



TOWNSHIP OF SPRING

Board of Supervisors

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 2nd, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: The 2024 Regular Meeting of the Township of Spring Board of Supervisors was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Stuck on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024, at 7:35 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Township of Spring Administration Building, located at 2850 Windmill Road, Spring Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Stuck stated that prior to this meeting, the Board had an executive session to discuss personnel matters and potential litigation.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS: None

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. Minutes from the December 21st Meeting
2. Board to authorize emergency excavating invoices for Schlouch, Inc. under the 2023 budget.
3. List of Bills for Approval
 1. General Fund - \$57,732.75
 2. Refuse Tax Fund - \$25,239.41
 3. Park Capital Outlay Fund - \$701.50
 4. Sewer District #3 Fund - \$13,727.57
 5. Fire Protection- \$ 2,748.12
 6. Capital Fund-\$1,411.90
4. Purchase Orders-Police Vehicles
Chief Powell requested approval to execute the purchase order, which the Board approved at the November 27th, 2023 Board Meeting. The purchase order is for two (2) vehicles for a total of \$78,330.00 from Savage Dodge, noting that they are a Costars authorized dealer and that the purchase is a budgeted item.

ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL (Continued)

5. Appointment of Emily McNulty to the Zoning Hearing Board
Mr. Groller stated this appointment is to fill the remainder of Robert Penny's term, which ends in 2026.

6. Authorization of Execution of Sewer Agreement - 1145 Old Fritztown Road
Mr. Moll reviewed the proposed sewer agreement that the Township is entering into with property owners along a private drive on Old Fritztown Road. The line will remain private and service three (3) existing lots and a new home. The agreement will cover the installation and maintenance of this line. The request is for the Board to authorize the Chairman of the Board to execute the agreement on behalf of the Township. Mr. Moll confirmed for Mr. Stuck that the sewer line will be connected to the public sewer line after it is installed.

A motion to approve Action Items #1-#6 was made by Mr. Kocher and seconded by Mr. Wertz. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present voted affirmatively, with Mr. Wertz abstaining from voting on payment of fire fund 14, Mr. Stuck abstaining from voting on payment#110519, and Ms. Smith abstaining from action item #1(approval of December 21st minutes). MOTION CARRIED

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORS

- A. Zoning/Building Codes Department – No Report
- B. Parks and Recreation Department

- 1) Adult Volleyball Program-Ms. Houck provided the Board with data regarding the Adult Volleyball Program the Township had reinstated last year. After a thorough review, the Parks and Recreation Board recommends that the Township discontinue the program. Ms. Houck stated the recommendation to discontinue is primarily based on the fact that the majority of people who participate in this program are not Township residents or Wilson School District residents and issues that the Department has had with participants.

Ms. Houck stated that when we could not obtain gym time due to the school district's needs for school functions, the Department received a lot of negative communication from the program's volunteer supervisor. Mr. Stuck stated that he agreed to cancel the program and was surprised the Department received hostile emails. Ms. Houck noted additionally that the program volunteer supervisor disregarded instructions to channel all communication with the Township and would call the school district directly. The Board was in agreement to cancel the program.

- 2) 2024 Summer Playground Program

Ms. Houck stated that the Parks and Recreation Board has been reviewing this program and tried to come up with the Township funding 25% of the program, per the Board of Supervisors' direction. Ms. Houck said that based on the number of participants and expenses, even if the Department doubled the registration fee, the Department would not be able to come close to the Township only funding 25%. Ms. Houck said 2023 was the closest that the Department had a "normal" playground year since 2019. There wasn't a program in 2020 or 2021; 2022 had extremely low participation, with less than 50 children, and the Department only opened two (2) sites. Last year, 155 children participated in the program, and the Department opened five (5) locations.

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORS (Continued)

B. Parks and Recreation Department (Continued)

2) 2024 Summer Playground Program (Continued)

The Parks and Recreation Board recommends that the Township offer the program another year at the same rates: \$150.00 for the first resident child, \$115.00 for the second resident child, and \$250.00 for non-residents. Returning staff would be paid a 25% increase, hourly rate of \$15.00 for the first year, \$17.00 for the second year, (new staff remaining at \$15.00 hr.). Ms. Houck said information provided by other municipalities regarding questions the Parks and Recreation Board had was in the Board packets, noting that the Township is in line with other municipalities regarding pay rate and the number of leaders per child. Ms. Houck stated that the Department would like to advertise the 2024 Summer Playground Program rates by February 1st, 2024, with registration starting March 1st, 2024.

The Board agreed with the Parks and Recreation Board's 2024 Summer Playground Program recommendations.

C. Engineering/Planning Department

1) Variance Request-8 Old Wernersville Road

Mr. Moll reviewed the request for a variance from lot area requirements. Due to the Zoning Hearing's scheduled date, this request is presented to the Board before the Planning Commission review. The property is under half an acre, a .42-acre parcel with an existing dwelling and a garage in the rear of the property. The applicant would like to replace the home with a two-story building with two units, which the Township defines as a two (2) family detached dwelling. In this area, one (1) acre per dwelling is required, so the existing home is considered non-conforming, and with a second unit, it would be a greater non-conformity. Mr. Moll said that the Board may make a recommendation to the Zoning Hearing Board for the Hearing that is scheduled January 17th. Mr. Moll stated the requirement for the one acre per dwelling unit on the lot is because they do not have public water (they do have public sewer). The lot size requirement would be much less if they had public water.

Mr. Stuck expressed concern about applying for two units and possibly four additional cars. After discussion, *Mr. Stuck made a motion to recommend to the Zoning Hearing Board that they deny the variance request for 8 Old Wernersville Road.*

Mr. Moll confirmed for Mr. Kocher that if the applicant had public water and sewer the applicant would meet the area requirements. Mr. Wozniak confirmed for Ms. Smith that there are no multi-family dwellings in this area, but noted that businesses are on the opposite side of the street.

Mr. Kocher seconded the motion to recommend that the Zoning Hearing Board deny the applicant's variance request for 8 Old Wernersville Road. Upon roll call, Mr. Royer abstained, and all other Board members present voted to recommend that the Zoning Hearing Board deny the variance request. Motion Carried-4-0-1

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORS (Continued)

- D. Finance Department - No Report
- E. Human Resources - No Report
- F. Public Works – Mr. Kocher said in the 800 block of Redwood Avenue, there are two (2) neighborhood boxes with a coax cable going from one to the other through the street and the curb and noted that it has been there for a few months.
Mr. Darrah stated he would look into it.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- A. Police Department – Chief Powell stated that a local law enforcement agency is interested in purchasing one of the Department's vehicles, the old service truck #30; they requested to have a mechanic take a look at it, and unless there are any objections, Chief Powell would like to give them approval. Chief Powell confirmed for Mr. Royer that it was not listed for sale and that it came up in a conversation. The Board was in agreement with the request.
- B. Township of Spring Fire Rescue Services – No Report
- C. West Side Regional EMA – No Report

SOLICITOR – No Report

OLD BUSINESS: –

1) Board Committee List

Mr. Groller said the 2024 Board Committee List was in the Board's packet and to let staff know if they would like to make any changes.

2) Agricultural Security Area Committee

Mr. Becker stated that the Agricultural Security Committee (ASC) is to re-organize every seven (7) years. Under the Agricultural Security Act, if you don't review every seven years, it is deemed approved in its current condition. Mr. Becker stated that the renewal process is costly and time consuming. Mr. Becker said that it is common for municipalities to accept a request, the request becomes deemed approved, and then those applications are recorded, and become part of the agricultural security area. Mr. Becker stated that he is waiting to hear back from the County's Agricultural Department to determine if the Township needs to take action.

Mr. Royer questioned when the next review is due. Mr. Becker suggested that staff review the Agricultural Security Area Committee minutes to determine when the next update is due.

NEW BUSINESS: -None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 22nd, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairperson Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L Rossi
Township Secretary

Board of Supervisors
01/02/24

