



TOWNSHIP OF SPRING

Board of Supervisors

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 23RD, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Royer called a regular business meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order on Monday, February 23rd, 2026, at 7:00 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 roll call, Supervisors Stuck, Zeoli, Robertson, Wertz, and Royer were present. Also present were Township Manager John Groller, Assistant Township Manager Dean Murray, Township Secretary Mary Rossi, GIS Engineering & Planning Coordinator Jen Bensinger, Fire Chief Colin Hackman, Director of Parks & Recreation Judy Houck, Director of Public Works Craig Conrad, Director of Zoning & Codes Enforcement Aaron Wozniak, Director of Engineering & Planning Jason Reichert, Lieutenant Bob Long, Sergeant Jim Matthews, Officer Ryan Poeldnrnk, Officer Greg Shober, SRO Matt Keiser, Family Members of Officers, Esquire Dan Becker, Paralegal Adrienne DeLaere, Kevin & Sherry Sponagle, Brian Sponagle, Matt & Christina Stover, Randy Fultz, Jake Messner, Tim Hornberger, Matt Robenson of SJC for 7 Brew, Michael Hartman of Schlouch Inc. for 7 Brew, Peter M. Bennethum Jr., Mark Koch, Esquire for 7 Brew, Freelance Court Reporter Robin Woodman Hansell, Matt Peters, Kathy Thren, Clare Kilpatrick Benz, and Jed Holzmacher. Police Chief Stephen Brock and Peter Spisszak Expert Traffic Planner for 7 Brew, attended via TEAMS.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Royer stated that an Executive Session was held prior to this meeting to discuss matters of personnel & potential litigation.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: Kevin Sponagle
The Board recognized Mr. Sponagle's 34 years of service to the Township. Mr. Royer read the following resolution in honor of Mr. Sponagle's service.

RESOLUTION 2026-10

Resolved, that the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Spring, Berks County, Pennsylvania, recognizes Kevin Sponagle for his dedicated service to the Township of Spring for 34 years of service in Public Works and the Parks and Recreation Department. Resolved, the Township of Spring Board Supervisors, staff, and residents acknowledge his years of community service with appreciation.

February 23rd, 2026

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: Kevin Sponagle (*Continued*)

RESOLUTION 2026-10 (*Continued*)

Be Further Resolved that this Resolution and, therefore, official verification of his years of service to the Township, will become a permanent record of this municipality, and a copy shall be forwarded to Mr. Sponagle. On behalf of the Township of Spring, the Board of Supervisors wishes Mr. Sponagle success in his future endeavors.

Duly enacted by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Spring, Berks County, Pennsylvania, meeting in public session on this 23rd day of February 2026. Mr. Sponagle was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Pennsylvania State Association of Townships (PSATS) and a personalized clock from the Township.

POLICE OFFICER AWARDS

Combat Cross Award

Lieutenant Bob Long stated he was attending this evening in place of Chief Brock, who was unable to attend. Lieutenant Long stated that this evening is to award a very prestigious award, the Combat Cross, to Sergeant Jim Matthews (FTO at the time of the incident) and Officer Ryan Poeldnurk. Lieutenant Long detailed an incident that occurred on March 8th, 2025, when FTO Matthews and Officer Poeldnurk were dispatched to assist the State Police in taking a woman into custody for domestic assault and a warrant in Berks County. When the officers entered the residence, it was discovered that the woman had a large knife in her hand. Lieutenant Long detailed the incident that occurred over approximately a ten-second period. Due to the quick actions of both officers in a volatile situation, no one was hurt. The woman was transferred to the custody of the Berks County Sheriff's Department and was additionally charged with Aggravated Assault against a Police Officer. Lieutenant Long stated that both Officers demonstrated bravery and restraint in subduing the woman, who displayed a clear intent to use a deadly weapon against them. The actions of the woman created a deadly force situation; however, the officers used less lethal force, subjecting themselves to increased risk of injury in order to ensure the safety of others. Their devise actions prohibited any serious injury to the officers, the woman who assaulted them, and to the woman's family, while ensuring the woman was taken into custody. Lieutenant Long said that the Department is proud to present both Sergeant Matthews and Officer Poeldnurk with the Combat Cross Award.

POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Lieutenant Bob Long presented the Police Officer of the Year, Officer Greg Shober. Officer Shober has been employed by the Township of Spring Police Department since 2018 and has established himself as an effective and reliable officer. In 2025, he handled 351 incidents, issued 71 traffic warnings and citations, and made 31 arrests, several of which were the result of self-initiated actions. Some of his strongest attributes are his investigative skills and his motivation to solve cases; he has repeatedly demonstrated these qualities, resulting in several arrests, as Lieutenant Long highlighted. In addition to Officer Shober's investigative tactics, he is skilled at de-escalation, and he has a manner of connecting with people that is calming and reassuring, which he has consistently demonstrated throughout his career, in a variety of situations, including some that have been tense and volatile.

POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR (Continued)

These types of skills have undoubtedly reduced the number of deadly force incidents and increased the safety of both officers and citizens. Officer Shober teaches these skills to newly hired officers in his role as a Field Training Officer, a role he takes very seriously. As the Department has experienced the hiring of officers with limited experience in recent years, Officer Shober has consistently provided direct training. Even after trainees are no longer assigned to Officer Shober, they continue to turn to him for advice, a testament to his ability to set high standards while maintaining a positive rapport. The Department is fortunate to have Officer Shober serving as a mentor to these officers early in their careers. These are just some examples of what Officer Shober has provided the Department in 2025 and throughout his career with the Township. We are proud to present him with the Police Officer of the Year Award for 2025.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR:

Kathy Thren, 2705 Hillvale Avenue, stated that she was concerned about whether there are plans for ICE to have a facility in the Township and, if so, whether there are policies in place to prevent another Minnesota from happening. If ICE were to come for her, she asked the Board what recourse she would have, and if she should call the Township Police Department.

Mr. Royer stated that he has not heard of any proposed entry of any Federal ICE Operatives coming into the Township.

Ms. Thren stated that as United States citizen, she would like to know what she and members of her community should do if they see ICE Agents in their neighborhood.

Chief Brock said the Department is working through issues and developing policies. Addressing Ms. Thren's concerns, he has no knowledge of any facilities coming into the Township. Chief Brock stated that he is not aware of any arrests ICE has made unlawfully to citizens of the United States or those without warrants, adding if Ms. Thren is at her home and fears for her safety or is unlawfully approached, she should call the Police Department.

Clare Kilpatrick Benz, 196 Heather Lane, stated that she concurs with everything Ms. Thren said and is encouraged that a discussion will be held, as she thinks the Township should be proactive.

Mr. Royer recessed the Regular Meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Conditional Use Hearing-Wyomissing Retail Broadcast, LLC-7 Brew Coffee

Mr. Becker began the hearing and explained the procedures for the Conditional Use Hearing and reviewed the procedural exhibits.

At the conclusion of the hearing, a motion to grant the Conditional Use approval submitted by the Wyomissing Retail Broadcast LL for 7 Brew Coffee in the Broadcast District with conditions as noted in the Township Engineer's review letter, pages 6 & 7 (Exhibit 9) dated February 19th, 2026, as well as standard conditions for Conditional Use was made by Mr. Stuck and seconded by Mr. Wertz. All Supervisors present voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED

8:32 p.m.-Mr. Royer called for a brief recess

8:45 p.m.- Mr. Royer resumed the regular Board of Supervisors Meeting

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 February 9th Regular Business Meeting
2. List of Bills for Approval
 - 01- General Fund - \$428,219.58
 - 02- Street Lighting Tax Fund-\$28,608.71
 - 03- Fire Hydrant Tax Fund- \$9,017.96
 - 04- Refuse Tax Fund-\$25,132.09
 - 08- Sewer District #3 Fund- \$150,523.21
 - 14- Fire Protection- \$79,385.74
 - 18- Capital Fund- \$6,398.40
3. Stormwater Operations & Maintenance Agreement- 2315 Washington Avenue
4. Approval of Board of Supervisors Internal Committee List
5. West Wyomissing Park

Ms. Houck requested approval of the “Assurances-Construction Programs” document, which is part of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant application for the West Wyomissing Park-Phase II Project. Ms. Houck requested that the Board agree to the Assurances and authorize the appropriate Township Official to sign the document.
6. Sewer Lateral Policy

Mr. Conrad stated that the policy covers sewer lateral blockages and repairs and provided a diagram of the new trap specifications. The policy clarifies the homeowner's and the Township's responsibilities in a way that is easier for residents to understand. The Infrastructure Committee has reviewed this policy and recommends approval. Mr. Stuck asked how it differs from the existing policy. Mr. Conrad noted that the policy is clearer, omitting gray areas about who is responsible for a clog vs. a break.
7. Sidewalk Ordinance

Mr. Wozniak stated that he is proposing to update the Township’s Sidewalk Ordinance, which was last updated in 1976. Mr. Wozniak stated that the proposal will enable homeowners to repair sidewalks. The changes proposed are outlined in the memo that the Board received from Mr. Wozniak dated February 7th, 2026. Mr. Wozniak noted a few of the proposed changes and said he and Allan Kreider have been working on the revisions for a couple of years.

ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL: (Continued)

8. Werner Farmhouse Repairs

Ms. Houck provided a memo to the Board following up on the water damage caused by a broken water line at the Werner Farmhouse. Ms. Houck stated that Mr. Wozniak indicated that it would cost between \$100,000.00 and \$200,000.00 to bring the 1st floor of the building up to code. Ms. Houck provided the Board with a Purchase Order for consideration to clean up the water damage. Ms. Houck confirmed for Mr. Royer that the repairs are only for the 1st floor, noting that the 2nd floor is not accessible for public use.

Ms. Houck stated that the Parks and Recreation Board discussed the issue and recognized that it is probably not financially feasible to renovate the building; however, if the Township removes the farmhouse, they are very interested in putting up a structure for recreational programming on the site. Ms. Houck indicated that she had spoken to Mr. Paul Werner, a former Township employee whose father was born in the house, and that she had let him know it was on the agenda this evening.

Mr. Wertz suggested a modular building for programming at the site, and Mr. Murray suggested that, if the building were razed, perhaps installing a photo and/or plaque of the farmhouse on a new building.

After discussion the Board decided that before they take formal action, they would like to see the cost to raze the farmhouse, the cost to raze the smokehouse and the cost to restore the smokehouse.

Ms. Houck confirmed that the Parks and Recreation Department would like to keep the springhouse and wetlands for Nature Programs.

Motion to approve Action Items #1-7 and no to Action Item #8 was made by Mr. Stuck and seconded by Mr. Wertz. Upon roll call, all Supervisors present voted affirmatively, with Mr. Stuck abstaining from voting on checks #115955 and 119554, and Mr. Wertz abstaining from voting on Fire Fund #14. MOTION CARRIED

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORS:

- A. Zoning/Building Codes Department-No Report
- B. Parks and Recreation Department-Ms. Houck submitted a monthly report and provided the Board with a copy of the Kline's Creek Master Site Plan, noting that there will be a presentation at the next Board of Supervisors Meeting and a request for adoption of the plan.
- C. Engineering/Planning Department-No Report
- D. Finance Department- No Report
- E. Human Resources - No Report
- F. Public Works - Mr. Conrad submitted a monthly report
- G. IT Department-No Report

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- A. Police Department -Chief Brock submitted a monthly report
Mr. Stuck thanked Chief Brock for the Crime Summary. Chief Brock stated that it will be provided for a few months and would potentially like to discuss with the Board a way to streamline the information and still get the Board the information they are looking for, noting that it takes 10-15 hours a month for Ms. Correll to prepare the report.

PUBLIC SAFETY: *(Continued)*

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

SOLICITOR: No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

1) 2257 Lincoln Avenue- Fire Escrow Ordinance Waiver Request

Mr. Wozniak stated that Mr. Holtzmacher, owner of 2257 Lincoln Avenue, suffered substantial fire damage to his home in April 2024. The damage exceeded 60% of the home's value and, therefore, was required to place 13% of the insurance reimbursement in escrow with the Township Treasurer to ensure the home would be rebuilt and not abandoned in a blighted condition. Mr. Wozniak indicated that the funds will be released upon completion of the Project.

Mr. Holtzmacher addressed the Board regarding his request to release the escrow funds early. Mr. Holtzmacher stated that he is a long-time resident of the Township and, since the fire, has had a temporary residence in Kenhorst, which was covered by the insurance company, and expired in December. Currently, Mr. Holtzmacher and his wife are paying for the rental and the mortgage on their home. Mr. Holtzmacher indicated that Brecknock Builders is repairing his home and provided the status of recent expenses and repairs to date, as well as upcoming repairs to the home and garage.

Mr. Holtzmacher stated that he would like the escrow to keep the job moving. Mr. Wozniak indicated that the escrow being held by the Township is \$45,665.86. Mr. Wozniak confirmed that the home has siding, is drywalled, has an asphalt roof, and that the windows have been installed.

Motion to approve the release of escrow funds of \$45,665.86 to Mr. Holtzmacher was made by Mr. Stuck and seconded by Ms. Robertson. All Supervisors present voted affirmatively.

MOTION CARRIED

2) Harvard Boulevard- Discussion Tabled

3) Townhall Meeting-PA Water Company Rate Increases-Ms. Roberson indicated that she is still gathering information; there is nothing to report this evening.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Mr. Murray provided the Board with information about possibly permitting small business landscapers in the Township, who service neighbors or other Township residents' usage of the Township's Yard Waste Sites. Mr. Murray confirmed for Mr. Stuck that the Township could monitor that the yard waste is Township yard waste by requesting a list of those that they service in the Township

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next Board of Supervisors Meeting is Monday, March 9th, 2026

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chairperson Royer adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m. The Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and potential litigation. No Action was taken.

Respectfully submitted,





Mary L. Rossi
Township Secretary

February 23rd, 2026