

Board of Supervisors

**MINUTES
 July 23, 2024**

IN-PERSON MEETING

Supervisors Present: Bill Ryker, Pete Kade, Jim Hopkins, 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 and personnel.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was none.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Ryker stated the financial report and balances are posted. Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Ryker and approved 4-0 to accept the financial report as presented.

Fund Balances as of June 30, 2024

General Fund	\$1,679,453	COVID Relief Fund	\$256,507
- CD General Fund Reserve	- \$237,000		
Open Space Fund	\$520,268	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$344,727
- CD Open Space	- \$237,000	- CD Liquid Fuels	- \$236,00
Escrow Fund	\$477,817	Street Light Fund	\$9,343
Capital Reserve Fund	\$889,431	Act 537 Escrow Fund	\$87,679
- CD Capital Reserve	- \$237,000		
Dedicated EMS	\$40,133	Dedicated Fire	\$224,354
General Fund Reserve	\$331,100		

Payment of Bills

(June 16, 2024 – July 15, 2024)

General Fund	\$99,790.17	Open Space Fund	\$19.50
Capital Reserve Fund	\$2,400	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$0
Escrows	\$7,419.11	Street Light Fund	\$549.76
PLGIT Credit Card	\$2,711.97	Dedicated EMS Fund	\$0
Dedicated Fire Fund	\$0		

Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade, and approved 4-0 for the payment of bills from June 16, 2024 - July 15, 2024.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Ryker and voted 4-0 to approve the June 5, 2024, minutes, June 11, 2024, minutes and June 25, 2024, minutes as drafted.

BUSINESS ITEMS

CBBC Annual Covered Bridges Bike Ride - As in the past, we have received a request for authorization for the 43rd Annual Covered Bridges Ride scheduled for October 13, 2024. Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Hopkins and approved 4-0 to authorize the 43rd Annual Covered Bridges Ride scheduled for October 13, 2024.

Dorris Site Plan - Scott Mease, engineer for applicant, Mr. Dorris, asked to be heard by the Supervisors at this meeting to discuss the Dorris site plan, (tax parcel 42-17-117-2). Tim Fulmer, Township Engineer, has a comment in his review letter that conditional use approval is required due to the location of the driveway and stormwater BMP. The supervisors approved the location of the driveway and stormwater BMP when the conservation easement was created years ago. Supervisors deferred to Solicitor MacNair to advise on the situation. Solicitor MacNair stated it is a zoning issue, the Supervisors cannot wave the Conditional Use Hearing. The Supervisors would like to have the hearing on 8/27/24 at their next meeting so the applicant doesn't have to wait longer to build his home. Mr. Mease will submit the Conditional Use application to the township as soon as possible.

EPA Water Technical Assistance Program - Mr. Pursell, Mr. Kade and Mr. Hopkins attended a zoom meeting to find out if the Township would be eligible for a grant through the EPA Water Technical Assistance Program. Mr. Hopkins provided a summary of the program. Mr. Hopkins drafted a support letter for the program. Supervisors agreed for Mr. Pursell to sign and submit the letter on behalf of the Township.

Resolution 2024-14 Opposing HB1976 and HB2045 - BCATO has asked the municipalities to support this resolution because statewide zoning mandates do not account for the specific needs and conditions of individual communities. Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 2024-14, Opposing HB1976 and HB2045.

Resolution 2024-15 Terminating Joint Tax Collector with Tincum Township (Res.2023-05) - In 2023, the Board adopted Resolution 2023-05 authorizing Deborah Yerger to act as Tax Collector for Tincum Township in addition to Springfield Township. Ms. Yerger requested that the Board withdraw from this agreement effective January 1, 2026. This is necessary due to the end date of her elected term (12/31/2025). Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by and unanimously approved 4-0 to adopt Resolution 2024-15 terminating the appointment of Deborah Yerger as Tax Collector for Tincum Township effective January 1, 2026, unless an earlier date is agreed by Springfield and Tincum Townships.

Protocol For the Use of Decibel Meter - At the last meeting the Board talked about having a protocol for the use of a decibel meter. The Chief said he would work on producing such a protocol for this and after doing some research has found that most municipalities abide by the ordinance itself. The Chiefs attached email goes into detail on a simple memo that could be given to the Officers detailing what is expected of them when they are called for a potential noise ordinance violation. Mr. Hopkins advised the police would be the first responders to noise complaints due to the hours and most likely weekends being the big issue. Solicitor MacNair stated the first step after capturing the data is to issue a Notice of Violation then the resident would have the right to appeal to Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Hopkins questioned if there is anything that needs revision to which Solicitor MacNair stated no. Chief will do a memo to officers on use of decibel meter.

Cut Off Road and Kellers Road Update - Manager Pursell advised there were speed studies done on these roads by Springfield Police. Manager Pursell advised he reached out to LTAP to do a study, but they have a very long waitlist. Regarding Cut Off Road, Chief McDonald said he recommended 35 mph. Solicitor MacNair

said a separate ordinance would be needed for that speed limit. Mr. Hopkins suggested making both roads 25 mph as it would be better for the public. Mr. Kade agreed. Chief McDonald said he questions the validity of the "residential roadway" list produced years ago by a previous Engineer and Manager. The Chief requested that if the BOS was going to post a roadway on that list at 25mph, he would prefer not to conduct a traffic study beforehand to avoid having data that does not support it. All present supervisors agreed to speed limits of 25 on both Cut Off road and Kellers Road. Manager Pursell stated he would draft a resolution for the next meeting regarding posting the speed limits for those two roads.

Jumped to correspondence regarding letter from Upper Saucon Township regarding speed limit on Flint Hill Road. They requested Springfield ask PennDOT to conduct a speed study for the portion of Flint Kill Road and post appropriate speed limit signs. Manager Pursell said he already reached out to PennDOT as asked.

2024 Superpave Project – Manager Pursell advised the bids must be rejected due to the cost exceeding \$100,000.00 and the Township not bidding the project for prevailing wage. Manager Pursell suggested that we still pave the following roadways: Lakeview Dr, Greenwood Dr, Mountain Ave and Spring Hill Dr. WES paving would do the paving only and Richland Township would help haul the blacktop for the job. The project would not have to be rebid because the paving contractor would be under the threshold and the blacktop is purchased through co-stars. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker and approved 4-0 to reject all bids. Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Ms. Yearwood and approved 4-0 for WES Paving and Concrete Construction, Inc to pave Lakeview Dr, Greenwood Dr, Mountain Ave and Spring Hill Dr, while supplying a paver, roller, milling machine and operators. The Township will supply trucking and material. Funding will come out of the Capital Fund.

Litter Enforcement Signage – Ms. Yearwood did a PowerPoint presentation on the options for possible litter signage and where the signs would go. Mr. Kade questioned if the EAC would pay for the signs to which Ms. Yearwood said yes. She later clarified she is not a member so cannot speak for them but will discuss with the EAC. Manager Pursell advised he will put it back on the agenda once the decision on the number of signs to be ordered and location of signs is made.

Discussion on Burning Ordinance – Ms. Yearwood discussed the difference between the new burning ordinance and the previous one. She requests to go back to the old version because she feels it is safer. When asked why the ordinance was changed Solicitor MacNair stated a previous board wanted the revision and felt it was more in line with the state model ordinance. Mr. Kade asked if the Township can just reference the state regulations in our ordinance and Solicitor MacNair said yes. Mr. Kade stated they cannot make the ordinance too complicated because it makes it more difficult to enforce. A resident in the audience who was present at the last Burn Ordinance discussion stated his property is always covered in smoke. Solicitor MacNair stated there are options for him in civil court and could bring about a complaint with the magistrate. He stated it would be regarding a private nuisance for disturbing the use of his property. Ms. Yearwood stated she would like the ordinance changed back to the way it was. Mr. Ryker, Mr. Kade and Mr. Hopkins all said they think the ordinance is fine the way it is currently.

REPORTS / COMMENTS

Zoning – A report was received and is on file.

Police – A report was received and is on file. Chief McDonald he has been working with the property owner along Rt 309 and Hilltop on trimming back the trees for sight line. Chief stated the DCED grant for speed boards is still in review. The Chief advised they received a DOJ grant and purchased a pop-up tent and folding tables to use for events.

Public Works – A report was received and is on file. Manager Pursell advised the new septic installation will start in the next few weeks. Manager Pursell said the Road Department will be installing pedestrian signs on Pleasant View and Peppermint Road.

Solicitor – A report was received and is on file.

Engineer – A report was received and is on file.

Palisades Regional Fire Department – Report received and on file. Mr. Ryker noted that seeing the MOU required budgets of other Fire Departments and how they operate on smaller budgets, he was enlightened. He stated they are buying refurbished equipment, he felt it important to note PRFR is buying new.

Planning Commission – No report given. Member, Bruce Whitesell, present in personal capacity, advised PC continues to work on event venue ordinance.

Parks & Land Preservation Board – No report given.

EAC – No report was given. Ms. Yearwood stated the EAC is revising their plan for Cooks Creek evaluation and sending letters to large property owners along the creek and requesting their cooperation.

CORRESPONDENCE

Discussed above earlier.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Steve Doncevic, Pleasant View Road, thanked Mr. Pursell for the soon to be installation of the pedestrian signs and having done so quickly.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Ryker discussed the need for other municipalities to assist funding the PRFR department as Springfield had done their part. It is time for others to step up funding.

Mr. Kade stated even though the state will allow for the dedicated tax to be raised without a referendum, he feels Springfield Township should hold where they are.

Ms. Yearwood mentioned she sent an email about a grant opportunity earlier this week and hopes the others saw it and advised the application date is August 1, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ryker noted there will be an executive session held after this meeting to discuss litigation matters. He advised the next BOS work session of August 13, 2024 is cancelled.

Motion by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Hopkins and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Gerhart
Secretary