

Board of Supervisors

**MINUTES
November 12, 2024
IN-PERSON MEETING
BOS WORK SESSION**

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

Also present: Rich Pursell (Township Manager/Public Works Director) & Scott MacNair Esq. (Township Solicitor).

Mr. Ryker called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Ryker advised there will be an executive session held after the meeting to discuss personnel and litigation.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Joanne Follweiler, 3029 Cooks Creek Road, received an anonymous letter in her mailbox about an entertainment center within half a mile of her house. She said Cooks Creek is a small road and she's not sure where that event venue would be. She loves things the way they are. She said they like the quiet here. Mr. Hopkins discussed under code they must allow for every type of use. An event venue is a new category and for 2 years the Township has been looking at how to address that use and guidelines to go along with it. The letter was started by one person who feels not enough information has been shared but the Township is sharing as much as possible. The document itself has a lot of false information. Mr. Ryker said there are no specific plans within half a mile of your home, but the author was trying to get a reaction out of residents.

Mr. Alan Troutman, 2940 Cooks Creek Road, stated he moved here five years ago and loves being in the quiet. They wouldn't like an event center on Cooks Creek Road. He asked if someone applied. Mr. Hopkins said no but the Board and Planning Commission were looking to regulate and put restrictions in place. Ms. Molly Troutman, same address as above, said it is a peaceful place to come home to and wants to keep it this way.

Ms. Alice Rodenbaugh, 3073 Cooks Creek Road, she said Cooks Creek is tight and two cars can barely pass. It would not be a good idea for an event venue on that road. Mr. Ryker said an anonymous letter illegally put in mailboxes is not how the Township would communicate with residents. Mr. Ryker said public comment is always welcome at meetings.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Resolution 2024-20 – Citation for Caroline Pamuku – Mr. Ryker presented Ms. Pamuku with a citation, **Resolution 2024-20**, for her participation in the summer Olympics and mentioned many of her other accolades.

Resolution 2024-21 – 2025 Tax Levy – Mr. Pursell stated the taxes stay the same as last year. Motion made by Ms. Yearwood, seconded by Mr. Hopkins and unanimously approved to adopt **Resolution 2024-21**, for the Tax Levy in Springfield Township Bucks County to be set at 14 mills for 2025.

Resolution 2024-22 – 2025 Fire-EMS Tax – Mr. Pursell again stated the dedicated Fire and EMS tax is the same as last year. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade, and unanimously approved to adopt **Resolution 2024-22**, for the Fire-EMS Tax in Springfield Township Bucks County to be set at 3 mills for 2025.

Resolution 2024-23 – Adoption of 2025 Budget - Motion made by Mr. Long, seconded, by Mr. Kade and

unanimously approved to adopt **Resolution 2024-23**, Adopting the 2025 Fiscal Year balanced Budget as previously advertised in The Intelligencer newspaper on October 15, 2024.

Setting Township Meeting Dates and Times for 2025 - The Township needs to advertise the Reorganization Meeting and the 2025 Meeting Dates and Times. The Reorganization Meeting this year will be Monday, January 6th. For the regular meeting schedule, we need to confirm that the Board wants to continue holding its meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm. All Supervisors agreed to keep the schedule the same.

Escrow Release #1 – Cooks Creek Subdivision – The interior road was installed for the subdivision. Mr. Fulmer itemized what can be released out of escrow. Solicitor MacNair discussed Municipal Planning Code and Financial Agreement discussed the 10% contingency allowed to be built in the agreement. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Kade, seconded and unanimously approved to authorize the release of escrow funds in the amount of \$443,046.80 for the Estates of Cooks Creek Subdivision project as per the Township Engineers letter dated October 28, 2024, and further authorize the Township Manager to execute the Certificate of Completion No. 1.

ARPA Expense – Mr. Pursell stated the original thought was to pay for the F600 that was just ordered with ARPA funds. Since the International Dump Truck that was ordered in June of 2023 was finally delivered to the upfitters, it will make the ARPA reporting easier and cleaner if we can spend all the money this year without having to report we are under contract on anything. This would leave approximately \$25,000.00 left in the ARPA fund which will pay for some of the septic work and some of the remaining architect work for the addition. Anything remaining to be paid for these projects will be done through the Capital Fund. Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Ms. Yearwood, unanimously approved to move to authorize the payment of \$117,956.00 from the ARPA Fund for the purchase of the 2025 International Dump Truck Chassis. Motion made by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously approved to authorize the transfer of \$160,133.38 from the ARPA Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund.

Eagle Scout Project – Mr. Pursell stated he received an email from a Springfield Township resident who is interested in completing his Eagle Scout Project locally. He stated that a project could consist of building benches and signs, etc. Mr. Pursell contacted Passer Community to see if they would be interested in supporting this due to their recent upgrades. They advised that they would be interested, if approved by the Board. All board members agreed it was a great idea.

Discussion on the Use of SharePoint – Ms. Yearwood discussed the iPads and using SharePoint to share documents. She said currently, everything is stored on the share drive which Board Members don't have access to. She said this would be an intranet thing that is safe. It's a personal file management system as well. Teams would help with calls and be better than Zoom in her opinion. Supervisors would be able to access this off site. She said the system administrator can restrict and give permissions as needed. Mr. Bruce Whitsell, Rt 212, stated this would be a tremendous tool for the ABCs. Mr. Ryker wondered if it would help organize the Shared Drive at the Township. Ms. Yearwood stated the downside would be the final document would need to be saved back to the served once finished. Mr. Tony Matzura, Rt 212, stated there could be policy regarding it. Solicitor MacNair stated it can become an issue with Sunshine Act and attorney/client privilege. Mr. Matzura also said someone would need to be the administrator for the files and accessibility. Ms. Yearwood will set up a meeting with SystemsNet to discuss this.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Lorna Yearwood questioned if the Communications Committee ad should be advertised in the Herald and Pennypower. Mr. Pursell said non-township residents will be reaching out plus there would be a cost to do it that way. Mr. Hopkins stated he would like the committee to be postponed until after this "bad communication" calms down, perhaps in the new year. Ms. Yearwood stated as constable and EMC, Mr. Tony McGuire can enforce the burn ban. She said he is available to do that if we chose. Board members were not interested in that as the Police enforce it as well. Ms. Yearwood questioned street sweeping in Woodbyne. Mr. Pursell stated there has never been on-going street sweeping in Springfield. It is done once in the Spring to remove cinders from winter icing road treatments. Ms. Yearwood asked about the sidewalk buckling in Woodbyne. Mr. Pursell stated that is on the homeowner to replace and fix. The township doesn't own the sidewalk. Ms. Yearwood stated she, Mr. Kade and Mr. Long went to see the West Rockhill Township solar setup.

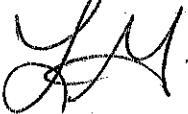
Mr. Kade stated the fire hydrants were painted and color coded. He said snow removed is the responsibility of the homeowner.

ADJOURNMENT

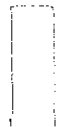
Executive session to be held after to discuss personnel and litigation. There was a special meeting yesterday and an executive session was held after to discuss personnel and litigation also.

Motion by Mr. Kade, seconded Ms. Yearwood, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Gerhart
Secretary



4

