

# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



## TOWNSHIP OF SPRING

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### SPECIAL MEETING

#### MINUTES

**JANUARY 31, 2008**

**OPENING OF MEETING:** A special meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Dallas, on Thursday, January 31, 2008, at 3:00 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Building, located at 2800 Shillington Road, Cornwall Terrace, Berks County, Pennsylvania, for the purpose of discussing options regarding future Township of Spring Fire Department facilities and consideration of such other items of business as may be presented to the Board of Supervisors.

The meeting opened with the Pledge to the Flag.

Upon roll call, Supervisors Collins, Dallas, Kreider, Smith and Vaughan were present. Also present were: Fire Commissioner Schach; Fire Chief Roth; James Moll, Engineering and Planning Manager; Sheryl Kressler, Township Secretary; and Erin Negley of the Reading Eagle.

Chairman Dallas informed those present the meeting would include discussion on the Vinemont property, public safety goals for the year 2008, status of the Vinemont Fire Company and potential pole barn. The new Fire Chief, Michael Roth, was publicly congratulated by Mr. Dallas.

#### **VINEMONT FIRE COMPANY PROPERTY (STATION 2):**

**Status of Building:** As a result of a recent insurance evaluation, Fire Commissioner Schach described the deficiencies in the Vinemont Fire Company building and the high cost of utilities. In addition, Fire Commissioner Schach explained that there is not enough shelter available for all the fire apparatus and, therefore, a pole barn is being considered. The existing fire station would be demolished if a pole barn is constructed. Funding from a grant has been approved in the amount of \$57,000.00.

**Status of Apparatus:** The costs of maintenance, prices if sold and costs of new apparatus were reviewed by Fire Commissioner Schach.

**Personnel:** There are four (4) active members at Station 2. Out of 656 calls last year, 33 calls were answered by the southern station.

**Zoning Issues:** Mr. Moll explained that the property is currently a non-conforming lot with non-conforming existing structures. However, these issues could be eliminated by the Township for the benefit of the public, if necessary. There are, also, potential environmental factors which would prohibit certain types of development.

**DISCUSSION:**

After lengthy discussion, it was concluded that the best course of action may be to use the grant money to restore the existing Vinemont Fire Company building, keeping in mind the anticipated commercial and/or residential growth at the southern end of the Township. Since there are Mutual Aid Agreements in place with other municipalities at this time, it is possible that a joint fire station could eventually be constructed in another location in the southern end. It was agreed that additional volunteers are needed at Station 2, and perhaps restoring the fire station would appeal to volunteers. Existing storage could be investigated, such as use of the two (2) bays at the West Wyomissing fire station. Apparatus could be sold.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Permission to Grant Conditional Employment –TSVFD Career Drivers:** A motion was made by Mr. Vaughan, second by Mr. Collins, authorizing Fire Commissioner Schach to offer conditional employment to the four (4) successful candidates. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**Penn Avenue Corridor:** Mr. Vaughan asked the Board to consider options for the Penn Avenue Corridor.

**Chief of Police:** A motion was made by Mr. Dallas, second by Mr. Collins, authorizing a conditional offer of employment be extended to the successful candidate for Chief of Police. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

There being no further business, Chairman Dallas adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

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Sheryl Kressler, Township Secretary.