

# TOWNSHIP OF SPRING

## Board of Supervisors



**BERKS COUNTY, PA**

2850 WINDMILL RD.

READING, PA 19608

Tel. (610) 678-5393

Fax. (610) 678-4571

Website: [springtwpberks.org](http://springtwpberks.org)

### MEETING MINUTES

**JUNE 24, 2019**

**OPENING OF MEETING:** The regular bi-weekly meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Ulrich, at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, June 24, 2019, in the Public Meeting Room of the Township of Spring Administration Building, located at 2850 Windmill Road, Spring Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

Upon roll call, Supervisors Ulrich and Stuck were present. Ms. Smith was present by telephone, arriving to the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m. Mr. Myer and Mr. Oswald did not attend. Also present were: Daniel Becker, Esq., Jay Vaughan, Jim Moll, Bryan Ross, John Groller, Judy Houck, Aaron Wozniak, Colin Hackman, Paul Darrah, Sheryl Rowan, Chris Hannum and Michael Sassaman (Entech), David Kostival of the Reading Eagle, and more than 30 residents (see attached sheets).

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

**Anthony Tucci, Western Berks Ambulance Association:** The WBAA monthly report for May, 2019, indicates there were 315 calls for service in the Township (1,515 calls year to date), 271 were transported, 22 refused. Dispatch to onscene time is 9 minutes and 23 seconds. The WBAA received a grant from federal transportation for 2 wheelchair vans, and was awarded the 2019 Mission Lifeline Gold Plus Award.

#### **Flooding and Sewer Back-Up Issues - Rain Event of June 19- 20, 2019:**

**Frank Szustak, 2111 Gring Drive:** Mr. Szustak spoke for residents of Gring Drive with sewer back-up issues. He recommended the Supervisors set aside funds and hire professionals to provide solutions as this is a dangerous health problem. Disclosure is required and selling homes in the area will be difficult.

Mr. Vaughan acknowledged Mr. Szustak's comments and is aware of the problems on Gring Drive, Cleveland Avenue, Harvard Boulevard and Garfield Avenue. He had asked engineers from Entech Engineering, Wastewater Treatment Plant consultants to attend the meeting and assured residents the Township is taking their situation very seriously.

**Lyle Anderson, 2203 Gring Drive:** Mr. Anderson recalled storm sewers were replaced behind the 2100 and 2200 blocks of Gring Drive in 1997. The overland water problem was resolved proving the storm sewer collection system is working from Gring and Burkey eastward. However, the storm sewer collection service from Clover and Gring to Burkey and Gring is not working. He suggested a possible solution would be to install storm sewers in the backyards of the 2000 block of Gring Drive, connected to the retention pond. He believed residents along the 2000 and 2100 blocks of Gring Drive could place a 2 pound coffee can over their sewer vents to prevent sewer back-up temporarily.

Representing Entech Engineering, consultants for the sanitary system, Mr. Sassaman explained that the recent rain storm was an extreme event, affecting many people, not only Spring Township residents. The

Township has a televising truck which is used to inspect sewer lines where there are problems, meetings are planned to discuss the storm sewer system and how it relates to the sanitary sewer system. Using a computer model of the sewer system, capacity in the lines will be checked. The Township may need to enlarge, replace or bypass some sewers to eliminate the inflow of storm water and illegal connections.

**Ross Ricketts, 2107 Gring Drive:** Mr. Ricketts questioned whether the Wastewater Treatment Plant is large enough to handle the water. Chairman Ulrich commented the plant was expanded recently.

According to Paul Darrah, WWTP Superintendent, there were 7.86 inches of rain on August 31, 2019; the plant handled it with no problem. Thursday morning, June 20, 2019, an inch of rain fell in less than half an hour. Upon checking problem areas after the storm, no manhole lids had lifted off. Mr. Darrah confirmed the system was not overloaded.

**Tom and Connie Dunston, 504 Harvard Boulevard:** The 400 and 500 blocks of Harvard Boulevard have been hit hard twice in the last year. They questioned what will happen when there is another heavy rain, what is the responsibility of the Township to the home owners and taxpayers? The problem needs to be addressed.

Chris Hannum, from Entech, added the first step is to prepare an analysis, within the next 90 days, to determine whether larger pipes are needed, 10"-14" pipes rather than 8" pipes. The simple fix is to expand the capacity of the pipes, eliminate the inflow and infiltration and monitor. Back flow preventers are not fail safe, and sump pumps contribute to the problem if pumping water into the sanitary sewer.

**Jennifer and Adam Barney, 504 Arrowhead Trail:** Last August the Barneys had flooding issues as well as last week. A stream runs through the woods, and run off from new homes flows into the stream. This past week, water burst through their basement windows. Mr. and Mrs. Barney requested that the Township identify where the water is coming from and whether it can be relocated or redistributed.

**Jaques Magill, 2019 Gring Drive:** A successful resolution to the sewer problem depends on the commitment of the Board. Action must be taken now in the least expensive and most expeditious manner.

**Paul Honig, 2802 Merritt Parkway:** Mr. Honig had asked the Township to clean out the storm water swale next to his home. Township public works equipment damaged Mr. Honig's yard when accessing the stormwater swale on June 21, 2019. Although, Mr. Honig requested new sod, Mr. Vaughan informed him the crew would add top soil, seed and straw by the end of the week. The Township should look into obtaining right-of-way from one of the property owners on either side of the swale.

**Anthony Valkosak, 2260 Cleveland Avenue:** Upon discovering a sewer back-up last Thursday morning, Mr. Valkosak contacted Mr. Darrah, who suggested closing off the drain in his basement. Because he experienced the same situation in August, 2018, he asked for additional solutions.

Discussion followed with Mr. Sassaman explaining the difference between the sanitary sewer system and storm water system.

**Joe Chiarelli, 2027 Gring Drive:** No one will buy his property because of repeated restoration trucks appearing at his home. Plugging the drain in the basement did not work. Requested answers now.

**Son-in-law representing 805 Burkey Drive:** To assist the engineers, Mr. Katzmore pointed out problem areas on the map where residents had 6-8 inches of water in their basements.

**Ann Marie Leahy, 2202 Cleveland Avenue:** Water is not going down any of the drains.

**Bonnie Magrowski, 249 Bainbridge Circle:** They had water in August and last week, like a rushing waterfall allegedly from Alcon; 3 cars were totaled on the street (article in the Reading Eagle). The Home Owners' Association has the responsibility of cleaning out the retention pond.

Pat Egges, member of the HOA, stated they do attempt to maintain the retention pond. The problem is stopping neighbors from throwing trash in the pond. A Township pipe in the vicinity is on private property. Public Works will look into flooding in the area.

**Dan McIntosh, 501 Harvard Boulevard:** Concerned about plugging the drains.

**Ryan Wyandt, 502 Harvard Boulevard:** Moved to their home 2 years ago, sewer backed-up in August and again last week. He woke up to sewage in his basement and has health concerns especially for his 2-month old son. If this will be a continuous problem, they will have to move, regardless of property value.

**Bette Sustello, 133 Spohn Road:** Mrs. Sustello has had damage to her home in the past due to water from her neighbor's property. Solicitor Becker advised her that this is a private property issue. She, also, asked for speeding to be monitored on Spohn Road.

**MINUTES:** A motion was made by Ms. Smith, second by Mr. Stuck, approving the meeting Minutes of June 10, 2019. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present voted affirmatively.

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER:**

**Business Office:**

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

**General Fund - \$250,320.79**  
**Street Lighting Tax Fund - \$24,667.81**  
**Refuse Tax Fund - \$32,030.07**  
**Sewer District #3 Fund - \$52,670.62**  
**Fire Protection Fund - \$40,418.90**  
**Capital Fund - \$39,089.64**

Upon roll call, all Supervisors present voted affirmatively.

**ZONING/BUILDING CODES DEPARTMENT:**

**Monthly Report:** Mr. Wozniak reported 123 permits were issued during the month of May, 2019. A record setting 57 pre-settlement inspections were performed. Construction projects: third building at the Reserve at Grings Mill, beer garden at Giant Supermarket on Shillington Road, renovations to the front of Target. The West Lawn Owls are considering a fundraiser event this year or next year.

**PARKS, RECREATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES:**

**Township Park ADA Improvements Project – Final Payment Application:** A motion was made by Mr. Stuck, second by Ms. Smith, approving the third and final payment application from H&K Group (Landis C. Deck & Sons) for installation of accessible paths at LenOak Park, in the amount of \$1,337.64. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present voted affirmatively.

**Parks & Recreation Month – Proclamation:** A motion was made by Ms. Smith, second by Mr. Stuck, proclaiming July as Park & Recreation Month in the Township of Spring. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present voted affirmatively.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

**Police Department:**

**Monthly Report:** Chief Ross submitted his report for May, 2019. There were no questions.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Advertise for Township Manager:** A motion was made by Mr. Stuck, second by Ms. Smith, authorizing Ms. Reardon, the HR consultant, to advertise for the position of Township Manager. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present voted affirmatively.

**WORKSHOP/TRAINING REQUESTS:**

**Chief Ross – 2019 IACP Conference:** A motion was made by Mr. Stuck, second by Ms. Smith, granting permission for Chief Ross to attend the 2019 IACP Conference in Chicago, from October 26-29, 2019. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present voted affirmatively.

**J. Houck, D. McKissick – 2019 NRPA Congress:** A motion was made by Mr. Stuck, second by Ms. Smith, approving the request for J. Houck and D. McKissick to attend the 2019 NRPA Congress in Baltimore. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present voted affirmatively.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

**Water Damage to Township (6/19-20/2019):** Mr. Vaughan provided photos of storm water damage incurred by the Township along the swale, which runs adjacent to the WWTP. The road buckled around the manhole on Spohn Road, but did not damage the manhole, and Cacoosing Meadows Park sustained additional water damage.

A motion was made by Mr. Stuck, second by Ms. Smith, authorizing Entech Engineering to look into the sanitary sewer and storm water issues in the Township. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present voted affirmatively.

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheryl Rowan, Township Secretary