MEETING MINUTES
JULY 8, 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, July 8, 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, Stuck, Oswald, Smith and Myer were present. Also present were: Daniel Becker, Esq., Jay Vaughan, Jim Moll, Bryan Ross, John Groller, Judy Houck, Aaron Wozniak, Colin Hackman, Troy Hatt, Paul Darragh, Gregg Bogia, Chuck Frantz, Mark Koch, Esq., Gia Raffaelli, Esq., Dave Miller, Kim Berry, Greg Ganikon, Sheryl Rowan and approximately 16 Township residents (see attached attendance sheets).

OPEN TO THE FLOOR:
Flooding and Sewer Back-Up Update - Rain Event of June 19-20, 2019:
George Heckman, 2113 Gring Drive: Mr. Heckman requested an update on sewer back-up issues in the Gring Drive area. Mr. Miller informed him that Entech Engineering is in the process of taking a global look at the sanitary sewer system. Further studies may be warranted, and some repairs and improvements may be necessary. A report will be submitted to the Supervisors within 90 days.

Since the last meeting, Mr. Vaughan reported minor manhole issues were discovered on Harvard Boulevard. The Township intends to mitigate these problems as soon as possible.

Frank Koonce, 2115 Gring Drive: Mr. Koonce severely injured his leg the night of the rain event when he discovered sewage in his basement. He asked that the Township proceed with a sense of urgency in resolving the sewer back-up issues.

Larry and Elaine Schnect, 2826 Hillvale Avenue: Subsequent to a neighbor building a pole barn, storm water began seeping into the basement at 2826 Hillvale Avenue. A permit was issued for the pole barn but not for the driveway. Mr. Schnect is concerned about additional run-off from the driveway. Mr. Wozniak advised him the neighbor is now cooperating and has filed an application for the driveway, which will require a drainage plan.

Joe Chiarello, 2027 Gring Drive: Following the last Board meeting, the WWTP Superintendent and Entech engineer suggested to Mr. Chairelli that he install floor drain check valves in the two open drains in his basement. He stated that the check valve he had previously installed was blown apart in September, 2018. However, his basement has now been plugged, and he requested a guarantee from the Township. Solicitor Becker informed him that the record will clearly show that the Township, of course, would not be liable for making recommendations, and he should do his own due diligence and make his own decisions.
Jeff Weller, 2025 Gring Drive: Mr. Weller pointed out these storms have happened before, creating water issues in the Gring Drive area. He asked several questions including whether the WWTP has an emergency shut-down procedure, and commented that the system is not working.

Karen Rudisill, 301 Logan Avenue: Basement has been flooded twice and sewer back-up is dangerous for her daughter, who has respiratory problems. Mrs. Rudisill explained that they did remove the vanity, the sink and the toilet in the basement powder room, and plugged the drain. However the plug came out due to the force of the water. She asked that the Township find a resolution.

Christina Mayer, 2101 Gring Drive: After suffering extensive damage in the flooding last year, Ms. Mayer followed the advice of her plumber and cemented the sewer drain, this time resulting in 4 inches of sewage and water in her basement rather than 8 inches. The water came out of the toilet. She assumed that the sewage contributed to the death of her cats. As a realtor, she is also worried about disclosure when selling her home.

Ross Ricketts, 2107 Gring Drive: Mr. Ricketts questioned why the Township has not reviewed the Drexelwood storm drain study, dated November 10, 1994. In response, Mr. Vaughan explained that the storm sewer system was installed in 1997. It may be confusing, but storm water is not sanitary. In a typical storm, the sanitary and storm water are two different pipes. Update meetings are planned as Entech progresses through their study.

Frank Szustak, 2111 Gring Drive: Those present appreciated his humor when Mr. Szustak acknowledged he has been praying that these issues will be corrected, since he has heard many times that the heavy rain storms are acts of God.

Ryan Krajewski, 2024 Garfield Avenue: Mr. Krajewski inquired whether residents could be reimbursed through Spring Township’s insurance. The answer is no. The Township will continue to provide clean-up for residents at the curb through the trash disposal company.

Larry Malek, 2323 Reading Boulevard: Expressing his concerns about the July 4th fireworks in the Township, Mr. Malek requested legislation or an ordinance preventing the discharge of fireworks in the Township. Chief Ross explained the state law allows possession but not the discharge of fireworks within 150 feet of a structure, and can only be enforced if officers actually observe fireworks being discharged. Solicitor Becker added the Township could not supersede the state law in terms of possession of fireworks. Chief Ross will research Ordinances from neighboring municipalities. It was suggested information regarding fireworks and the law be included in the Communicator and/or Parks & Recreation brochure.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Ms. Stuck, second by Ms. Smith, approving the meeting Minutes of June 24, 2019. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively with the exception of Mr. Myer and Mr. Oswald, who abstained.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER:

Business Office:

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

- General Fund - $107,155.20
- Street Lighting Tax Fund - $53,60
- Refuse Tax Fund - $108,654.68
- Sewer District #3 Fund - $48,444.39
- Fire Protection Fund - $23,455.25

Board of Supervisors
7-8-19
Capital Fund - $17,645.35

Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**ZONING/BUILDING CODES DEPARTMENT:**

**Monthly Report:** Mr. Wozniak reported 121 permits were issued in June, 2019, and 58 pre-settlement inspections were performed. Value of construction added to the Township was $10,460,762.63.

**Pizza Hut Vacant Property, 2920 Penn Avenue:** A fire inspection was performed by Fire Marshal Hatt on the vacant building behind Pizza Hut. The building is in very bad shape. He issued a corrective action order stating that the building was unsafe. They now have 30 days to provide an engineered report to the Township as to whether the building is sound, what needs to be done, or if it will be demolished.

**PARKS, RECREATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES:**

**Authorization to Prepare RFP – Kline’s Creek Park:** A motion was made by Mr. Stuck, second by Ms. Smith, authorizing Ms. Houck to develop, advertise, distribute, receive and open Requests for Proposals for design work on a Master Site Plan for Kline’s Creek Park. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**Monthly Report:** Ms. Houck has submitted her monthly report for June, 2019. The summer playground program has 3 weeks remaining. Flooding has again damaged Cacoosing Meadows and Shiloh Hills Parks.

**ENGINEERING/PLANNING DEPARTMENT:**

**2313 Penn Avenue – Zoning Requests:** Mr. Moll explained that Penn Auto Sales has applied for a special exception as well as 5 variances regarding a vacant building at 2313 Penn Avenue. They propose to move business items, automobiles and automobile uses, into the building. As recommended by the Planning Commission, a motion was made by Mr. Stuck, second by Mr. Myer, that the Zoning Hearing Board denies all requests. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**Hofmann Tract Traffic Impact Study:** As recommended by the Transportation Advisory Committee, and the Planning Commission, a motion was made by Mr. Oswald, second by Ms. Smith, approving the Traffic Impact Study submitted for the Hofmann Tract garden apartment development, along with appropriate improvements to the traffic signal at the intersection of Dwight Street and Penn Avenue. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively with the exception of Mr. Myer, who voted no.

A motion was made by Mr. Oswald, second by Ms. Smith, accepting the clear sight triangle variance previously granted for the intersection of Dwight Street and Iroquois Avenue. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively with the exception of Mr. Myer and Mr. Stuck, who voted no. Motion passed 3-2.

Mr. Stuck mentioned the possibility of the developer escrowing funds to purchase the Ganikon property, when it becomes available. Attorney Koch stated they could not agree to that request.

**Penn State Proposed Trail Expansion:** As recommended by the Greenways and Trails Committee, a motion was made by Mr. Myer, second by Mr. Stuck, authorizing the inclusion of the following segments, and future trail segment, in the proposal to PSU:

- **Trail Segment 1 – (Reserve at Gring’s Mill to Red Covered Bridge).** The developer of the Reserve at Gring’s Mill is financially responsible for the construction of this segment. It requires that PSU allow either a separate easement or widening of the existing right-of-way of Tulpehocken Road.
• **Trail Segment 2** – (Red Covered Bridge, through the existing PSU maintenance facility, to Broadcasting Road). This segment would complete the connection begun with Segment 1, between the Reserve at Gring’s Mill and the campus. This segment has been recommended by the Committee with the condition that a resolution is found regarding the conflict of vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the vicinity of the maintenance facility and its access drive. An easement along the perimeter of the agricultural fields is required.

• **Trail Segment 3** – (Clary Drive, along Tulpehocken Road, to the Luerssen Building parking lot). PSU had previously agreed to this area being designated as part of the Township’s Greenways and Trails system; however, there is no constructed trail surface at this location. An easement or widening of the Tulpehocken Road right-of-way would be required.

• **Future Trail Segment** - The Committee also recommended that after the developer of the Reading Hospital Tract completes the anticipated improvements to the Broadcasting Road interchange, a connection between Segment 2 and the interchange should be pursued by the Township.

Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**Planning Commission Member Appointment**: As recommended by the Planning Commission, a motion was made by Mr. Oswald, second by Mr. Ulrich, appointing Douglas Rauch, Esq., to the Township Planning Commission. Upon roll call, Mr. Myer, Ms. Smith, and Mr. Stuck voted no. Mr. Oswald and Mr. Ulrich voted yes. Motion did not pass 3-2. Another recommendation by the Planning Commission would be considered.

**3 Meridian Boulevard – Request for Concurrent Submittal**: As recommended by the Planning Commission, a motion was made by Mr. Oswald, second by Ms. Smith, approving the request of De Vimy Equities for a concurrent submittal of tentative and final plans for a proposed daycare facility at this location. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

**Police Department:**

**Python Found on Penn Avenue**: Chief Ross shared a photograph of a python found between the screen door and entry door of a residence on Penn Avenue. The office involved coaxed the python into a canvas bag and delivered it to the Animal Rescue League, where it resides at this time.

**Township of Spring Fire Rescue Service:**

**Monthly Report**: Chief Hackman reported 247 responses during the month of June, 2019. There were 151 fire related calls and 105 overlapping calls. Average response time was 2 minutes, 2 seconds.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Sewer Plant Damage – Storm of June 19/20, 2019**: The Township sustained some damage adjacent to the sewer plant. During the heavy rain, the black top was lifted in the swale down to the dirt. The black top cannot reach Cacoping Creek. Blue piping in the photo was scheduled to be removed this year. The piers on which these pipes rest should be replaced. Cost estimates for repair of the swale is $39,936.48, and removal of the piers and piping is $22,283.00. A motion was made by Mr. Oswald, second by Mr. Stuck, approving said repairs. Upon roll call, all Supervisors voted affirmatively.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

1. In response to Mr. Stuck’s inquiry, Solicitor Becker will request an update on animal control when he attends the BCCPC meeting this week.
There being no further business, Chairman Ulrich adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Sheryl Rowan, Township Secretary