



TOWNSHIP OF SPRING

BERKS COUNTY, PA

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 23RD, 2023

OPENING OF MEETING: Chairperson Stuck called a regular business meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order at 7:03 p.m. on Monday, October 23rd, 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, Kocher, Wertz, and Royer were present. Ms. Smith attended via teleconference. Also present were John Groller, Mary Rossi, Paul Darrah, Aaron Wozniak, Jen Bensinger, Jim Moll, Jason Reichert, Judy Houck, Chief Powell, Dan Becker, Esquire, Heather Matz, Allison Piscitelli, Donald Spim, and Jaime Biaz on behalf of State Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz. Chief Hackman attended via ZOOM.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

Mr. Groller requested to amend the agenda to include an additional action item, Action Item #7, Conditional Offer of Employment for up to two (2) police officers.

Motion to amend the agenda was made by Mr. Royer and seconded by Mr. Kocher. Upon roll call, All Supervisors present voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED

OPEN TO THE FLOOR:

Heather Matz, 2238 Cleveland Avenue, addressed the Board and stated where she lives, stormwater runs down the hill into her block and that the water sits in front of her driveway and two of her neighbors. Ms. Matz mentioned one of the big storms a couple of years ago when her side of the street had sewage in their basements.

Ms. Matz stated that her issue now relates to the sale of her home, with settlement scheduled for this Thursday. Mr. Kreider's inspection results indicated that five (5) sidewalk slabs need to be replaced. Ms. Matz said that the issue of the sidewalk problems is because of Township stormwater. Ms. Matz confirmed for Mr. Moll that it is low in the front of her property, and the gutter and water sets in the street.

Staff explained that Ms. Matz was referencing two separate issues and noted a new sewer main is going in that area, and there is little in that area as far as storm sewers.

Mr. Becker confirmed for Ms. Matz that, unfortunately, she will have to cover the cost. Mr. Becker stated that storms are not typically the fault of the Township, noting that large storms are an act of God and that there were issues throughout the County.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR: *(Continued)*

Heather Matz, 2238 Cleveland Avenue *(Continued)*

Mr. Becker additionally confirmed for Ms. Matz that additional homes built at the top of the hill are designed to infiltrate stormwater on their property.

Allison Piscitelli of 2314 Reading Boulevard asked the Board if there is a rule in the Township that states you must have a sidewalk, which the Board confirmed sidewalks are required.

The Board viewed the area and discussed the issue. Mr. Wozniak confirmed that if the property has a 4-foot sidewalk, the Township Ordinance permits the planting strip restoration, noting that all tripping hazards must be resolved.

Jaime Biaz stated that he was in attendance on behalf of State Representative Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz, serving the 129th District. Mr. Biaz said they are hosting a Health & Wellness Resource Fair at the Jewish Federation in West Reading. Mr. Biaz confirmed that their office does have grant books that staff may access.

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 the October 10th Meeting
2. List of Bills for Approval
 1. **General Fund - \$ 312,842.21**
 2. **Refuse Tax - \$ 60,399.21**
 3. **Park Capital Outlay Fund - \$ 396.50**
 4. **Sewer District #3 Fund - \$ 111,243.16**
 5. **Fire Protection- \$44,223.83**
 6. **Capital Fund- \$3,885.72**
3. Conditional Offer of Employment- Fire Department

Chief Hackman requested approval for a Conditional Offer of Employment for the Full-time Firefighter/EMT position. The offer of employment will be contingent upon the successful completion of all required Township screenings.
4. Sick & Family Leave Requisition

Chief Powell stated that he has two requests from two police officers, for two (2) weeks each, to take Family Leave for the birth of their children, with the caveat that they would come forward and ask for additional time if needed, given any complications.
5. Assessable Parking Permit Application

Chief Powell stated that the West Lawn United Methodist Church submitted a request for assessable parking on Noble Street near the community center. Sergeant Peterson of the Traffic Unit inspected the proposal and recommended approval.

ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL (Continued)

6. 1147 Old Fritztown Road Sewer Request

Mr. Moll reviewed the proposal reviewed by the Infrastructure Committee. The IC recommends that the applicant construct a sewer main using an 8-inch PVC pipe with connections to manholes where he is building his home. It would be available to some of the other adjoining properties, and they could tie their lateral into that main. The applicant has submitted plans, with his property at 1145 Old Fritztown Road and the properties at 1143 and 1147 Fritztown Road, which would connect to this lateral and intend to remain private.

The IC Committee recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the private sewer main to be installed with the conditions that everything is to the satisfaction of the Township Solicitor and sewer engineer and that the applicant must enter into a maintenance and ownership agreement for the line with the other two (2) property owners.

7. Conditional Offer of Employment-Police Department

Mr. Groller stated that the requested Conditional Offer of Employment is for up to two (2) additional police officers.

Motion to approve Action Items #1-#7 was made by Mr. Kocher and seconded by Mr. Wertz. Upon roll, All Supervisors present voted affirmatively, with Mr. Wertz abstaining from voting on payment of Fire Fund #14 and Action Item #3 and Mr. Stuck abstaining from voting on payment for check #110001. MOTION CARRIED

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORS

- A. Zoning/Building Codes Department: Mr. Wozniak submitted the September Monthly Report and presented the highlights, including large projects that have started in the Township, totaling almost \$20,000,000.00 in construction, including the Stackhouse Bensinger Building, which is being converted into a daycare. Mr. Wozniak said the Wilson School District is beginning the auditorium addition, and apartments are being built in the Township. Solar permits remain active, with eight (8) received this month. Thirty (30) applications for property transfers were submitted to the Township, and seven (7) required sidewalk corrections to remove tripping hazards—54% of the pre-settlement property transfer inspections required modification to comply with Township ordinances. There has been progress with Juliana's and Blimline Road Projects that the staff has been working on.

Mr. Wozniak clarified Mr. Royer's question on keeping chickens and fowl on a property less than 1 acre.

Mr. Wozniak stated that the 600 Holtzman Road situation is an excellent example of the Township's road crew identifying an unusual situation, enabling the Township to make the right calls and react quickly. The East Cocalico Sewage Enforcement Officer was notified, and he was able to verify that an East Cocalico resident on Holtzman Road installed straight piping from their septic tank into the Township's catch basin.

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORS (Continued)

A. Zoning/Building Codes Department: (Continued)

The pipe was draining sewage across the road into the creek. This issue was eliminated by East Cocalico Township staff within 24 hours of discovery, which was a great, quick response.

- B. Parks and Recreation Department: Ms. Houck submitted the monthly report for September.
- C. Engineering/Planning Department: No Report
- D. Finance Department – No Report
- E. Human Resources - No Report
- F. Public Works: -No Report

PUBLIC SAFETY

- A. Police Department –Chief Powell submitted a monthly report for September. Chief Powell noted that, unfortunately, yesterday, there was a fatal vehicle accident in the Township at Mohns Hill Road and SR 222.
- B. Township of Spring Fire Rescue Service-No Report
- C. West Side Regional EMA – No Report

SOLICITOR: – No Report

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. An Executive Session was held prior to this meeting on matters of personnel and potential litigation.
2. The Vision Meeting will reconvene on Monday, November 13th at 5:30 p.m.
3. The next Board of Supervisors Meeting will be on Monday, November 13th at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairperson Stuck adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary L. Rossi
Township Secretary