



TOWNSHIP OF SPRING

BERKS COUNTY, PA

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 28, 2023

OPENING OF MEETING: Chairperson Stuck called a regular business meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order at 7:05 p.m. on Monday, August 28th, 2023, 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 and Royer were present. Ms. Smith and Mr. Kocher attended via teleconference. Mr. Wertz did not attend. Also present were: John Groller, Mary Rossi, Jen Bensingler, Judy Houck, Aaron Wozniak, Chief Powell, Jason Reichert, Jim Moll, Toni Tucci of Western Berks Ambulance Association, and Daniel Becker, Esq. Also in attendance were Gregg Bogia of Bogia Engineering, Larry Haraschak, Larry Dmochowski, Charles Good, Ron Procopio, Jim & Tracy Baum, and Gus Kotsakis of Omega Builders. Attending via Zoom were Paul Darrah and Chief Hackman.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS: Mr. Groller noted the amendments to the agenda as the following: Action Item # 7 will be tabled, and an addition of Action Items #9 & 10. *Motion to amend the agenda was made by Mr. Royer and seconded by Ms. Smith. Upon roll call, All Supervisors in attendance voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED*

OPEN TO THE FLOOR:

Larry Haraschak, 606 Wilshire Blvd, addressed the Board about improving stormwater removal along Wilshire Boulevard. July 9th, 2023 was the fourth flood he experienced in his home in a five-year period. The stormwater went up over the sidewalk and infiltrated the wastewater system, resulting in raw sewage in his basement. Mr. Haraschak asked if the Township would increase the piping size to help remove the stormwater.

Mr. Darrah stated that several homes in that area have lines that go to Sinking Spring, and their sewer plant overflowed, causing the sewer backup on July 9th. The area received seven (7) inches of rain in approximately 4 ½ hours.

Mr. Haraschak said that numerous roads intersect with Wilshire Boulevard, and his home is at the bottom, so everything drains to his house. In these large storms, the water goes above the curb, enters the yards, and then infiltrates the sewage area. Mr. Darrah stated an issue occurred at the corner of Thomas Place and Wilshire Boulevard. The water went into the sewer trap standpipe out in their yard. It did not have a cover on one side; it was low in their yard, and that is where the water went in.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR: *(Continued)*

Larry Haraschak, 606 Wilshire Blvd *(Continued)*

Mr. Darrah said that after the storm, Township staff inspected the Township's sanitary sewers and found no evidence that the Township's sanitary sewer line in that area was elevated. Mr. Moll confirmed for Mr. Darrah that the pipe size in that area is 53 x 83-inch corrugated pipe, a large horizontal concrete pipe.

Mr. Haraschak stated his finished basement has a powder room, and his toilet and sink were fountains of raw sewage five (5) years ago. The water comes from the road, the planting strip, the sidewalk, and the vent pipes; this is the 4th time this happened. Mr. Darrah noted that homeowners can install backflow preventers on their main line.

Mr. Moll said that Township staff can review the issue, but the timing will not be favorable as the Township has quite a long list of problem areas that need to be reviewed by staff. In this case, if the Township did an analysis and determined that something needs to be done in this location, he suspects the cost will be extremely high, noting the large concrete pipe already in place. Mr. Darrah said that on July 9th, Wilshire's holding pond was overflowing on Reedy Road. Mr. Haraschak asked if the Township plans to clean out the swale to see if that will help. Mr. Moll said that permits would be required by the State and noted that it is a lengthy process, adding that he believes it would make little change for Mr. Haraschak as his home is upstream from the detention basin.

Mr. Haraschak asked when Fast Bridge Fiber would complete their job and remove the cable sitting around the Township. Mr. Darrah stated that in the Wilshire Development, Fast Bridge Fiber has been discussing cutting the wire off and letting everything sit for now due to issues obtaining PennDOT permits.

Jim & Tracy Baum, 2901 Shillington Road, addressed the Board. Ms. Baum asked what the Township's plan is to install additional one-way street signage, line painting, or "plastic things" on the road or if the Police Department plans to ticket the volume of cars that are going up their street the wrong way on an increasing basis. Mr. Baum stated that it is increasing and arrogant and that he is done dealing with this. He moved into his home in 1988 and threatened the Township that if anyone in his family ever got hurt, he would "sue everybody." There are two (2) more families on this block with young children, and he is looking out for these families.

Mr. Baum stated that a truck from Adelphia Seafood Company uses the street as a shortcut, adding that they are not on deliveries but using "his" street as a shortcut. Additionally, Mr. Baum mentioned the weight of the trucks and wear and tear on the roads. Mr. Baum stated that since PennDOT and the Township paved, water comes up through his basement's foundation if it rains too much. Mr. Baum recalled one summer when it rained over 20 inches, and he did not take on any water. Mr. Baum stated that PennDOT "pitched SR. 724, and the Township pitched Hiester Boulevard, and now he takes on water when it rains a lot, noting that there are no drains around his house to take on excessive water.

Mr. Moll stated that the portion on SR. 724 is a PennDOT road and that he is unfamiliar with the Township changing the crown of the Township portion of the road. Mr. Moll confirmed for Mr. Stuck that he would speak to the Township's Road Engineer.

Mr. Darrah stated that staff could look at installing pylons at the end of the block to address the issue of cars going down a one-way street. Chief Powell confirmed for Mr. Stuck that he would have the traffic unit monitor the location.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR: *(Continued)*

Ron Procopio, 3315 Reedy Road, asked if there are any updates regarding the canal area on Reedy Road discussed at the August 14th, 2023, Board of Supervisors Meeting. Mr. Stuck stated that the Township is obtaining cost estimates. Mr. Moll confirmed that if the process starts, it will be a lengthy permitting process with the State. Mr. Procopio mentioned that the grass is exceptionally high. Mr. Darrah said that he would have staff take care of it.

Gus Kotsakis of Omega Builders confirmed that he re-scheduled the property settlement for the lots on Shillington Road to this Friday, per the Infrastructure Committee (IC), to forward their recommendation to the Board at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Becker stated that the Board should consider amending the agenda to include this matter, as the Developer had informed the IC of the timing of the settlement. If the Township does not address it, it will cause a delay or issues.

Motion to amend the agenda to include the discussion of installing a low-pressure system along Shillington Road under Engineering was made by Mr. Kocher and seconded by Ms. Smith. Upon roll call, All Supervisors in attendance voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED

Toni Tucci of the Western Berks Ambulance Association thanked the Township for its contributions, noting that one ambulance association in the County suspended all of its services. Mr. Tucci said the association wants to form a committee with Wyomissing, West Reading, Spring Township, Lower Heidelberg, South Heidelberg, Wernersville, and Sinking Spring. They are looking for an elected official from each municipality to brainstorm ideas to continue EMS services as EMS is in crisis. Mr. Tucci stated they would like to start the meetings as soon as possible and most likely hold them here at the Township since it is a central location. After discussion, Ms. Smith agreed to continue to serve on the Ambulance Committee.

Mr. Tucci stated that he would like to schedule a meeting with Mr. Groller and the Finance Committee to discuss next year's budget.

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 August 14th Meeting

2. List of Bills for Approval

1. General Fund - \$213,046.23

2. Fire Hydrant Tax Fund - \$41.87

3. Refuse Tax Fund- \$30,864.66

4. Sewer District #3 Fund - \$108,177.74

5. Fire Protection- \$ 5,961.07

6. Capital Fund- \$ 10,683.12

3. Press Heater for WWTP

Mr. Groller requested authorization to order a new press heater from Landis Mechanical Group Inc. for the WWTP. The quoted price is through CoStars at the cost of \$39,711.34. Mr. Darrah noted that the heater was the original from the mid-1980s, and the block on the heater blew apart a few weeks ago. Mr. Darrah confirmed for Mr. Royer that a newer, more efficient system is being installed.

ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL: *(Continued)*

4. Accessible Parking Permit

Chief Powell stated the Department received an application for an accessible parking space in the 500 block of Lawrence Avenue. Traffic Sergeant Peterson of the traffic unit reviewed the request and recommended approval.

5. Command Vehicles Purchase-PO FR- 2024-0001

Chief Hackman provided a purchase order for two (2) command vehicles, one of which will be a replacement, and the other is an addition for the projected new Deputy Chief position. The requested purchase is through the CoStars Contract, and the deadline to participate in the CoStars order is the 2nd week of September. Payment is due on delivery, which should be at the beginning of the 2nd quarter of 2024. Chief Hackman confirmed pricing information for Mr. Stuck, noting the cost of installing radios, lights, striping, and Department patches. Chief Hackman said it has been challenging to purchase vehicles and that New Holland Ford was used to buy the Fire Marshall's vehicle. New Holland Ford guaranteed that if the Township submitted their order before the second week of September, we would get the vehicles in 2024.

Ms. Smith questioned whether any other options were considered due to the cost. Mr. Stuck suggested that the Board authorize the purchase of two (2) vehicles, not to exceed \$161,000.00.

6. Shocktoberfest Public Gathering Permit

Mr. Wozniak requested approval for the annual Public Gathering Permit for Shocktoberfest in Willow Glen Park. The event runs from Friday, September 15th, to Saturday, November 4th. The application has been reviewed by the Code and Fire Departments, and they recommend approval of the permit contingent upon a satisfactory site inspection scheduled for September 8th, which will include a specific review for objects in the floodway along the creek that could potentially float downstream during a flood event.

7. Installation of Electrical Panel-PO -FR-2024-0001-Tabled

8. Authorization to Conduct Property Survey

Ms. Houck stated that in the Board's packet was a memo requesting that the Board approve the proposed Agreement of Sale, which is subject to final review, to authorize the execution of the Agreement of Sale by the appropriate Township official, authorize the ordering of a title report, and any other steps necessary to finalize the sale of the West Wyomissing property. Mr. Stuck complimented Ms. Houck for her work with the DCNR and everything it entailed to get this done.

9. Authorization to Conduct Property Survey

Mr. Moll said that a few meetings ago, residents along Evergreen Drive, adjacent to the Drexelwood Park area, were in attendance about drainage issues. Mr. Moll reported that the Engineering Department has looked into this issue and determined that for the Township to develop remedial measures, a Topographic Survey needs to be done to determine what steps to take.

ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL: (Continued)

9. Authorization to Conduct Property Survey (Continued)

Mr. Moll reviewed the site and requested authorization to approve a cost estimate provided by Great Valley Consultants for the Topographic Survey at a cost of \$7,800.00.

Mr. Stuck suggested that the Topographic Survey be done on the entire area so that the Township has the information on hand if needed for future projects. Mr. Moll confirmed there would be time to obtain a quote for the entire area. Mr. Becker suggested that the request be tabled, and staff request a quote for the whole park. All the Board Members were in agreement.

10. Conditional Offer of Employment- Full-Time Finance/Customer Service Administrative Assistant- Mr. Groller requested that the Board approve extending a conditional offer of employment to a candidate for the full-time Finance/Customer Service Administrative Assistant position at a starting hourly rate of \$24.52 per hour, contingent upon successfully completing the required background screenings.

11. Conditional Offer of Employment-Full-Time IT Manager

Mr. Groller requested that the Board approve extending a conditional offer of employment to a candidate for the full-time IT Manager position at a starting salary of \$76,000.00, contingent upon successfully completing the required background screenings.

Motion to approve Action Items #1-6, 8, & 10-11 was made by Mr. Royer and seconded by Ms. Smith. Upon roll call, All Supervisors in attendance voted affirmatively. Mr. Stuck abstained from Action Item #3 and voting on payment of #109642. MOTION CARRIED

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORS

A. Zoning/Building Codes Department – No Report

B. Parks and Recreation Department. Ms. Houck provided a monthly report

C. Engineering/Planning Department

1) Shillington Road Force Main- Mr. Moll said that the Infrastructure Committee (IC) had recommended a proposal for a sanitary sewer system along Shillington Road. Mr. Moll reviewed the proposal, noting that the area is directly across from the police department and the Township garage. The applicant would like to install a low-pressure sewer system.

Mr. Kotsakis stated the request is for a low-pressure force main across seven (7) lots. The drawings show six (6) lots because they are still determining if they can do the seven existing lots due to infiltration. A study was completed, per the recommendation of the IC Committee, and that it revealed that it would be cost-prohibitive to run a line across Spohn Road into the manhole located in front of the middle of St. Luke's property. Mr. Kotsakis said he would like to install a force main in front of the property, with each house having a sewage ejector pump, which would be the homeowner's responsibility. Mr. Kotsakis mentioned Mr. Darrah's concerns that if they bored through rock along the curb line, the low-pressure force main would be dedicated to the Township, that if sometime in the future the two-inch line breaks inside the rocks, and the Township would have to start digging through rocks to find it.

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORS (Continued)

C. Engineering/Planning Department

1) Shillington Road Force Main-

The IC Committee suggested that the applicant create a HOA for the 2-inch line. The IC Committee voted to recommend approval to the Board as long as the Township did not take ownership of the sanitary sewer system and approved the low-pressure force main.

Mr. Kotsakis confirmed for the Board that the HOA would be created for the lots and only for the low-pressure force main, and the homes will be single-family lots. The area is part of a subdivision from 1956, and he noted that PennDOT did say they would not have an issue with the project. Mr. Darrah said that the manhole is next to the last house in front of 109 and that the IC Committee recommended installing a 6- or 8-inch stub into their force main, confirming that the small stub portion is the only part the Township will be responsible for. Mr. Moll also noted that the Township is not interested in accepting ownership of stormwater facilities for the lots.

Motion to accept the recommendation of the IC Committee to permit Mr. Kotsakis to install the force main inside an easement outside the Township right-of-way, with a stub into the Township's manhole, noting that the Township will not accept ownership of the force main, and that it should be owned and maintained by an HOA was made by Mr. Kocher and seconded by Mr. Royer. Upon roll call, All supervisors present voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED.

D. Finance Department - No Report

E. Human Resources - No Report

F. Public Works – Mr. Darrah gave an update on the 2023 Road Work stating that the slurry sealing has been pushed back until September 1st due to rain. Mr. Stuck asked if applying the slurry seal in September would work. Mr. Darrah confirmed that the slurry seal works better the hotter and drier it is., noting one year, it was done a little late, and it worked out. Mr. Darrah confirmed that he is working with Scott Anderson, the Township's Road Engineer, on the verbiage in the Township's contract. Mr. Darrah confirmed that a meeting is scheduled for the first week in October to discuss the 2024 Road Work Project and he is obtaining a new study from HRG.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Police Department – Chief Powell provided a monthly report. Chief Powell noted that traffic related incidents continue to be the Department's #1 drive for service. Chief Powell said that he appreciates the elected officials coming out to National Night Out, Ms. Houck, the fire department, and everyone who participated. Mr. Stuck thanked Chief Powell and the staff for all the time and effort put into National Night Out.

One Way Traffic Issues-Mr. Royer asked Chief Powell if the Township has access to traffic cameras for issuing traffic citations or notices of violation. Chief Powell said that it is his understanding that traffic cameras are only permissible in cities of the 1st class, essentially, just the City of Philadelphia, and along highways in construction zones. Chief Powell indicated that the police department spends significant time monitoring traffic. The monthly report lists that in the first seven (7) months of 2023, the Department had 1,690 contacts related to traffic, not counting accidents. Chief Powell stated that it works out to be approximately 241 contacts per month. Traffic-related incidents and issues are the number one driver of service and complaints all over the Township. Chief Powell stated that the Department will monitor Hiester Boulevard and other Township areas.

PUBLIC SAFETY (Continued)

A. Police Department (Continued)

Mr. Stuck asked what the regulations are for motorized bicycles. Chief Powell said they should obey the same traffic laws as regular vehicles. Chief Powell said that the Department does take a look at risk vs. reward with regard to chases.

B. Township of Spring Fire Rescue Services – No Report

C. West Side Regional EMA – No Report

SOLICITOR – No Report

OLD BUSINESS: – Noise Ordinance- Chief Powell distributed information at the last meeting for the Board to review. Ms. Rossi will send the Board a copy of the data and add it to the agenda for the next meeting.

Trash Issues-Mr. Royer asked for an update on trash pick-up issues. Mr. Groller said that the situation seems to be the same. Eagle Disposal has the Township's letter and has requested a meeting, so we are coordinating a date.

NEW BUSINESS: None

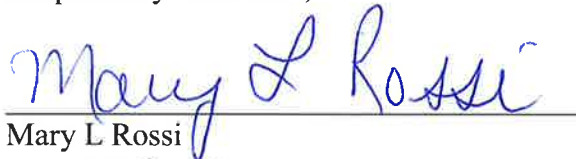
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. There was an Executive Session on August 16th, 2023, on matters of potential litigation and an Executive Session was held prior to this meeting on matters of potential litigation.
2. Next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 11th, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairperson Stuck adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary L Rossi
Township Secretary