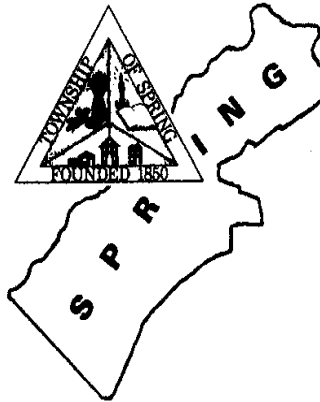


BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



TOWNSHIP OF SPRING

BERKS COUNTY, PA

2850 WINDMILL RD.

READING, PA 19608

Tel. (610) 678-5393

Fax. (610) 678-4571

Website: springtwperks.org

MEETING MINUTES

January 24, 2011

OPENING OF MEETING: The regular bi-weekly meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Collins, at 7:30 p.m., on Monday, January 24, 2011, in the Public Meeting Room of the Township of Spring Administration Building, located at 2850 Windmill Road, Spring Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

The meeting opened with the Pledge to the Flag.

Upon roll call, Supervisors Collins, Hummel, Smith, Ulrich and Vaughan were present. Also present were: James Lillis, Esquire, Leon Mazurie, Chief Ross, Jim Moll, Sheryl Rowan, John Dallas, Jill Nagy, Esquire, Greg and Linda Ganikon, Barry Zettlemoyer, A. Burkey, Laurie Cammarano, Nick Rossi, Jeanette and Tom Campbell and Chris Reber of the Reading Eagle.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR:

Greg Ganikon, 100 S. Dwight Street: Comments were deferred to Hofmann Tract Offices on the agenda.

Barry Zettlemoyer, 2445 Cleveland Avenue: Reminder that veterans may salute the flag during the Pledge of Allegiance.

John Dallas III, Spring Township Library: Mr. Dallas reported that the Spring Township Library was the only library in Berks County with an increase in circulation in 2010. He attributes the increase to the library director, library staff and the support of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Dallas, also, thanked the Board for their continued support in 2011.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Mr. Ulrich, second by Mr. Hummel, approving the Minutes of January 10, 2011. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively with the exception of Ms. Smith, who abstained.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER:

Business Office:

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

General Fund - \$283,845.32
Street Lighting Tax Fund - \$26,249.41
Fire Hydrant Tax Fund - \$6,482.73
Refuse Tax Fund - \$86,810.99
Escrow Account - \$9,003.00
Sewer District #2 Fund - \$442.88
Sewer District #3 Fund - \$77,296.85
Fire Protection Fund - \$28,571.92
Capital Fund Account - \$36,173.83

Chairman Collins commented on the cost of inclement weather by noting the cost of rock salt listed at \$38,024.83. Upon roll call all Supervisors voted affirmatively to approve the payment of bills.

Financial Reports: The Supervisors received copies of the current financial reports for review. There were no questions.

Human Resource Firm: Mr. Mazurie explained that it has become apparent this service is needed due to personnel matters and auditing policies as well as reviewing and updating Township personnel handbooks to assist with the upcoming labor contract negotiations. Accordingly, three human resource firms were interviewed. As recommended by the Township Manager and Director of Financial Services, a motion was made by Mr. Vaughan, second by Ms. Smith, to retain Reading-Berks HR Management for three (3) months at a rate of \$3,250.00 per month. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively with the exception of Mr. Ulrich, who abstained. (Budgeted Item)

Reappointment of Zoning Hearing Board Alternate: A motion was made by Mr. Vaughan, second by Mr. Ulrich, to appoint Robert C. Penney to a new three (3) year term as the alternate member of the Zoning Hearing Board. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

Zoning/Building Codes Department:

Demolition of 809 Carman Drive: The property owner failed to comply with a notice to remove the fire damaged structure by January 16, 2011. No appeal to the condemnation was received. In an effort to protect the neighborhood, Mr. Wozniak secured three quotes to perform demolition of the structure, for which the Township would be reimbursed. As recommended by Mr. Wozniak, a motion was made by Mr. Vaughan, second by Mr. Ulrich, to award demolition of 809 Carman Drive to Forino Co., L.P., in the amount of \$9,800.00 (lowest quote received). Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

Several residents of Carman Drive attended the meeting and expressed their concerns relating to the severely damaged home and imminent danger to children in the neighborhood. Solicitor Lillis recommended securing the area with a chain link fence, as

an emergency measure, and charging the cost against the property. A motion was made by Mr. Hummel, second by Ms. Smith, authorizing the Township Manager to use his best judgment in securing adequate fencing to secure the property prior to demolition. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively. Mrs. Cammarano noted that the propane tank remains on the property.

Public Works:

Engineering/Planning Department:

Lowes Escrow Release: In 2005, Great Valley Consultants recommended retaining \$5,000.00 for traffic signal work, which was completed later that year. Lowes has requested release of the funds at this time. A motion was made by Mr. Vaughan, second by Mr. Ulrich, to release remaining funds in the amount of \$5,000.00. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

Hofmann Tract Offices – Final Plan: The Township Planning Commission approved the Hofmann Tract Offices final plan in June, 2010. Subsequently, the Board of Supervisors granted an extension of time, to the date of this meeting, with the expectation that substantial progress would be made. Mr. Moll acknowledged that additional information has been provided to the Engineering Department and reviewed.

Mr. Ganikon continues to be concerned about the effects of traffic from the Iroquois Avenue extension on the intersection of Dwight Street and within the neighborhood. Mr. Zettlemyer commented that the road extension should be wide enough for large tractor trailers to enter. Supervisor Vaughan asked if it was possible that the Iroquois Avenue extension could be built before construction begins in order to determine changes in the traffic pattern. Attorney Nagy replied that she thought the developer's agreement could be structured in such a way that it would be possible.

Solicitor Lillis stated the plan was well thought out, and the Board is certainly not acting in haste or without due consideration. As recommended by the Planning Commission, a motion was made by Mr. Ulrich, second by Ms. Smith, approving the final plan for the Hofmann Tract Offices with the following conditions:

1. Execution of a Subdivision Improvements Agreement with financial security covering the required improvements, including the traffic signal modifications and widening of existing Iroquois Avenue.
2. Execution and recording of Stormwater Operations and Maintenance Agreement, PCSM Plan and Stormwater O&M Plan, with the appropriate contribution to the Stormwater BMP Maintenance fund.
3. Execution of an Easement Agreement for proposed drainage and sanitary sewer easements.
4. Execution of appropriate agreement(s) to ensure the availability of adequate access and parking facilities for Lots 3, 4 and 6.
5. Receipt of all necessary state permits for the sanitary sewer pumping station.
6. Demonstration of approval by the Borough of Sinking Spring.
7. Payment of any outstanding Township invoices.

Additionally, that the applicant agrees to said conditions in writing within 15 days of this meeting. In the absence of such agreement, the plan shall be deemed denied. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively with the exception of Mr. Hummel, who voted no.

Road Services Department/WWTP/Infrastructure Committee:

SeeSnake Camera - Purchase Order #310: A motion was made by Mr. Hummel, second by Ms. Smith, approving Purchase Order #310 and authorizing the Director of Public Works to purchase a SeeSnake camera, recorder and cable reel, from Cooney Brothers, Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, in the amount of \$11,093.00. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively. This camera will assist treatment plant personnel, the Public Works Department and sewer customers when lateral backups occur. (Budgeted Item - COSTARS Contract)

Tandem Axle Dump Trucks (2) – Purchase Order #PW 2011-1: A motion was made by Ms. Smith, second by Mr. Ulrich, approving Purchase Order #PW2011-1 and authorizing the Director of Public Works to lease/purchase two (2) tandem axle dump trucks (10 wheelers) from Berman Freightliner, Leesport, Pennsylvania, at a cost of \$39,317.34 per year for five years. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively. The price per truck and up-fit is \$181,461.84. Currently, there are 3.45 years of payments in the capital equipment budget. These trucks will provide greater hauling capability during paving and snow removal operations.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Police Department:

Aggressive Driving Grant Approval: A motion was made by Mr. Vaughan, second by Mr. Hummel, authorizing the appropriate Township official to accept a grant from the Pennsylvania Aggressive Driving and Enforcement Education Program. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively. A similar grant was used for speed and seat belt enforcement primarily on Rt. 222.

Township of Spring Volunteer Fire Department:

Bucks County Community College of Public Safety – Fire Training: A motion was made by Mr. Vaughan, second by Mr. Hummel, to continue the Bucks County Community College of Public Safety fire training educational sessions in 2011, at a cost of \$2,800.00, which is reimbursed to the Township by the Relief Association. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

SOLICITOR:

PAWC Agreement: An agreement to turn over fire hydrants to Pennsylvania American Water Company has been proposed but on hold pending review by the Solicitor. Recently, it has come to the attention of the Township Manager that a maintenance fee would be charged to the Township per hydrant. Mr. Mazurie will investigate further. Discussion was tabled and no action was taken.

Mr. Cammarano inquired as to who is responsible for the fire hydrant on Carman Drive, since it is not working. Chairman Collins will contact the Fire Commissioner and pursue this issue and whether there are adequate hydrants to cover the neighborhood.

NEW BUSINESS:

Animal Nuisance Ordinance: Chairman Collins reported he received a request from a resident that the Township investigate the feasibility of an animal nuisance ordinance. Copies of ordinances from other municipalities were provided. Solicitor Lillis will review these ordinances, discuss such an ordinance with Mr. Wozniak, and report back to the Board within 30 days. Chief Ross added that there is a dog ordinance in the Township but nothing regarding cats.

Removal of Uninsured Vehicles: Mr. Zettlemyer was interested in whether the Township could remove uninsured vehicles from the streets. In response, Chief Ross explained that there is a new state regulation which does not allow police departments to tow uninsured vehicles. Some cities are exempt, however.

Cell Phones/Texting: When Mr. Zettlemyer further asked about regulations regarding cell phones and texting while driving, he was advised to contact a state representative.

There being no further business, Chairman Collins adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Rowan, Township Secretary