

# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



## TOWNSHIP OF SPRING

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### MEETING MINUTES

**MARCH 10, 2008**

**OPENING OF MEETING:** The regularly scheduled bi-monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Dallas, at 7:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Building, located at 2800 Shillington Road, Cornwall Terrace, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

The meeting opened with the Pledge to the Flag.

Upon roll call, Supervisors Collins, Dallas, Kreider, Smith and Vaughan were present. Also present were: Socrates Georgeadis, Esquire; Leon Mazurie, Lt. Shivers, Fire Commissioner Schach, James Moll, Sheryl Kressler, Arthur Oplinger, Gregory Ganikon, Tracy Hoffman, Jeanine Conrow, Byron (Chip) Burns, Bryan Ross, Daryl Ross, several Police Officers, Channel 69 News, Detective Robert Long, David Kostival, of the Reading Eagle, and a court stenographer.

**APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF OF POLICE/DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY:** A motion was made by Mr. Vaughan, second by Mr. Collins, to appoint Bryan D. Ross, Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety for the Township of Spring, effective March 17, 2008.

Township resident Byron (Chip) Burns questioned whether any member of the current Township Police Department had the qualifications to be promoted to Police Chief/Director of Public Safety. Chairman Dallas emphasized that the Board of Supervisors agreed they would hire the best overall candidate for the Township of Spring. Three (3) candidates from the Township Police Department were considered in the final eight (8) candidates and one (1) in the final four (4) candidates – all excellent candidates, and a difficult decision. It is Chairman Dallas' hope that the professionalism shown during the interim will continue and be given to the new Chief.

There were no further questions.

Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted unanimously to appoint Bryan D. Ross to the position of Chief of Police/Director of Public Safety. The Board welcomed Chief Ross and his wife.

### **OPEN TO THE FLOOR:**

**Tracy Hoffman, 536 Grings Hill Road:** Mr. Hoffman appeared before the Board requesting relief from stormwater runoff and erosion on his property and along Grings Hill Road. The Township has been studying the area extensively for

several months in order to resolve these drainage problems. Mr. Moll stated that the Township is looking at a regional type solution for the numerous drainage issues in the area. He will contact Mr. Hoffman to discuss his problems specifically.

**Jeanine Conrow, 534 Grings Hill Road:** Mrs. Conrow provided a video to Mr. Moll showing the water runoff on her property and others along Grings Hill Road following the severe rain storm on Saturday, March 8, 2008.

**MINUTES:** A motion was made by Mr. Vaughan, second by Mr. Kreider, approving the Minutes of February 25, 2008. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**PUBLIC HEARING  
ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS  
7:40 p.m.**

In the absence of Solicitor Lillis, Socrates Georgeadis, Esquire, presided over the public hearing to consider amendments to the Zoning Ordinance as follows: **Section 316** – to delete hospital or medical center as a special exception use and to add hospital or medical center as a conditional use; **Section 405** – to permit unenclosed porches to encroach into the front yard setback up to a distance of five (5) feet; **Section 701** – to address uses involving activities having separate and distinct parking demands and to revise the number of parking spaces required for libraries and community centers.

Attorney Georgeadis described the exhibits admitted into the record, and requested that Mr. Moll explain the proposed amendments in detail.

No comments were heard from the public or the Supervisors.

The public hearing was closed at 7:50 p.m.

**Zoning Ordinance Amendments – Ordinance No. 354:** A motion was made by Mr. Collins, second by Mr. Vaughan, to approve the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments, Ordinance No. 354, as discussed during the aforementioned public hearing. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**OPERATIONS:**

**Business Office:**

**Bills for Approval:** A motion was made by Mr. Vaughan, second by Ms. Smith, approving payment of bills, from the following Township accounts, as listed by the Township Treasurer:

General Fund - \$173,534.62  
Fire Hydrant Tax Fund - \$9,451.49  
Refuse Tax Fund - \$16,679.18  
Sewer District #3 Fund - \$161,575.36  
Fire Protection Fund - \$21,254.46

Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**Financial Reports:** All Supervisors received copies of the current financial reports.

**Zoning/Building Codes Department:**

**2008 Ford Escape – Purchase Order #01700:** A motion was made by Mr. Kreider, second by Ms. Smith, approving Purchase Order #01700, to The Hondru Fleet Experience – Phillips Ford, for the purchase of a 2008 Ford Escape for the Codes Department, in the amount of \$20,328.15. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively. (Pennsylvania Co-Stars-13 Contract)

**Wilson School District – Waiver of Building Permit Fee:** As recommended by the Zoning Officer, a motion was made by Mr. Vaughan, second by Mr. Collins, approving a reduction in the building permit fee for Wilson School District for construction of a 2-story 2,686 square foot addition, waiving all Township fees. Third party commercial inspection fees will be paid by Wilson School District. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**Facilities/Public Property:**

**Salt Storage Shed – Authorization to Advertise and Bid:** A motion was made by Mr. Vaughan, second by Ms. Smith, authorizing the Director of Operations to advertise and accept bids for construction of a Salt Storage Shed. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**Vinemont Fire Station - Authorization to Request Quote from Great Valley Consultants:** A motion was made by Mr. Vaughan, second by Mr. Collins, authorizing the Director of Operations to request a quote from Great Valley Consultants for services to evaluate the potential rehabilitation costs of the Vinemont Fire Station. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

**Engineering/Planning Department:**

**Roadway Sufficiency Analysis – Resolution #2008-10:** The Roadway Sufficiency Analysis is one of three reports necessary in order to amend the Township Traffic Impact Fee Ordinance. Accordingly, the Board of Supervisors has previously adopted the Land Use Assumptions Report. As recommended by the Traffic Impact Fee Committee, a motion was made by Mr. Dallas, second by Mr. Vaughan, approving the Roadway Sufficiency Analysis by adoption of Resolution #2008-10. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**Wilson School District Operations Center – Scale Waiver:** As recommended by the Planning Commission, a motion was made by Mr. Kreider, second by Mr. Vaughan, granting a waiver of **Section 703(B)(2)** to permit a plan scale of 1" = 40'. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**Upper Hillside Minor Subdivision – Waiver Requests and Time Extension:** As recommended by the Planning Commission, a motion was made by Mr. Kreider, second by Mr. Collins, to grant the following waiver requests: (1) **Section 502(1)(a)**, that the application remain a minor subdivision, permitting a one-stage submittal; (2) **Section 703(B)(2)**, permitting a plan scale of 1" = 30'; and (3) **Section 1005(C)**, lot depth-to-width ratio waiver for Lots 1 and 3. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively with the exception of Mr. Vaughan, who voted no.

As recommended by the Planning Commission, a motion was made by Mr. Kreider, second by Mr. Vaughan, approving an extension of time for the Upper Hillside Minor Subdivision Final Plan to May 15, 2008. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**21 Montello Road Subdivision – Waiver Requests:** As recommended by the Planning Commission, a motion was made by Mr. Kreider, second by Mr. Vaughan, to grant the following waiver requests: (1) **Section 703(B)(2)**, permitting a plan scale of 1" = 30'; (2) **Section 1005(C)**, lot depth-to-width ratio waiver for Lots 1 and 2; and (3) **Section 1019(A)**, eliminating requirement that curb be installed along the Montello Road frontage. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**Grings Hill Estates, Section 5 – Final Plan:** As recommended by the Planning Commission, a motion was made by Mr. Vaughan, second by Mr. Kreider, granting an extension of time for the Grings Hill Estates, Section 5, Final Plan to June 9, 2008. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively with the exception of Mr. Collins, who voted no. The developer has recently received approval from the Berks County Conservation District and has obtained the NPDES permit.

**Wilson School District – Sign Variance:** Wilson School District proposes to construct a sign at the Whitfield Elementary School, 2700 Van Reed Road, between the entrance and exit drives along Dwight Street, and has requested

variances to three (3) sections of the Zoning Ordinance: **Section 603(B)(2)** – size of the sign; **Section 602(F)** – color of the lights on the LED information board; and **Section 607(C)**, sign illumination provisions regarding color and flashing, intermittent or animated types. The Supervisors voiced their concerns with regard to the distraction this sign may cause in an area where it is necessary for motorists to pay attention to traffic and pedestrians. A motion was made by Mr. Dallas, second by Mr. Vaughan, recommending that the Zoning Hearing Board deny the three (3) variances requested in reference to this sign and adhere strictly to the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance and sign regulations. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**St. Peter’s United Church of Christ – Request for Exemption to Sign Regulations:** The information previously requested by the Supervisors has been provided by the applicant. A motion was made by Mr. Vaughan, second by Ms. Smith, granting the request of St. Peter’s UCC for an exemption to sign regulations, **Section 601(D)(2)**, permitting directional signs along Penn Avenue and Van Reed Road, with the following conditions: (1) The signs must comply with any applicable provisions of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, including the issuance of a permit, if required; and (2) The applicant shall understand that the Township may require the removal of the signs for any reason at any time, upon issuance of written notification. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**Infrastructure Committee/WWTP:**

**Old Lancaster Pike Sewer Extension – Payment Estimate #3:** As recommended by the Infrastructure Committee, a motion was made by Mr. Collins, second by Mr. Kreider, approving Payment Estimate #3, to Tru-Line Contractors, in the amount of \$65,151.14. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**2007 Sewer Repair and Rehabilitation Contract – Payment Estimate #4:** As recommended by the Infrastructure Committee, a motion was made by Mr. Kreider, second by Mr. Collins, approving Payment Estimate #4, to Mr. Rehab, in the amount of \$16,560.00. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**Canopy Extension to Storage Building - Engineering Services Proposal:** As recommended by the Infrastructure Committee, a motion was made by Ms. Smith, second by Mr. Dallas, accepting the proposal from Systems Design Engineering for the final design and preparation of bid documents, bid phase and construction phase, in the amount of \$15,700.00. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively. The canopy extension will be added to the new storage building at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Estimate cost of construction \$105,405.00. (Budgeted item)

**NPDES Permit:** As recommended by the Infrastructure Committee, a motion was made by Mr. Kreider, second by Mr. Collins, authorizing Systems Design Engineering to begin the engineering work associated with the NPDES permit application to DEP, at a cost of \$4,500.00. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively. The current permit expires on September 1, 2009.

**Elimination of Midge Flies at the WWTP – Purchase Order #28:** As recommended by the Infrastructure Committee, a motion was made by Mr. Collins, second by Ms. Smith, approving Purchase Order #28, from USA Blue Book, for the purchase of equipment required to dispense the chemical which will eliminate the midge flies (\$1,110.20) and the chemical (\$1,315.00), for a total cost of \$2,425.20. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**SCADA System Software – Purchase Order #29:** A motion was made by Mr. Kreider, second by Ms. Smith, approving Purchase Order #29, to Omega Systems, in the amount of \$1,652.09, for the purchase of software for the SCADA System at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**Roads/Streets/Stormwater:**

**Purchase Orders:** A motion was made by Mr. Collins, second by Ms. Smith, approving the Purchase Orders listed below:

- Sakai SW330 Asphalt Roller - PO #01703, Plasterer Equipment Company, Inc., \$35,530.00
- Jumping Jack Dynapac LT5000 Vibratory Roller, PO #01701, Fisher Rentals, \$2,100.00
- A300 Bobcat All-Wheel Steer Loader, PO #01702, Bobcat of Reading, \$49,763.00

Powerliner 4900 XLT, PO #01704, Sherwin Williams, \$4,967.00

Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**Sale of Used Township Vibratory Roller:** A motion was made by Mr. Kreider, second by Mr. Collins, authorizing Mr. Vaughan to sell the used Township Vibratory Roller to Penn Township, at a cost of \$13,000.00. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

**Township of Spring Volunteer Fire Department:**

**Employee Handbook:** The Career Fire Fighters Handbook has been reviewed by the HR Committee and the Fire Commissioner. As recommended by the HR Committee, a motion was made by Mr. Vaughan, second by Mr. Collins, approving the Career Fire Fighters Handbook. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**SOLICITOR:**

**Authorization to Prepare and Advertise Ordinance for BCERT Participation:** A number of municipalities are joining together to establish a swat team and officer training. The motion was made by Mr. Vaughan, second by Ms. Smith, authorizing the Solicitor to prepare and advertise an Ordinance for the Township's participation in the BCERT (Berks County Emergency Response Team) program. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**OLD BUSINESS:** No old business to report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Appointment of Gypsy Moth Coordinator:** As recommended by the Director of Operations, a motion was made by Mr. Vaughan, second by Mr. Kreider, appointing Kevin Bitz as the Gypsy Moth Coordinator for 2008. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**Berks County Police Executive Research Forum – Letter of Support:** A motion was made by Mr. Vaughan, second by Mr. Kreider, that the Spring Township Board of Supervisors pledge to lend their support and assistance to the Police Executive Research Forum in its endeavors to collect the information that it deems necessary for the completion of its Study of Policing in Berks County. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**Berks County Building Code Association – Request to Use Township Board Room:** A motion was made by Mr. Dallas, second by Mr. Kreider, approving the request of the Berks County Building Code Association to meet in the Township Board Room on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively. The purpose of this meeting is to address quality of life issues in the county relating to rental unit licensing programs.

**Lt. Joseph Shivers – Officer in Charge – Stipend:** Chairman Dallas public commended Lt. Shivers for his performance as Officer in Charge from the time former Chief Messner retired to this date. A motion was made by Mr. Collins, second by Mr. Kreider, approving a \$2,000.00 stipend for Lt. Shivers for his services to the Township as Officer in Charge, with appreciation. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**Potential Purchase of Annuities for Retirees:** Mr. Vaughan explained that the purchase of annuities would affect pension plans of Township employees, uniform (3) and non-uniform (3), retiring prior to the move from Principal to the Standard Insurance Company. Standard Insurance Company believes this would be an optimum time to purchase such annuities. Detective Long requested that police officers be given the opportunity to review the plan to purchase annuities and determine whether they are in agreement. A motion was made by Ms. Smith, second by Mr. Collins, to table action by the Supervisors until the March 24, 2008 meeting. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**WORKSHOPS/TRAINING REQUESTS:** A motion was made by Ms. Smith, second by Mr. Collins, approving the following workshop/training requests:

**D. Pchola – Electronic Environmental Reporting Course, March 20, 2008, \$35.00**

**D. Rentschler – Fecal Coliform QC Part I and Part II, and Chemistry of Chlorine, \$200.00**

**J. Vaughan – Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Local Assistance Program (LTAP),  
Asset Management, March 26, 2008, no charge**

**J. Vaughan – Spring Road Maintenance, April 3, 2008, \$50.00**

**S. Kressler – Notary Commission Renewal (4 years) and Notary Reappointment Seminar, \$288.21**

Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively, with the exception of Mr. Vaughan who abstained from voting on the workshops he plans to attend.

Chairman Dallas recommended that training requests for police officers listed on the agenda should be reviewed by Chief Ross and action tabled for two (2) weeks. The Board concurred.

A brief Executive Session was held prior to the meeting to discuss matters of personnel.

Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

There being no further business, Chairman Dallas adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sheryl Kressler, Township Secretary