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**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Supervisors Tim Stiffy, Marcus Kohan and Joe Mattace. Also present Road Foreman Jim Knight, Jim Naret (Gateway Engineers) and Township Administrator Lucinda G. Lipko.

**Also Present:** Daniel Hutchins, Cameron Hutchins, and Micha Swartz (Springfield Township Volunteer Fire Department), Mark Phillian (RAR Engineering), Pam McClusky, Amanda Knight, Patrick Rodgers, Chuck Gerbe, Glenn Kline Jr., Shirley Zimmerman, and Jesse Hilliard.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Tim Stiffy, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda Additions or Deletions:** None

**Public Comment:**

Shirley Zimmerman stated she attended the Zoning Hearing Board Meeting for Cobblehaus and the behavior of the attorney in charge was like being in a courtroom and he censored her speech and that of another. The ordinance says no food trucks and that means they are prohibited.

**Invited Guest:**

Christi Cratty, Tax Collector, reported that there was an increase in taxes collected in 2022 ($461,618.20) from those collected in 2021 ($459,842.21) in part due to the fly overs the county did in 2022. Taxes were not paid by Cobblehaus, Danda Properties (Transformation Church), Mercury Lodging and Boot Box. Those were turned over to the county for collection.

**Fire Department Report:**

Chief Hutchins reported they responded to a total of 23 calls in the month of January totaling 185 man hours used with an average of 6 personnel per call and 59 hours of training. They had four fatalities last week. He also went and looked at the ambulance Supervisor Kohan saw but it had a lot of miles and the owner wanted a lot of money for it.

**Administration and Finance:**

A motion was made by Joe Mattace to approve the Final Subdivision Application submitted by Kirk James Hunt. The application is to subdivide one lot from the original tract of 41.24 acres identified as Lawrence County Tax Parcel I.D. #35-004500 as referenced in Deed Instrument 2005-014885. A portion of the parent tract of property extends into Springfield Township, Mercer County and was recommended by the Planning Commission. Seconded by Marcus Kohan, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marcus Kohan to advertise Ordinance #1 – 2023 – Recognizing authority of the Springfield Township Volunteer Fire Department to seek reimbursement for hazardous abatement material, incidents and safety and rescue response services. Seconded by Joe Mattace, motion carried.

A motion was made by Joe Mattace to advertise Ordinance #2 – 2023 – Ordinance between Springfield Township and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation relative to the Springfield Township Multi-Modal Trail – Phase 2. Seconded by Marcus Kohan, motion carried.

A motion was made by Joe Mattace to approve the Agility Agreement with PennDOT. Seconded by Marcus Kohan, motion carried.

**Discussion Items:**

Chuck Gerbe met with Tim Stiffy and Jeff Richardson to discuss the fees for food trucks. He presented a sample application that would only charge one fee and one inspection per year on each food vendor. This will be on the next agenda for action.

Jim Naret, Gateway Engineers, discussed the work authorization for an additional $ 11,500 for the Creek Road Culvert Replacement Project. This money is for site visits, a pre-bid meeting, etc. that were not known up front and are required by the Conservation District. This will be on the next agenda for action.

Road Foremen Jim Knight met with Brightspeed to discuss the utility conflict on the Creek Road Project. Brightspeed has agreed to pay the costs to relocate the phone lines overhead since they are in our right-of-way. They will also be responsible for applying to the DEP for a #5 permit. This letter will be on the next agenda for action.

Township Administrator Lucinda Lipko reported we have $ 55,749.00 in undesignated General Fund Balance to transfer to the Capital Improvement Fund. She asked that it be put into the Trail Grant section of the Capital Improvement Fund to pay for easement acquisitions for Phase II. This will be on the next agenda for action.

Road Foremen Jim Knight requested the Supervisor consider no winter maintenance on the trails since we only have 2.5 employees to do the plowing on the roads and don’t have time to do the trails. The grant documents and easements will be researched to see if this is possible.

Supervisor Kohan stated he feels that allowing ATV’s on township roads is a detriment and opens us up to lawsuits that could bankrupt the township. Supervisor Mattace is concerned about people drinking while on the ATV’s. Supervisor Stiffy reminded them that the state is pushing municipalities to have more recreation. This will be on the next agenda for action.

Road Foremen Jim Knight is working on getting road grinding for our dirt roads through the Agility Agreement for $5 - $10 per ton. He is also working on getting a price for a dozer for this project.

Supervisor Kohan stated he would like to attend the 2023 PennVest Outreach Event in Mercer on March 16th at no cost.

Road Foremen Jim Knight reported he is applying under the Sealcoating Program for Veterans Road, Old Ash Road and Old Ash dead-end. School Road he is going to scratch level and raise the end of the road up. Lee Road is just going to be scratch paved.

The Supervisors requested Scott Neely attend our next meeting to give them more information on his request for an extension until August 1, 2023.

The Fire Department has been given a revised agreement with the township to review. Supervisor Stiffy is concerned about too many family members having power in the Fire Department. Chief Hutchins said he is trying to schedule a meeting with the other members to review the agreement.

The county is restarting their Tax Collection Committee Meetings and is asking for a resolution to be passed naming a primary and alternate voting delegate. Joe Mattace is in charge of finance so he will be the primary and Township Administrator Lipko requested to be the alternate. This resolution will be on the next agenda for action.

**Zoning and Land Development:**

There were 4 building permits, 3 sign permits, 1 occupancy permit and 1 zoning permit issued in January 2023.

**Sewer and Water:**

Jim Knight reported everything is running fine and we are just waiting to hear about the grants we have applied for.

**Roads and Bridges:** Nothing more to report

**Engineer’s Report:**

Jim Naret reported on the following:

* The Hunt Minor Subdivision was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission at their January 23rd. meeting
* Stiffy Consolidation and Subdivision preliminary plan will be presented at the February 27th Planning Commission and should be recommended for approval.
* The Gerbe Holdings Consolidation plan was presented at the February 27th Planning Commission meeting and also recommended for approval.
* PennDOT is in the process of valuating the 5 easements for Phase II of the Rt. 208 Multimodal Trail Project.
* Gateway resubmitted the 90% construction drawings to the Mercer County Conservation District and are awaiting comments from them.
* Once the ARLE Grant is executed Gateway will start on the designs for improvements.
* Submitted the sewage flow on January 13th for the Pine Township Pump Station to Dan Goncz at Gannett Fleming to figure our cost allocation.

**Public Works Report:**

Patrick Rodgers stated he had erected 40 feet of guiderail to protect his property along Old Ash Road. He was going to have a cement wall erected behind the guiderails this year. A lady hit the guiderails on December 6th and he never received an accident report from PSP. He wants the township to intervene. Road Foremen Jim Knight stated he had purchased arrow signs with reflectors on the post to install and would like to see more speed limit signs installed. Mr. Rodgers stated his property has been destroyed for decades and is not getting any assistance from anyone. He stated he works in the media and will bring the press to the township.

**Reports:**

Supervisor Kohan reported that he received the agreement for EMS from the solicitor and there are some blanks that we need to fill in. The committee is making progress, but nothing has been resolved.

**Correspondence:** None

**Public Comment:**

Rick Dillaman attended the public meeting on January 18th which Superior advertised. He hopes that the Supervisors do whatever is necessary to have ambulance service in the township.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Joe Mattace to adjourn. Seconded by Marcus Kohan, motion carried.

The Springfield Township Board of Supervisors adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

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Lucinda G. Lipko, Secretary