

SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Rudolph at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 in the Township Building.

ROLL CALL

The following Commissioners were present: Mmes. Sage, and Hoffman, Messrs. Kelly, Wechsler, Layden and Lanciano. Also present was Messrs. Fulton and Byrne, and Mrs. Warner.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Mr. Wechsler followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS
COMMENDATION

Chief Daly presented a Citizen Commendation to Gregory Summers. The Chief reported that on July 6th the police were summons to 357 N. Rolling Road for a report of a young man with severe lacerations to his right arm and was bleeding profusely. The medics found that the bleeding had actually stemmed from the quick thinking of his brother, Gregory, who applied a tourniquet. When Peter's arm went through the window, Gregory remained calm, grabbed his old karate belt and put it around this brother's arm above the wound and tied it as a tourniquet. Greg did a great job in securing that tourniquet and saved his brother from losing a lot of blood and could have been a lot more serious.

MINUTES

On motion of Mr. Kelly, the minutes of August 11, 2020 was approved as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Lanciano and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Rudolph asked if anyone in the audience wished to comment on any of the agenda items.

Janet Saunders, 106 S. Rolling Road, raised her concerns regarding the Drop Boxes for the 2020 election. According to the Delaware County Council's Facebook page, all municipalities were contacted to accept a ballot box to assist voters seeking to return absentee and mail-in ballots.

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Ms. Saunders said she checked the Facebook page to see what Springfield was doing and there was no indication that Springfield accepted the agreement for a box, which concerned her. She feels this is very important at this time with the pandemic. She said it is the Township's responsibility to represent all of us by applying for the Drop Box. She said there is no reason not to have a ballot drop off box.

The following emails were read by Mr. Byrne in support of having a secure Ballot Drop Box in Springfield for the upcoming election.

Joan McConnin, no address given
Ina Shea, no address given (6th Ward)
Dave Russell, 424 Foulke Lane
Sheiz Indal Babette & Steve Scalish (sp?) no address given
Drew Melbourne (1st Ward)
Raymond Santarelli, 46 Old State Road
Lois Sellers, no address given
Scott Newman, no address given
Marie Turnbull, 510 Sharpless Road
Simon Dasuse, 760 W. Springfield Road
Nancy Mullino, 68 N. Brookside Road
Patricia Williams, 233 Lynbrooke Road
Lisa Franks, 5th Ward
Laura McLaughlin, 141 S. Rolling Road
Darlene Freeman & Roger Roth
Cheryl Thomas, 634 Wayne Avenue
Jeff Donia, 315 Myrtle Avenue
James Burgman, 3rd Ward
Jeanette Herrington, no address given
Jenny Snyder, 439 Wheatsheaf Road
Christy Resnick, Buttonwood Road
Nancy Gansky, no address given
Margaret Hillsboro, 696 Old School House Lane
Joseph Gordon, 46 Meetinghouse Lane
Tina Atalla Engbrand, 517 Lawrence Road

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Holly Thorpe, 356 Orchard Road
 Patricia Davis, 1053 West Avenue
 Karen McCunney, 625 Andrew Road
 Michael & Tara Betts, 133 Broadview Road
 Jim McLaughlin, 141 S. Rolling Road

Dave Russell said he read last month's minutes where a Resolution was passed regarding an early retirement incentive. He said 1.75% times the years of service times their annual pay appears to be excessive in this current economy. Programs like these were common, however the years of service used in the calculation were usually capped at 25 years, so that the incentive would be one year's pay or less. He asked to be provided with a sample calculation in response to this question. Mr. Rudolph asked Mr. Byrne to pass that email on to the Township Manager, Mr. Fulton, so that he may address it directly with him.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Rudolph called for Reports of Committees.

Bob Giannini

Mr. Kelly announced that sadly former employee, Bob Giannini, passed away. He served many years on the Golf Advisory Board and was a big Villanova basketball fan.

Mr. Wechsler followed up with Mr. Kelly's comments on the passing of Bob Giannini. He said he has known him since 1st grade. He passed his condolences to his sister and all those who knew him.

Public Works

Mr. Kelly reported the Public Works Department has continued to collect trash and recycling on regularly scheduled days. Mr. Kelly thanked Burt Lawley, Jeff Lawler and the whole crew for being on front lines making sure that trash and recycling gets picked-up during the pandemic. The final yard waste collection for 2020 will be on September 16th. The 2020 overlay list is near completion. A punch list has been generated from our residents who have reported damage

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to their curbs by the paving and milling contractor. The Township is in the process of confirming the damage reported by the residents and will provide the list of repairs to the contractor. Mr. Kelly announced that due to the Columbus Day holiday on Monday, October 12th, trash and recycling will not be collected.

Mr. Kelly reported for the month of August, the Health Officer inspected 9 restaurants and 8 retail establishments. The Health Officer dealt with a variety of complaints including Covid19. The 1st Household Hazardous Waste collection for 2020 is scheduled for Saturday, September 12th at the Emergency Services Training Center. Masks and pre-registration is required. Also on September 12th Senator Kearney and Representative O'Mara are having an E-Waste and Shred event outside of Representative O'Mara's office on Sproul Road in Springfield.

Health

Mrs. Sage announced the Ice Skating Rink will open the new season on Thursday, September 10th. The Ice Rink will abide by all Covid-19 guidelines. There will be no private skating at this time. Hockey will be played, as usual, except players must come dressed in uniform. Locker rooms will not be made available. Small parties and group lessons may also be scheduled. To rent ice use the rink website at springfieldicerink.com.

Ice Rink

Mrs. Hoffman announced the Library is opened to the public. They are also still offering curbside pickup of books and audio material during the normal open hours of operation. Fall adult virtual programs have begun as well as the weekly fall virtual youth programs. Visit the Library's website for full detail.

Library

Mr. Wechsler stated County Council and the District Attorney has put together a task force. He, along with Commissioner Hoffman, are serving on the task force for criminal justice reform.

County Task Force

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There are several committees within the task force that focus on criminal justice, minority businesses, enterprise opportunities and educational opportunities and training. The task force had their first zoom meeting on research on minority owned businesses, veteran owned businesses, women owned businesses and the procurement process and how to participate and bid on municipal opportunities.

Zoning Hearing

Mr. Layden reported on September 24, 2020, the Zoning Hearing Board will hear one application. The owner of 238 Maple Avenue is requesting dimensional variances to permit a two lot residential subdivision. There are currently two houses at 238 Maple Avenue.

Golf Course

Mr. Layden reported for the month of August, total rounds were 4,840, bringing the year to date total to 20,676 rounds. Total revenue for the month of August was \$241,681.00, bringing the course year-to-date revenue to \$1,026,338.00. The golf shop total revenue for the month of August was \$15737.00, bringing the shop's year-to-date total sales to \$67,819.00. The crew begun fall turf grass renovations and aerification of the greens, tees and fairways.

Parks

Mr. Lanciano read the monthly Parks report. The Parks crew removed a fallen tree from Darby Creek behind properties located on N. Bishop Avenue. They cleaned up and weeded the new gardens installed on Saxer Avenue and Brookside Road. Most of their time was spent grass cutting and storm clean-up in all parks and Township properties.

Public Safety

Mr. Rudolph reported in recent weeks Township residents were duped out of considerable amounts of money totaling thousands of dollars. The latest scam is persistent calls from unscrupulous individuals alleging to be representatives from Apple reporting that your computer and associated accounts have been hacked and offer to fix it for free. The unsuspecting victims either provide information that allows remote access to their computer and funds, then

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the funds are transferred. In other cases, victims are requested to purchase gift cards and read the numbers from the cards and the funds are immediately transferred. Mr. Rudolph said if you are being asked to purchase gift cards, wire transfer money, send cash or allow remote access to your computer you are about to be victimized. No legitimate enterprise would deny you the right to verify with your local police. If they advise you otherwise it is a scam.

Mr. Rudolph read a statement in response to the upcoming tax reassessment. The school district and township representatives met to discuss a problem with the County-wide reassessment. The Delaware County reassessment contains a hidden shift to residential taxpayers because, according to the County, commercial properties lost \$212 million in value. This will result in the average Springfield residential taxpayer paying 8.55% more before the Township of School district levy their tax for 2021. He said hopefully a resolution will be made where every taxpayer is taxed a fair rate based on a correct assessment.

Mrs. Hoffman moved that all bills approved for payment by the appropriate chairperson be paid. Seconded by Mr. Lanciano and carried.

Mr. Lanciano reported 12 bids were received for rehabilitation work in Meadowgreen Park. He moved to award the bid to the lowest responsible bidder, Monster Paving at the cost of \$32,343.20. Seconded by Mr. Layden and carried.

Mrs. Sage reported there will be a slight change to Chapter 68, Hotels, Motels and Inns of the Code of the Township of Springfield, Mr. Byrne explained this ordinance was changed in June to update the due process as required by the ordinance. The Township is having a lot of problems with excessive calls to the police, fire service and ambulances from a couple of motels. These calls were a public safety issue because of the Covid pandemic and concerns that our

County-wide Tax
Reassessment

BILLS SUBMITTED

BIDS: Meadowgreen
Park Rehabilitation

PROPOSED ORDINANCE
Hotels, Motels & Inns
Amendment

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emergency services are reporting to the motels and not at other places where needed, as well as the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens. In the recently adopted ordinance there is a provision where there a ratio calls to service so that if the calls got to be too many, the owners would have to start reimbursing the Township. The formula that was used had some problems. The Township brought in action to suspend the license of some of the motels. A hearing date was scheduled then there was a request for an injunction filed by the motel owners. During the request, a discussion started about the Calls-For-Service Ratio of 1 or greater over any 3 consecutive months being too high. Mr. Byrne suggested that the Board introduce this change tonight. He will review the change and determine a better formula. The amendment will be advertised and have our second reading at the next meeting. Mrs. Sage moved to authorize the Township Solicitor to amend the ordinance. Seconded by Mr. Layden and carried.

RESOLUTION #12-20
DEP Act 537 Update

Mr. Layden moved for the adoption of Resolution #12-20 approving PA Act 537 Update. This plan is for the sole purpose of addressing the PA DEP Act 537 requirements for the public-to-private wastewater disposal system transfer of the DELCORA system to Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater, Inc. Seconded by Mr. Lanciano and carried.

RESOLUTION #13-20
Early Retirement
Option

Mr. Kelly moved for the adoption of Resolution #13-20 that members of the Springfield Township Civilian Employees Defined Benefit Pension Plan be offered the opportunity to select an early retirement benefit, without any offset, for employees that have attained age 63 and a combination of age and years of service equal to 95 or greater to voluntarily retire with a benefit equal to 2.0% times final average earnings on or before December 31, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Lanciano. A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Kelly – aye, Mrs. Sage – aye, Mrs. Hoffman – aye, Mr. Wechsler – nay, Mr. Layden – aye, Mr. Lanciano – aye, Mr. Rudolph – aye. The motion was carried with a 6 – 1 vote.

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On motion of Mr. Layden, Resolution #14-20 was approved authorizing the disposal of municipal records in accordance with the schedule set forth in the Municipalities Record Act (P.L. 428). Seconded by Mr. Lanciano and carried.

RESOLUTION #14-20
Disposal of Records

Mrs. Hoffman moved for the adoption of Resolution #15-20 authorizing the proper officers of the Township to execute a PennDOT Five-Year Winter Traffic Services Agreement for the removal of snow & ice on certain state highways. Seconded by Mrs. Sage and carried.

RESOLUTION #15-20
PennDOT Winter
Services Agreement

Mr. Wechsler stated Delaware County Council's goal is to make it possible for everyone to return their ballots in the November general election. The Township reviewed the request from the Delaware County Bureau of Elections to place a ballot box at a suitable location at our municipal building or at another highly visible location in Springfield. The Township has to comply with the County for a mutually acceptable location to place a secure ballot box, surveillance camera and appropriate signage. The location will be decided at a later date.

BALLOT BOX
AGREEMENT

Mr. Wechsler moved to approve a Ballot Box License Agreement between the Township and Delaware County that the location of the box and conditions is acceptable to both parties. Mr. Byrne disclosed that he is on the Election Board and he voted against the placement of ballot boxes. Mr. Rudolph clarified that the Township is agreeing with the lease agreement and requested our Solicitor to sort out the details so that the Township can agree with the concept. Seconded by Mr. Lanciano and carried.

Mr. Lanciano moved to authorized the receipt of bids for Springfield Trail Signs to be received by October 9, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Layden and carried.

BIDS AUTHORIZED

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Janet Saunders, 106 S. Rolling Road, said since someone from the Township received the information about the ballot box collection August 28th. She has complete faith that the Township will be able to get something done promptly since other communities have been able to do that. She is going to assume that everyone got the information at the same time so you have 50% out of the 40 plus communities that were able to get the paperwork in and take care of the situation.

Emilio Buitrago, 315 Myrtle Avenue, asked questions regarding the license agreement between the Township and the County. Mr. Byrne said the County requested the box be placed on municipal property to be part of the license agreement because it would be more assessable. It was explained that the County has to sign off on the location of the drop-box before the drop box is placed in its location.

ADJOURNMENT
(9:32 P.M.)

Mr. Lanciano moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wechsler and carried.