

Board of Supervisors

MINUTES

September 24, 2024

IN-PERSON MEETING

Supervisors Present: Bill Ryker, Pete Kade, 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 to discuss potential litigation and personnel.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None given.

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 August 31, 2024

General Fund	\$1,681,570	COVID Relief Fund	\$258,867
- CD General Fund Reserve	- \$237,000		
Open Space Fund	\$104,969	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$347,021
- CD Open Space	-\$237,000	- CD Liquid Fuels	- \$236,00
Escrow Fund	\$1,492,913	Street Light Fund	\$5,743
Capital Reserve Fund	\$894,767	Act 537 Escrow Fund	\$87,867
- CD Capital Reserve	- \$237,000		
Dedicated EMS	\$1,179	Dedicated Fire	\$53,302
General Fund Reserve	\$328,116		

Payment of Bills

(August 16, 2024 –September 15, 2024)

General Fund	\$167,388.20	Open Space Fund	\$0
Capital Reserve Fund	\$0	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$0
Escrows	\$9,783.27	Street Light Fund	\$549.84
PLGIT Credit Card	\$2,126.18	Dedicated EMS Fund	\$0
Dedicated Fire Fund	\$38,624.00		

Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Long, and approved 4-0 for the payment of bills from August 16, 2024 - September 15, 2024.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Kade, seconded by Ms. Yearwood and approved 4-0 to adopt the August 27, 2024, September 5, 2024 & September 9, 2024 minutes as amended.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Discussion on Event Venues and Special Events – Ms. Yearwood asked to table the discussion until Mr. Hopkins is back from vacation. Mr. Kade agreed. Mr. Ryker pointed out Mr. Hopkins didn't ask for this topic

to be tabled. Mr. Long said he agrees to table it but wanted to advise the logic behind the Planning Commission not excluding non-profits. He stated it had to do with the intensity of the use - roads, resources etc. Mr. Kade said he understood but the non-profits already in existence with event venues are the heart of this community. Ms. Yearwood stated she thinks that's why new entities should be regulated. Discussion with Solicitor MacNair about non-conforming pre-existing venues. Motion made table the discussion for a future agenda and approved 3-1 with Mr. Ryker being the "no" vote. Mr. Ryker stated this discussion has been going on a very long time and needs to be wrapped up.

Discussion on a Property Maintenance Ordinance – Ms. Gerhart stated she reached out to Barry Isett's office and Bucks County Planning Commission regarding property maintenance code discussion. BCPC provided their sample ordinance which is an abbreviated version of the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code. Solicitor MacNair advised he wasn't in favor of utilizing that version as he feels there was ambiguity with the language in it. Mr. Italia, Zoning Officer, stated all of Chapter 3 of 2018 IPMC code should be included minus grass/weeds if the Board doesn't want to regulate grass height. Ms. Gerhart noted there have been residents' complaints about grass height. The next step is to draft an ordinance with which sections of the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code. Mr. Long and Ms. Gerhart will work on putting something together.

Authorization to Advertise Ordinance #208 – Establishing speed limit on Cut Off/Passer Roads – Mr. Pursell discussed the traffic studies performed and the results of the study prompting the establishment of 35 miles per hour on Cut Off Road and 40 miles per hour on Passer Road. This was previously discussed at the September 10, 2024, meeting. Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Ryker, and approved 4-0 to advertise **Ordinance #208** establishing a thirty-five mile per hour speed limit on Cut Off Road and a forty mile per hour speed limit on Passer Road.

Resolution 2024-17 – Kellers Rd and Springfield St Speed Limit – Motion made by Ms. Yearwood, seconded by Mr. Kade and approved 4-0 to adopt **Resolution 2024-17** establishing Maximum Speed Limit for Kellers Road and Springfield Street and establishing penalties for violations thereof.

Update on Possible Grants – Mr. Pursell advised he had a meeting with Millenium and the one grant that they had in mind regarding installing a round-a-bout at Rt 212 and Rt 412 wouldn't be permitted under that grant guidelines. Mr. Pursell stated they would be able to replace the police vehicles under the DCED LSA grant. The Township will apply for two police cars, approximately \$142,000 worth. This project agreement would require a flat fee of \$3,500. Motion made by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Long and approved 4-0 to pursue a grant for the police cars and execute project agreement for flat fee of \$3,500 with Manager Pursell to execute and sign paperwork.

Upper Bucks Senior Center – After Upper Bucks Senior Center sent a letter requesting donation from Springfield Township, the Board asked Mr. Pursell to get a list of Township residents who utilize the senior center. There are 19 residents who are current members. Motion by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Long and approved 4-0 to donate \$500 to the Upper Bucks Senior Center located in Ottsville.

Website/Communication – Ms. Yearwood presented a short presentation regarding the parts of the comprehensive plan and how it relates to communication with the Township. She advised the new website went live in July 2024 and has been an improvement. She recommended a committee to help get information out to the residents. Mr. Ryker stated he feels the current committees and councils should be doing their own outreach. Mr. Kade pointed out some older population still do not use the internet. Ms. Yearwood stated if the Board is interested in forming a communications committee she will draft a scope of

goals for the committee. The Board agreed for Ms. Yearwood to work on that and bring back to review at a future meeting.

E-Waste Event – Ms. Yearwood advised there is a grant opportunity that would cover the TV fees for the EAC E- Waste recycling event in October. She said they would get \$2,000 to cover the fees of recycling the TVs. She said it would most likely be a reimbursement since the event is so close. Ms. Yearwood is asking for the Board to pay the cost out of the General Fund and then the grant funds would reimburse the general fund once it is received. Motion made by Mr. Ryker, seconded by Mr. Kade and approved 4-0 to pay the \$2,000 TV recycling fees out of general fund to be reimbursed once EAC receives the grant money.

REPORTS / COMMENTS

Zoning – A report was received and is on file.

Fire/EMS –PRFR, submitted a report to the Board.

Police – A report was received and is on file. Chief stated Gasket Goons event went well besides one issue. Mr. Schadt, Pleasant Hollow Road, asked if the Chief was aware of a Porche club driving through the Township the other week. They were speeding and revving engines. Chief McDonald stated he was not aware but if that were to happen again to call non-emergency line or 911.

Public Works – A report was received and is on file. Manager Pursell advised the developments off of Drifting Drive were paved and the Road Department just finished today. Also, the roads budgeted to be line painted this year were recently completed.

Solicitor – A report was received and is on file. Solicitor MacNair stated regarding the H&K Quarry decision. Judge Bowman requested the residents' comments to which Solicitor MacNair supplied the recorded hearings and copies of any letters received. Solicitor MacNair stated he sent a letter to PPL as requested regarding possible easements for the proposed new trail off Trolley Bridge Road. He has not heard a response back yet. Solicitor MacNair stated he has another matter to discuss in executive session after the meeting.

Engineer – A report was received and is on file.

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

Planning Commission – No report given. Member, Bruce Whitesell, stated the Planning Commission is working on tasks the Comprehensive Plan spelled out.

Parks & Land Preservation Board – No report given.

EAC – No report was given. Mr. Clime, Vice Chair, stated they are getting ready for the E-Waste event.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence received by resident on Pleasant View Road requesting Deer Crossing Signs be installed. Mr. Ryker advised the deer are moving a lot this time of year and urges everyone to slow down and be on alert. Mr. Whitesell, Route 212, questioned who to call if there is a wounded deer on the side of the road. It

was explained if it is on a state route to call PennDOT and if it is on a Township Road to call the Game Commission. Ms. Gerhart will reiterate that information on the website and Facebook page.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Mark Shadt, Pleasant Hollow Rd, stated regarding the event venue ordinance, he said he submitted to the Township, Milford Township's ordinance they passed. He stated Milford Township figured it out and it is working. Ms. Gerhart stated the Planning Commission was given the documentation he provided previously.

Mr. Mike Clime, High Meadow Road, stated the previous Zoning Hearing Board hearing regarding Pieri farm cost the residents a lot of money to fight and should have been a blueprint for the Township. He said the residents don't want these wedding venues. He said it is a noise ordinance issue.

Mr. Walt Segl, Pleasant View Rd, stated this started 12 years ago when another wedding venue tried on Pleasant View. He questioned why the Township hasn't put in an ordinance to regulate this yet. He questioned what took so long.

Mrs. Jan Ruhl, Hottle Road, stated most residents oppose these event venues and questioned why the Board waited so long to establish something to control them.

Mrs. Debra Segl, Pleasant View Rd, questioned if the Township has the personnel to enforce these proposed ordinances. Solicitor MacNair explained the difference between zoning enforcement and stand-alone ordinance enforcement. Also, the current noise ordinance was discussed and enforcement.

Ms. Alice Yates, Peppermint Road, stated her concern with the most recent event at Kirkland Farm was regarding the noise. She questioned if there was any enforcement. Mr. Kade stated the property was issued a notice of violation. Ms. Yates stated Kirkland Farm's website still advertises weddings. Ms. Gerhart stated the Township is aware of that even though Ms. Staff promised no more events.

Mr. John Ruhl, Hottle Road, urged the board to expedite regulations regarding these events. He stated most people move to the county for quiet. He stated if the Board passes this event venue ordinance he urges "hard enforcement" of the ordinance.

Mr. Steve Doncevic, Pleasant View, stated he has been here since the 1970s and has seen the Township grown a lot. He stated he thinks the board is doing their best to keep the balance. He stated his advice is to make the ordinance tight against any loopholes as he has seen residents and lawyers try to find loopholes with any ordinance.

Ms. Vera Cole, candidate for 145th district for State House of Representative, thanked everyone for having her. She stated she understands the residents' worries as she dealt with some noise issues with Airbnb when she lived in W. Rockhill Township.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Lorna Yearwood stated she is still working on the Thriving Earth exchange project. She stated this week they will start on a project description. Ms. Yearwood stated PennDOT agreed to pay for the litter signage on state roads. She said \$300 fine is the maximum fine that can be listed on the sign.

Mr. Pete Kade stated the discussion at PSATS about giving property tax credit to fireman is something he thinks Springfield Township should do. He thinks it may help with volunteers.


Mr. Bill Ryker thanked the residents who came this evening and urged them to get involved with any of the Township's boards and commissions.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion by Mr. Kade, seconded by Mr. Long and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Gerhart
Secretary