



# TOWNSHIP OF SPRING

**BERKS COUNTY, PA**

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## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES MARCH 27, 2023

**OPENING OF MEETING:** Chairperson Stuck called a regular business meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 27, 2023, in the Public Meeting Room of the Township of Spring Administration Building, located at 2850 Windmill Road, Spring Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Chairperson Stuck called for a moment of silence in remembrance of those who perished in the explosion at R.M. Palmer in West Reading on Friday, March 24, 2023. Chairperson Stuck thanked all the emergency personnel and first responders who responded and assisted in the tragic event.

**ROLL CALL:** Upon roll call, Supervisors Stuck, Kocher, Wertz, and Royer were present. Ms. Smith attended via teleconference. Also present were: John Groller, Mary Rossi, Paul Darrah, Jen Bensinger, Judy Houck, Jim Moll, Daniel Becker, Esq, and Donald Spitler. Chief Hackman attended via ZOOM.

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS:** None

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

Anthony Tucci-Director of Western Berks Ambulance Association, reported that the association is back in their renovated building. The association closed its locations in Birdsboro and Amity Township. Mr. Tucci reported being on the call Friday night and thanked Fire Chief Hackman, his Department, and Station 79, who did a phenomenal job.

**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. Minutes from March 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting
2. List of Bills for Approval
  1. **General Fund - \$85,237.65**
  2. **Fire Hydrant Tax Fund- \$7,876.40**
  3. **Refuse Tax Fund- \$18,337.06**
  4. **Park Capital Outlay Fund- \$4,975.00**
  5. **Sewer District #3 Fund-\$59,550.26**
  6. **Fire Protection- \$8,338.15**
  7. **Capital Fund-\$161,312.52**
3. Adoption of Ordinance #453- Blue Ridge Cable Franchise Agreement
4. Adoption of Ordinance #454-Service Electric Cable Franchise Agreement
5. Purchasing Policy Updates-Tabled

**ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL:** *(Continued)*

6. Penn State Trails-Mr. Moll stated that Penn State has indicated that they will consider the proposal of the Township's resubmittal of the plans and requests for the proposed trail from the Reserve at Gring's Mill to the red-covered bridge at their Property Steering Committee on April 28, 2023. Penn State has requested additional information from the Township including, submittal of the entire request, including details of the Township's responsibilities concerning the easement areas, including snow removal, maintenance, power, and adherence to the Penn State design construction standards and indemnification. Secondly, the Township will coordinate with Penn State on the actual approval of plans.

Mr. Becker reviewed the background and history of the proposed trail, which goes back to when Metropolitan was developing the Reserve at Gring's Mill. He noted that the developer would pay for the design and installation costs for the trail. Mr. Moll said that several details, including the call boxes, still need to be worked out, including a proposal that includes a mid-block crosswalk with an electronic flashing device where segment one comes down to the roadway at the bridge.

There was a discussion, and questions were asked and answered. The Board agreed that they would like to continue the talks with Penn State and attempt to obtain the easement to install a trail at segments one and three.

Ms. Smith noted that her approval of segment one is for future use in the event the site gets more developed, and the trail could serve others as well. Ms. Smith suggested installing solar lighting and foregoing winter maintenance on the trail for segment one.

The Board agreed to request forgoing winter maintenance on section one and that the Township would authorize building the trail on section three with Penn State taking ownership of the maintenance as this area serves their dorms.

*Motion to approve Action Items 1-4 & 6 was made by Mr. Wertz, seconded by Mr. Kocher. Upon roll call, Mr. Wertz abstained from voting on approval of Action Item #1 & payment of Fire Fund #14. Mr. Stuck abstained from voting on payment for check # 108592. All Supervisors present voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED*

**TOWNSHIP DIRECTORS**

- A. Zoning/Building Codes Department- Mr. Wozniak submitted the monthly report for February. The request for the Public Gathering Permit for the Apple Dumpling Festival is tabled until the next Board Meeting, as Mr. Wozniak still needs to review the application with the Fire Marshal. Mr. Wozniak reviewed the sign issue on Penn Avenue and confirmed that Redner's owns the lot.
- B. Parks and Recreation Department- Ms. Houck stated that the Spring Township night at the Reading Phillies would be Saturday, April 15, with the game starting at 5:15 p.m. Ms. Houck said to let her know if anyone is interested in getting on the list to be selected to throw out the first pitch.
- C. Engineering/Planning Department-Mr. Moll stated that on March 16, the Township opened bids for the proposed stormwater management facility at Werner Estates Development. Mr. Moll explained that this is part of the Pollutant Reduction Plan for the Township and is funded by a grant the Township received from the DEP.

**TOWNSHIP DIRECTORS** (Continued)

C. Engineering/Planning Department (Continued)

Mr. Moll requested authorization to award the bid to CMS Environmental Services in the amount of \$268,741.50, pending CMS providing the appropriate bonds and insurance certificates.

*Motion to award the bid to CMS Environmental Services, pending the receipt of bonds and insurance certificates, was made by Mr. Kocher, seconded by Ms. Smith. Upon roll call, All Supervisors in attendance voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED.*

D. Finance Department – No Report

E. Human Resources - No Report

F. Public Works –No Report

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

A. Police Department -February Monthly Report submitted.

B. Township of Spring Fire Rescue Services-Mr. Groller wanted to thank Chief Hackman, his staff, and all the first responders that delved into the situation Friday evening. Mr. Groller said that he heard nothing but great reviews on their assistance. Chief Hackman stated that the Department did an excellent job in some severe conditions.

**SOLICITOR:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Stuck said the County Commissioners discussed 911 fees at a recent meeting. Mr. Royer said that the Commissioners said they were unwilling to bear the costs themselves for the 911 services because Townships keep the tax on the books and pass it along to the Commissioners. The Commissioners challenged Municipalities to commit to relieving the burden of that particular tax from residents if the County were to adopt it. Mr. Royer said the challenge is that the Township would need to get consensus from every municipality in Berks County.

Mr. Stuck pointed out that the Township's cost this year was \$345,000.00. Mr. Groller noted that it is the first increase in three (3) years. Chief Hackman confirmed for Mr. Groller that municipalities without police pay a communication fee and that it is his understanding that only Berks County and maybe one or two other counties in the state pay the 911 fee. Mr. Stuck asked Chief Hackman to check what counties are paying and said he would like more discussion at the next Board Meeting.

Mr. Stuck said he would like a representative from the library to attend a Board Meeting with an update.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. An Executive Meeting was held before this meeting to discuss potential litigation.
2. Next Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 10, 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Chairperson Stuck adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary L. Rossi". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Mary L. Rossi  
Township Secretary