



TOWNSHIP OF SPRING

Board of Supervisors

BERKS COUNTY, PA
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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 25TH, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: The Regular Meeting of the Township of Spring Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairperson Smith on Monday, November 25th, 2024, at 7:02 p.m. 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 a roll call, Supervisors Smith, Stuck, Kocher, Royer, and Wertz were present. John Groller, Dean Murray, Mary Rossi, Jen Bensinger, Jeremy Baez-Reyes, Judy Houck, Paul Darrah, Aaron Wozniak, Chief Hackman, Chief Powell, Jim Moll, Jason Reichert, Dan Becker; Solicitor, Eileen Bruger, Barbara McLaughlin, Josh & Jill Imboden, and a gentleman who did not sign in were also present. Attending via ZOOM was James Worth, Jewish Kike, Peter Scully, Atlas Toby, and Holly L.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS: The agenda was amended to include a discussion of the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR:

Eileen Bruger, 217 Indiandale Road, addressed the Board, stating that she and her husband are in the rural area where the Township is proposing trash service. Ms. Bruger stated their property is ¼ mile from the road, back a stone lane into the woods. She explained that her husband has COPD and is unable to take the trash down. They have recycling once a month, they compost, and what little trash that is left is picked up by her son. Ms. Bruger asked the Board if they would consider an exemption for cases like this for folks with a limited income instead of paying \$360.00 a year for a service they cannot use. Ms. Bruger stated she had heard that some residents requested trash pickup but questioned how that makes it mandatory for everyone else.

Ms. Smith stated that the Board has yet to discuss exemption requests and that this will be something they will need to review.

Josh Imboden, 4 Shakespeare Drive, stated that he and his wife were in attendance as they saw Service Electric was on the agenda this evening. Mr. Imboden noted that last year, Service Electric's initial plan was to build on the location behind their residence on Shakespeare Drive. Mr. Imboden explained that he and his wife are wrapped up with realtors and Service Electric and are still determining their next move.

Mr. Becker explained to Mr. & Mrs. Imboden that this is a private property issue, and the Township may not intervene, suggesting they should hire an attorney if Service Electric breached an agreement.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR: *(Continued)*

Barbara McLaughlin, 334 Mail Route Road, said her son and his family live on Reading Boulevard in West Wyomissing. She stated that she believes the location's speed limit should be lowered from 35 MPH to 25 MPH, noting that since it has been repaved, everyone is driving faster. Her second concern is the fact that Cumru Township approved warehouses, mentioning that it will affect Spring Township as much as Cumru Township. She is curious about the Board's thoughts on it.

Ms. Smith stated that Chief Powell would investigate the issue on Reading Boulevard. Mr. Reichert confirmed with Ms. Smith that Cumru Township did not request comments from the Township. Ms. McLaughlin stated that her concern about the warehouse is the fact that Cumru Township stated that truck traffic would not affect the back roads. Mr. Stuck noted that there is a weight restriction for trucks from SR. 222 when you are coming on Grings Hill Road.

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 November 12th Regular Meeting & the November 19th Budget Meeting
2. List of Bills for Approval
 1. **General Fund - \$408,607.70**
 2. **Refuse Tax Fund - \$36,661.49**
 3. **Sewer District #3 Fund - \$424,429.98**
 4. **Fire Protection- \$ 56,196.68**
 5. **Capital Fund-\$327,246.10**
3. 2025 Preliminary Budget
Mr. Groller stated the total budget for 2025 is \$41,375,588.00, with increases to the General Fund Tax Milage and Fire Protection Tax Milage. It also restructures the trash rates from three tiers to one tier for the urban area and sets the rural trash rates at \$360.00 per household. There are no increases in any other rates or user fees for 2025.
4. Emergency Repair & Maintenance Contract Change Order
Mr. Reichert stated that the annual Emergency Repair & Maintenance Contract currently with Schlouch, Inc. is a one-year contract with the option for an extension for an additional year. As rebidding the extension is not necessary, Wyomissing Borough agreed to stay on as well.
5. Service Electric-3333 Penn Avenue
Waiver request of Section 302(C) & (D) pertaining to Preliminary Plan Procedures
6. Service Electric-3333 Penn Ave
Waiver request of Section 502(A) allowing combined Preliminary & Final Plan processes.
7. Service Electric-3333 Penn Ave
Waiver of Plan Scale to allow 1" =30.

ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL: *(Continued)*

8. 231 Wheatfield Road Minor Subdivision
The deadline to act on the current Land Development Plans is December 4th, 2024.
The extension will be valid until March 4th, 2025.
9. Wexcon Payment Application-Wyomissing Interceptor
Payment Application #7 request for \$342,264.21.
10. Entech Engineering, Inc. Engineering Work Order (EWO) Request
The work order request is for the engineering services for the WWTP Screw Press Project at a cost of \$343,000.00.
11. Wyomissing Interceptor Upgrade Project- Change Order Requests
Mr. Darrah stated that Wyomissing Borough would reimburse the Township for the cost of both change orders as they are related to the Wyomissing Pool. Change Order #5 is \$6,908.85, and Change Order #7 is \$2,877.60.
12. Request for Approval of Grant Purchase for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses
Chief Hackman stated that the STFD was awarded a FEMA Grant for the fiscal year 2023 with four (4) other fire departments. The Township's awarded amount was \$122,250.00, noting that the grants are a 90/10 split, with the Federal Government paying 90% and the Township paying the remaining 10%. The purchase order is for twelve (12) new self-contained breathing apparatuses and is through Dival Safety. Chief Hackman said that due to how regional grants work, the Township will pay the total due for the purchase order to West Reading's Fire Department. The Township's share of the purchase is \$11,445.91 and is included in the 2025 Budget. The expected delivery of the equipment is at the end of January 2025.
13. Approval of Sale-Two Township Vehicles
Mr. Murray requested approval to sell two (2) older Township vehicles. Mr. Murray advertised the sale on the Township's website and in the newspaper, and they were published on Public Surplus. The winning bid for the 2008 Chrysler Sebring SDN is \$3,451.00, and the winning bid for the 2005 Ford Ranger XLT 4WD is over \$4,570.00.
14. BCERT Letter of Support
Chief Powell requested approval of a letter of support to BCERT, who is applying for an LSA Grant for 2025. BCERT is asking all members of agencies to support their efforts, requesting that the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) award grant money in the amount of \$644,093.00, which includes purchasing tactical and crisis equipment.
15. Authorization- 2025 Police Hiring
Chief Powell requested approval to proceed with a conditional offer of hire to a qualified candidate for a full-time police officer position. The candidate will start the Reading Police Academy on January 13th, 2025, at the academy rate of \$25.00 per hour. Chief Powell stated that this is one of two positions budgeted for 2025.

ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL: (Continued)

16. Green Light Go Project

Mr. Groller requested authorization to sign the Green Light Go Project paperwork after receipt of the final documents.

17. Burn Ban Extension

Request to extend the Township's burn ban through December 31st, 2024.

Ms. Smith questioned if the County was extending their burn ban. Chief Hackman said that with the little bit of rain that we got, we are still in drought conditions.

18. Smart Store Renewal

Mr. Baez-Reyes requested approval to renew the Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery solution for the SCADA system at the WWTP. The quote from Omega for the next three years is \$11,964/year.

19. Text My Gov

Mr. Baez-Reyes requested approval to purchase a solution that was reviewed that will send residents alerts via text messaging – a 3-year contract for \$5,750.00/ yr.

20. 2025 Summer Playground Program

Ms. Houck stated that the Parks and Recreation Board submitted recommendations for the Summer Playground Program changes. The recommended changes are the following:

1) Registration will be based on the grade level a child will be entering in September 2025 rather than their age as of June 1st, 2025.

a) Junior Playground will be for children entering 1st grade through 3rd in September

b) Summer Playground for children entering 4th through 6th in September

2) Increase registration rates by \$10.00. The new proposed rates are:

a) Resident rate-\$160.00/1st child

\$125.00/each additional child

b) Non-Resident rate-\$260.00/each child

21. Information Agreement-Wilson School District-Tabled

22. Formal Offer of Employment- Engineering Administrative Assistant

Mr. Groller requested authorization to offer a formal offer of employment to Ann Brightbill for the vacant full-time Administrative Assistant position at a starting salary of \$55,000.

Motion to approve Action Items #1-20 & 22 was made by Mr. Stuck and seconded by Mr. Wertz. Upon roll call, All Supervisors present voted affirmatively with the following abstentions: Mr. Stuck abstained from voting on payments to Landis Bonfitto, Mr. Wertz abstained from voting on Action Item #2- Fire Fund #14 and Action Item#12, and Ms. Smith abstained from voting on payment #8176.

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORS

- A. Zoning/Building Codes Department – No Report
- B. Parks and Recreation Department- Ms. Houck submitted a monthly report.

The motion to amend the agenda to discuss the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan was made by Mr. Royer and seconded by Mr. Kocher. Upon a roll call, All Supervisors present voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED

Ms. Smith opened the discussion about the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan for public comment, and there was none.

The Board discussed some of their issues and decided to email their comments, concerns, and suggestions to Ms. Houck by next Friday, December 6th. Ms. Houck said she would send the Board's comments, the Parks and Recreation Board's comments, and her comments to the consultants. Ms. Houck stated that the most important thing about the plan is that it covers everything in the scope of work that DCNR is looking for.

- C. Engineering 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.
- B. Township of Spring Fire Rescue Services – No Report
- C. West Side Regional EMA – No Report
- D. Western Berks Ambulance Association –No Report

SOLICITOR – Mr. Becker stated Ms. Rossi provided him with two Assessment Appeals the Township received today for two properties in the Township that lost their request to have their taxes lowered. One was for 2747 Century Boulevard, and the other one was for Giant Company LLC. Mr. Becker stated that he recommends that the Township do what we have done in the past, which is to allow the school district to file the appeal, and the Township will provide support as needed.

OLD BUSINESS: -None

NEW BUSINESS: -None

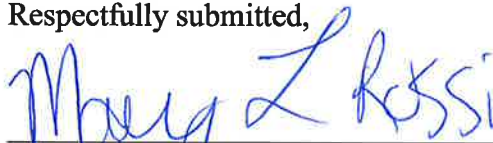
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 9th, 2024.
2. There was an Executive Session before the meeting tonight to discuss personnel issues and matters of collective bargaining.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Mary L Rossi
Township Secretary