

Board of Supervisors

**MINUTES
 MARCH 25, 2025**

MEETING HELD AT PASSER COMMUNITY CENTER

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

Also present: Rich Pursell (Township Manager), Scott MacNair, Esq. (Township Solicitor), & Michael McDonald (Chief of Police).

Mr. Kade called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No public comment was given.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Kade stated the financial report and balances are posted.

Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously carried, approving the financial report as presented.

Fund Balances as of February 28, 2025

General Fund	\$1,202,714	Capital Reserve CD	\$237,000
General Fund Reserve	\$312,563	Liquid Fuels Fund	\$81,825
General Fund CD	\$237,000	Liquid Fuels CD	\$236,000
Escrow Fund	\$993,619	Open Space Fund	\$787,547
Street Light Fund	\$2,057	Open Space CD	\$237,000
Dedicated Fire Tax Fund	\$57,241	Act 537 Escrows	\$88,499
Capital Reserve Fund	\$1,109,096	Dedicated EMS Tax Fund	\$2,291

Payment of Bills

(February 16, 2025 – March 15, 2025)

General Fund	\$89,627.75	Escrow Fund	\$1,836.70
PLGIT Credit Card	\$1,645.02	Dedicated EMS Fund	\$0
Liquid Fuels Fund	\$17,726.52	Dedicated Fire Fund	\$0
Capital Reserve Fund	\$46,755.74	Open Space Fund	\$0
Street Light Fund	\$1,078.58		

Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Ms. Yearwood, and unanimously approved the payment of bills from February 16, 2025 – March 15, 2025.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously carried approving the February 25, 2025, February 27, 2025 and March 4, 2025 meeting minutes, as presented.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Hellertown Borough – Fire Police Request – Motion by Ms. Yearwood seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried authorizing the use of Springtown Fire Company Fire Police at the Hellertown Historical Society Heritage Day scheduled for Saturday May 17, 2025.

Haycock Township – Fire Police Request - Motion by Ms. Yearwood seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried authorizing the use of available Springtown Fire Company Fire Police at the Independence Triathlon scheduled for Sunday, May 18, 2025 and the Steelman Triathlon scheduled for Sunday, August 3, 2025 at Nockamixon State Park.

Appointment to the Planning Commission - Motion by Mr. Hopkins seconded by Ms. Yearwood and unanimously carried appointing Travis Pantaleo to the Planning Commission with a term ending December 31, 2025.

Appointments to the EAC – Motion by Ms. Yearwood seconded by Mr. Kade and unanimously carried appointing the following to the EAC: Laura Gardiner with a term ending December 31, 2026, Peyton Martoccio with a term ending December 31, 2027 and Melissa Eddy with a term ending December 31, 2025.

Appointment to the ZHB (Alternate) - Motion by Mr. Long seconded by Mr. Ryker and unanimously carried appointing James Deacon as the Zoning Hearing Board Alternate with a term ending December 31, 2025.

Exact Solar Presentation – Mr. Michael Bloom of Exact Solar presented the Board with information on a Solar Purchase Agreement which could offer community savings. The goal of this project would be to generate solar power to offset 100% of current annual electric consumption and additional consumption to charge EV's, if acquired. It is expected that solar production will be 50,000 kWh. Mr. Bloom advised that the increase in electricity prices for the solar PPA would be fixed for 25 years and the current proposal is 2.5% per annum. The savings over 25 years would be approximately \$100,000, or more if the Township decided to acquire the array after 7 years. Mr. Pursell advised that the Township currently has an agreement with a locked in rate for the next 4 years.

Mr. Bloom also explained Net Metering and how it works. Ultimately, the solar panels convert energy from the sun into electricity, an inverter converts the electricity produced by the solar panels from direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC) for use in your home, the energy is used in your home and a bi-directional meter measures energy used and excess energy produced. Mr. Kade questioned what happens with the extra power generated. Mr. Bloom advised he would need to look into this as the scope of this project is not residential, which he is more familiar with. The proposed solar location would be in the field adjacent to the Municipal Building. In addition, Mr. Bloom went over the cost and performance summary, federal and PA incentives and cost savings with solar.

Mr. Hopkins asked for clarification on the size of a module. Mr. Bloom advised that it is approximately 4' x 8' wide. Mr. Hopkins advised that the proposed solar arrangement would require buffering, which would be an added cost. A discussion continued regarding potential cost savings.

The consensus of the Board was to wait for additional information from Mr. Bloom before a decision could be made.

Acceptance of Resignation – Assistant Zoning Officer/Secretary – Mr. Pursell advised that the Township is in receipt of a resignation letter from Lisa Gerhart. The Board thanked Ms. Gerhart for her time at Springfield Township.

Motion by Ms. Yearwood seconded by Mr. Hopkins and unanimously carried accepting Ms. Gerhart's resignation effective March 21, 2025.

Part-Time Employment – Motion by Mr. Long seconded by Mr. Ryker and, unanimously carried appointing Lisa Gerhart as an as needed part-time employee at an hourly rate of \$30.00.

Ratification of Advertisement – Part-Time Administrative Assistant – Motion by Mr. Hopkins seconded by Mr. Kade and, unanimously carried ratifying the advertisement of a part-time Administrative Assistant.

Ratification of Additional Excavation – Township Building - Motion by Mr. Ryker seconded by Mr. Kade and, unanimously carried ratifying the additional excavation work needed for the building addition, with a price not to exceed \$15,752.00.

Letter of Support – Heritage Conservancy – Mr. Pursell advised this is a request for a letter of support for Heritage Conservancy regarding them pursuing grant funding for a conservation easement at the Waltman property which is a 46-acre lot with partial public access. Ms. Yearwood asked for clarification on the already preserved land and plans for parking. There was a brief discussion on fees in lieu of from another Township project.

Motion by Mr. Hopkins seconded by Mr. Kade and, unanimously carried authorizing the Township Manager to send Heritage Conservancy a Letter of Support for the grant application with DCNR.

Bucks County Planning Commission – Professional Services Proposal – Mr. Hopkins advised that with the upcoming Map Grant RFP and the discussion on scenic overlay district that it is important to have the County help us on an as-needed-basis with services from the Bucks County Planning Commission. He recommended that the Board move forward with the proposal. Mr. Long asked for the protocol on how to use these services. The consensus was that any requests would go through Mr. Pursell.

Motion by Mr. Hopkins seconded by Mr. Kade and, unanimously carried executing the proposal from the Bucks County Planning Commission to serve as an on-call planning consultant to assist with various tasks as needed by the Board of Supervisors.

Street Light Tax Liens – Mr. Pursell advised that there are 3 properties that have not paid their 2024 Street Light Tax. He requested the Board authorize the Township Solicitor to move forward with the filing of liens in accordance with the Township's Ordinance.

Motion by Mr. Ryker seconded by Mr. Kade and, unanimously carried authorizing the Township Solicitor to file liens on unpaid street light taxes as outlined in Ordinance No 208.

2025 Bucks County Department of Health Mosquito Control Program – Mr. Pursell stated that this is an annual request from the Bucks County Board of Health. He is seeking authorization from the Board to move forward with participation.

Motion by Mr. Hopkins seconded by Mr. Kade and, unanimously carried authorizing the Townships participation in the 2025 Bucks County Health Department of Health Mosquito Control Program and further authorizing the Township Manager to provide written approval to the County.

2025 Sealcoat Work – Mr. Pursell stated that the following roads should be considered for advertisement as part of the 2025 Sealcoat Work: Magargee Lane, Salem Road and Mine Road to be double seal coated. Hickory Lane to be single seal coated followed by a slurry seal and Kunsman Road to be considered as an alternate to be double seal coated. This is being proposed based on the estimated pricing.

Motion by Mr. Hopkins seconded by Mr. Kade and, unanimously carried authorizing the advertisement for the 2025 seal coat and slurry work.

REPORTS / COMMENTS

Zoning – A report was received and is on file.

Police – A report was received and is on file. Chief McDonald gave an update on police activities. Mr. Hopkins asked about the status of the new speed boards.

Fire/EMS – Reports from PRFR, UBREMS and Upper Saucon EMS was received and is on file. Mr. Long asked about the Palisades Fire and Rescue loans listed in their report. Mr. Pursell that no advised further information has been received.

Public Works – A report was received and is on file. Mr. Pursell advised that he is submitting a grant for Clay Avenue.

Solicitor – A report was received and is on file.

Engineer – A report was received and is on file.

OTHER BOARD COMMENTS

Planning Commission – Mr. Long advised they started discussions on the scenic overlay district. They are working on finding out how it was developed.

Parks & Land Preservation Board – No report given.

EAC – Ms. Yearwood advised that they have a project with the Elementary School. Every year there is a theme. This year the theme is water, and they are working with an artist who has made an amazing backdrop of the Cooks Creek Watershed which is at Springtown Post Office.

CORRESPONDENCE

Board Correspondence was accepted as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Deacon of Pleasant View Road asked about the techniques used to enforce speed limits in the Township.

Tim Southern of Township Road expressed concerns about motorists not obeying the school bus laws. He also advised that he serves on the UBREMS board, and they responded to 33 calls in the Township.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Yearwood wanted to make a tribute to her neighbor Robbin Mary Danko who was struck by a tree on the Saucon Rail Trail.

Mr. Kade asked about acquiring the PPL property for the possibility of a cell tower. He requested that this be added to the next agenda.

Mr. Hopkins announced that 3 proposals were received for Village studies and Route 309 Corridor study.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kade noted there will be an executive session held after this meeting to discuss personnel, protection of public safety and acquisition of real estate.

Motion by Ms. Yearwood, seconded by Mr. Hopkins and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Rich Pursell
Township Manager