the Hans O Reiman scholarship this year. The Cooks Creek Festival will be held July 13, 2024 at Silver Creek. She said Mr. Jeff Litner came to the EAC and asked for their help with flooding mitigation for Knecht's Bridge. Mr. Pursell advised he had met with Mr. Lindtner and the County (who owns the Bridge) and had already discussed this issue. Ms. Elinich stated the Springfield Township P.D. received a grant which they paid forward to the EAC, so they were able to purchase safety glasses, gloves, a tent etc. Ms. Elinich thanked Chief McDonald. Ms. Elinich asked if she should be omitting litigation matters off their agenda which had been previously told to the EAC. Solicitor MacNair questioned why they would be discussing those matters. Solicitor MacNair said because of the Sunshine Act, it could be listed on the agenda if they do discuss it but they should not be discussing anything other than approved minutes from Conditional Use hearings. Secretary Gerhart reminded Solicitor MacNair that previous Variance applicants

had been upset their application was being discussed at EAC & PC meetings without applicant attorneys present. Mr. Kade advised that the EAC should stay in their lane and be careful discussing pending litigation matters.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Steve Doncevic, Pleasant View Road, stated he again wishes the Board would change AD minimum lot size acreage to 2 acres instead of 3 acres.

Ms. Arianne Elinich, Rt 212, stated she hopes regarding the Event Venue ordinance that is being discussed, that amplified music should be allowed outdoors as it is not always a nuisance.

Ms. Linda Wenhold, Deer Trail Road, asked a question about preserved land and taxes.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ms. Yearwood stated she attended the Knecht's Bridge Celebration, and it was a great event. Mr. Long questioned if there are still plans for an intern in the Municipal Office. He asked Mr. Pursell if he and Ms. Gerhart are truly interested in it. It was discussed that this would no longer be pursued due to lack of candidates and time to assist with the intern. Mr. Long requested to discuss goals for the Board on the next agenda.

Mr. Hopkins discussed Ms. McLean from Michael Baker and Associates to come to the next meeting. Mr. Hopkins advised he will work on a citation for Mr. Dick Wimmer for next agenda.

Mr. Ryker advised he learned a lot at his first PSATS convention.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Ryker noted there will be an executive session held after this meeting to discuss litigation matters and personnel.

Motion by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Long and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Gerhart  
Secretary