

**Board of Supervisors**

**MINUTES**

**June 25, 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/Assistant Zoning Officer), 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 will meet in executive session after this meeting to discuss potential litigation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Rosie Macilvain, Pleasant View Rd, advised she was upset about the wedding that was held at Kirkland Farm over the weekend and that she lives over a mile away and heard the loud music. She said something needs to be done.

Mr. Richard Foster, Rowland Lane, expressed his displeasure with the Kirkland Farm wedding and how loud the music was. He said it was "disturbing the peace." He advised the music ended around 10 pm or 10:30 p.m.

Mr. Ken Joire', Peppermint Road, stated he is upset about the volume of the music at Kirkland Farm's wedding the past weekend. He said his daughter was dancing in her bedroom to the music as it was that loud. He said they couldn't even hear their own TV in their living room. He advised the music ended around 10:15 p.m. or so.

Mr. David Bretz, Peppermint Road, stated he is very upset about the wedding illegally held at Kirkland Farm on June 16, 2024. He said it is very troubling that Ms. Staff is promoting her farm as a destination wedding venue on her website. He stated Ms. Staff doesn't care about her neighbors or community. He advised to speak to his wife in their home, he needed to speak with an elevated voice. He said the music stopped around 10:30 p.m.

Mr. Jeff Lindtner, Springhouse Lane, discussed the success of the Knecht's Bridge event and thanked the Road Crew for their assistance and the Board of Supervisor's support. He advised the County seems to accept taking over the electricity and alarm on the bridge but stated they could use encouragement in the form of a Resolution. He drafted one and provided it to Manager Pursell. He also recommended a citation to the gentleman who saved the bridge 20 years ago from arson. Mr. Ryker asked if he was under the impression the Township was not cooperating with the County regarding the bridge to which Mr. Litner replied he knows there are no negative feelings. He said the resolution would incentivize the County. The Board stated they would take it under advisement.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

Fund Balances as of May 31, 2024

General Fund	\$ 1,701,191	COVID Relief Fund	\$255,480
- CD General	- \$237,000		
Fund Reserve	- \$237,000		
Open Space Fund	\$ 476,127	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$344,272
- CD Open Space	-\$237,000	- CD Liquid Fuels	- \$236,00
Escrow Fund	\$ 474,169	Street Light Fund	\$9.637

Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 872,952	Act 537 Escrow Fund	\$87,586
- CD Capital Reserve	- \$237,000		
	- \$237,000		
Dedicated EMS	\$39,218	Dedicated Fire	\$219,684
General Fund Reserve	\$82,778		

**Payment of Bills**  
 (May 16, 2024 – June 15, 2024)

General Fund	\$95,758	Open Space Fund	\$319
Capital Reserve Fund	\$0	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$0
Escrows	\$38,916	Street Light Fund	\$550
PLGIT Credit Card	\$1,071	Dedicated EMS Fund	\$0
Dedicated Fire Fund	\$0		

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Hopkins and unanimously carried to approve the May 28, 2024, minutes as with suggested amendments.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Palisades High School STEM Outreach Club** - The Palisades High School Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Outreach Club, known as "STEM", planted trees in Peppermint Park as part of a school project on April 29<sup>th</sup>. As a thank you, we have established a Certificate of Appreciation to be awarded at the meeting. Mr. Frank Hollenbach, PLPB chair, gave a presentation involving photos of the students' work. In all, 105 new trees were planted. Chair Ryker presented the students with a Certificate of Appreciation.

**Request for Fire Police – Cooks Creek Watershed Association** – Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Ms. Yearwood, and unanimously approved to authorize the use of the Springtown Fire Company Fire Police (Palisades Regional Fire Company) at the Creek and River Festival hosted by the Cooks Creek Watershed Association to be held on Saturday July 13, 2024.

**Resolution 2024-13 – 2024/2025 Fuel Bid Acceptance** - The fuel bid was advertised by the Bucks County Consortium on May 24<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>. Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Hopkins and unanimously approved to adopt **Resolution 2024-13**, accepting the 2024-2025 Fuel Bid through the Bucks County Consortium, awarding the gas and diesel bid to Riggins, Inc. and awarding Colonial Oil Industries, Inc for heating oil for the 2024-2025 season, and further authorize the Township Manager to sign all paperwork necessary to complete the agreement.

**Authorization to Purchase Decibel Reader** – Chair Ryker advised our noise ordinance references decibel readings and we need to purchase a decibel reader. Mr. Kade and Mr. Long did lots of research on options. Solicitor MacNair discussed what would need to be established regarding the results of the decibel reader to be used as evidence. Chief McDonald advised he would create a policy and procedure to use it for noise complaints. Mr. Kade recommended a type two reader. Ms. Yearwood asked if training would be needed and Solicitor MacNair advised it can be as simple as reviewing the manual and calibrating the reader regularly. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Long and unanimously approved authorize the purchase of a decibel reader with a price not to exceed \$2,500.00

**Discussion on Burning Ordinance** – Solicitor MacNair advised he provided the Supervisors with Springfield Township’s Open Burning Ordinance, DEP Model Ordinance and PA Code Burning Regulations. All three are almost identical. Mr. Mease, Palisades Regional Fire and Rescue Commissioner advised the fire department does not regulate or police burning and only will intervene if they feel something is “unsafe.” The police are the ones who would respond. Mr. Kade advised before it becomes a police matter, the residents should be speaking to their neighbors about any issues first. Solicitor MacNair advised the Township cannot enforce any state codes and any complaints on that matter needs to be addressed with the State. Ms. Yearwood mentioned adding certain wording to our ordinance. Mr. Kade advised that would be a knee jerk reaction after one man’s complaint. Solicitor MacNair advised neighbors can pursue action on their own in magisterial court on nuisance and burning. There are other options and answers for a resident besides complaints to the Township.

#### **REPORTS / COMMENTS**

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

**Police** – A report was received and is on file. Chief McDonald advised there were a few Crimewatch news releases recently. Mr. Hopkins thanked the PD for their hard work and acknowledged that sometimes it doesn’t get recognized as it should.

**Public Works** – A report was received and is on file. Manager Pursell advised the grant work has started and will be completed in two weeks. The bid for paving closes next Tuesday.

**Solicitor** – A report was received and is on file. Mr. Ryker advised H&K plans that were submitted regarding their exploratory wells for their mining license were posted on the Township’s Facebook and Website.

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

**Palisades Regional Fire Department** – Report received and on file. Mr. Jeff Mease, Commissioner, advised two of the Springfield Supervisors went to the BCATO meeting last month down county regarding Fire Departments. Mr. Ryker thanked all the responders regarding the residential fire on Peppermint Road. Mr. Ryker advised he would like PRFR to be better with communication with the Supervisors and especially when buying large expensive equipment. Mr. Ryker advised this board enacted the dedicated tax and taxpayers deserve to know where their money is going.

**Planning Commission** – No report given.

**Parks & Land Preservation Board** – Mr. Frank Hollenbach, advised the kiosk that vo-tech students made was installed in Peppermint Park. Mr. Hollenbach advised the wildflower seeds that were donated last year by a resident have been planted along the Rail Trail and Peppermint Park.

**EAC** – No report was given. Ms. Yearwood stated the EAC is still working on the litter enforcement corridor. She said each grade in the Springfield elementary school made anti-litter posters.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

CONCERN forms from residents regarding Kirkland Farm wedding held on June 15, 2024.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Steve Doncevic, Pleasant View Road, asked if the Board would consider putting pedestrian signs on Pleasant View as a lot of people walk there and there are blind curves.

Mr. James Nilsen, Pleasant View Road, suggested signs advising there is an "Active Farm" in the area to warn drivers about farm equipment on the road.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ms. Yearwood stated she continues to work with PennDOT on the litter enforcement corridor.

Mr. Ryker thanked the residents who attended the meeting and advised the July 9, 2024 BOS Work session is cancelled.

Mr. Hopkins advised about the pending litigation regarding zoning.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Long and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Gerhart  
Secretary