



TOWNSHIP OF SPRING

BERKS COUNTY, PA
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES March 22nd, 2021

OPENING OF MEETING: A regular business meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairperson Stuck at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, March 22nd, 2021 in the Public Meeting Room of the Township of Spring Administration Building, located at 2850 Windmill Road, Spring Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

ROLL CALL: Upon roll call, Supervisors Stuck, Kocher and Myer were present. Supervisor Ulrich attended via teleconference and Supervisor Smith was absent. Also present were: Daniel Becker, Esq., John Groller, Judy Houck and Jen Bensinger. Deputy Chief Powell, Paul Darrah, Aaron Wozniak, Jim Moll, Errol Lapham, Jeff Ward of WFMZ, Laurel Quigley, William Koch, Jr. and Michael Wertz, attended via teleconference.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR: None.

ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL: All items requiring action by the Board are listed below. Comments and discussion points are listed under the corresponding item.

1. Meeting Minutes – Regular Business Meeting – March 8th, 2021
2. List of Bills for Approval –
 1. **General Fund - \$204,682.00**
 2. **Street Lighting Tax Fund - \$25,303.80**
 3. **Fire Hydrant Tax Fund - \$6,498.97**
 4. **Refuse Tax Fund - \$50,333.80**
 5. **Sewer District #3 Fund - \$45,295.86**
 6. **Fire Protection Fund - \$48,810.99**
 7. **Capital Fund - \$-0-**
3. Purchase Order – Turf Fertilization and Weed Control Contract – Ms. Houck is recommending approval of Purchase Order PR-2021-026 to Tomlinson Bomberger of Lancaster, PA, in the amount of \$10,731.50 for the annual Turf Fertilization and Weed Control Contract. This contract is being processed through the PA CoStars Program – Contract No. 029-007.
4. Cacoosing Meadows Park – Field Construction Project – Ms. Houck presented the construction estimate for the proposed multi-purpose fields at Cacoosing Meadows Park. The Parks and Recreation Board is seeking direction from the Board of Supervisors on this project. After a brief discussion was held, a

Motion to not proceed with this project was made by Mr. Myer, seconded by Mr. Kocher. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present at the meeting voted affirmatively.
MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL (Continued)

5. Purchase Order – Backhoe Replacement – Mr. Darrah is seeking approval to purchase a new backhoe for \$104,900.00 from POWERCO, Inc. of Allentown, PA. After trading-in the Township’s old machine, the Township’s cost will be \$83,900.00. An adaptor for the buckets will be purchased for approximately \$800.00.
6. Purchase Order – VRV Condensing Unit – Mr. Darrah is seeking approval to hire Landis Mechanical Group to provide and install a new VRV condensing unit at the Waste Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$22,988.43. Mr. Ulrich questioned if any other quotes were received. Mr. Darrah didn’t have any other quotes.
7. Gray Ghost Lane – Mr. Moll reviewed this project and is requesting that, upon receipt of the signed copies, the Board of Supervisors authorize the execution of this agreement by the appropriate Township officials and authorize staff to proceed with the request to the water company for the hydrant. This agreement would allow the residents of this private lane to be charged for water hydrant services in the same manner as residents who live on Township owned streets.
8. Wireless Communications Ordinance – Mr. Moll reviewed this ordinance. He and Mr. Becker have been working with Attorney Cohen on this project and have just received the final version of the ordinance and are requesting that the Board of Supervisors authorize the advertisement of this ordinance. Discussion was held regarding the types and sizes of the wireless antennas and the placement of these items within the public right-of-way. Mr. Becker addressed the locations and the Township’s limited ability to regulate these towers.

Motion to approve Action Items # 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 was made by Mr. Myer, seconded by Mr. Kocher. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present at the meeting voted affirmatively with Mr. Stuck abstaining from Item # 6. MOTION CARRIED.

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORS

- A. Zoning/Building Codes Department – Mr. Wozniak – No Report
- B. Parks and Recreation Department – Ms. Houck provided a written report. Mr. Stuck questioned the highlighted items on the Comprehensive Plan Capital Projects Report. Ms. Houck explained that these items were additional projects that were completed but that were not listed in the Comprehensive Plan.
- C. Engineering/Planning Department – Mr. Moll reported on the status of the Glen Ridge Estates/Reedy Road Pump Station project. Mr. Moll is requesting that the Board of Supervisors approve the Reedy Road Pump Station Improvements Agreement with the developer of Glen Ridge Estates. Because the sewage from this development will flow to this pump station and the station must be upgraded in order to accept the additional flows, the Developer is responsible for the upgrades. As Mr. Moll and Mr. Becker were reviewing the files to prepare the Improvements Agreement, they discovered that the capacity reservation agreement also needed to be amended. Mr. Moll is requesting that the Board of Supervisors approve the Reedy Road Pump Station Improvements Agreement and the 3rd Amendment to the Sewer Treatment and Transportation Capacity Reservation Agreement.

Motion to approve and to have the appropriate personnel sign the Reedy Road Pump Station Improvements Agreement and the 3rd Amendment to the Sewer Treatment and Transportation Capacity Reservation Agreement was made by Mr. Ulrich and seconded by Mr. Myer. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present at the meeting voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED.

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORS (Continued)

- D. Finance Department – Mr. Groller reported on the following items:
 - a. General Fund Comparative Income Statement for February; 2021 revenues are lower by approximately \$151,000.00 and expenses are increased by \$317,000.00. Revenues were decreased because the Local Services Tax receipt was posted in February 2020 and not until March in 2021 and the Parks and Recreation Department was fully operational in February 2020 and was operating under pandemic conditions in February 2021. Increased expenses are attributed to 2021 winter expenses, changes in the payment of Workers’ Compensation fees and the additional position of Deputy Chief in the Police Department.
 - b. American Rescue Plan – State and local governments will be receiving funding from the Federal Government. Spring Township is expecting approximately 2.7 million dollars in funding. Staff have attended webinars just today about the restrictions on these funds. This issue is very fluid and Township staff and legal and financial consultants are continuing to monitor the situation and will keep the Supervisors informed of what we learn. There are still many “unknowns” about this program and not as many “knowns”. These funds have to be expended by December 31st, 2024.
- E. Human Resources – Ms. Reardon – No Report.
- F. Public Works – Mr. Darrah – No Report

PUBLIC SAFETY

- A. Police Department – Deputy Chief Powell
 - a. Monthly Report – Deputy Chief Powell provided a written report.
 - b. Hiring Status Update – The top 5 candidates are currently undergoing extensive background checks.
- B. Township of Spring Fire Rescue Services – Chief Hackman reported on the status of the housing of some of the Western Berks Ambulance equipment and staff at the fire station. He is recommending a monthly lease payment of between \$1,500.00 and \$2,000.00 per month. Mr. Becker is working on finalizing a lease agreement.
- C. West Side Regional EMA – Mr. Bausher – No Report.

SOLICITOR – Mr. Becker – Ordinance 447 – Street Occupancy and Excavations. Mr. Becker reported that this ordinance is prepared, finalized, advertised and is ready for adoption.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 447 – Street Occupancy and Excavations was made by Mr. Myer, seconded by Mr. Kocher. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present at the meeting voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Wilson High School Graduation Parade and Fireworks Discussion – Mr. Groller reported on the request received from Wilson School District. They are seeking support for the graduation parade and fireworks display. Chief Ross and Deputy Chief Powell have met with Mr. Simcox from the school district and discussed preliminary issues. Additional meetings will be held to discuss reimbursements and permit fees. Chief Hackman reviewed the reimbursement issue from last year. The Board of Supervisors supports the Public Safety Departments cooperation with the school district for this event.

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

B. Mr. Darrah is requesting permission to replace the Tiger Mower tractor. The Township's machine is a 1996 tractor with over 7,000 hours. The machine needs repairs in excess of \$50,000.00. Mr. Darrah found a 1996 tractor with 733 hours for a price of \$39,500.00. It needs to have the controllers put it this machine to run the Township's mower. All of the current attachments will fit on the new machine. If approved, the old machine would be sold.

Motion to purchase the used tractor was made by Mr. Myer, seconded by Mr. Ulrich. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present at the meeting voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. American Rescue Plan Funding – Support Request – Mr. Groller reported receiving a request from Western Berks Ambulance for additional financial support through the American Rescue Plan.
2. An Executive Session was held prior to this meeting to discuss matters of potential litigation.
3. Next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 12th, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairperson Stuck adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Houck, Director of Parks and Recreation/
Township Secretary