

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2024**

**Present:**  Supervisors Tim Stiffy, Marcus Kohan, and Joe Mattace. Also present was Solicitor Ray Bogaty, Road Foreman Jim Knight, and Township Administrator Lucinda G. Lipko.

**Also Present:**  Jason KarenBauer, Amanda Knight, Glenn Kline Jr., Christi Cratty, Robin (Lee Road), Mark Shirley, Carolyn Moore, Judy Hines, Michael Mullin, Karen Mullin, Susan Haley, and Bob Pebbles (Liberty Township).

**Call to Order**:  The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Tim Stiffy, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda Additions or Deletions**:  None

**Public Comment**:  Bob Pebbles, Supervisor from Liberty Township asked for financial help of $ 75,00.00 to $ 100,000.00 for legal fees to fight against Tri-County Industries solid waste disposal permit for a municipal waste landfill. They would appreciate the township donating the money as Liberty Township has spent over $ 300,000.00 fighting it.

Rick Dillaman stated that his parents own property next door to the landfill and is concerned for the township because of the noise, storm water and smell from the landfill. He has heard that a lot of radioactive waste will be brought into the township by a billionaire.

**Invited Guest:**

Christi Cratty, Tax Collector, gave a review of the taxes for the 2023 year. The total taxes collected were $ 463,434.35, which is a 96% collection rate. Uncollected taxes total $ 14,899.07 versus $ 12,656.16 in 2022. She also stated that 2026 will be a big tax year change and that will be a revenue neutral year since the county should have the reassessments completed by then. She is nervous about the outlet with all the empty spaces and if that would close, what that could do to the tax base.

**Approval of Minutes, Bill List and Payroll:**

A motion was made by Joe Mattace to approve the following:

 Meeting minutes of January 2, 2024

 Meeting minutes of January 15, 2024

 Bill List for January 2024

 Payroll for January 2024

Seconded by Marcus Kohan, motion carried.

**Administration and Finance:**

A motion was made by Joe Mattace to approve the Work Authorization from Gateway Engineers for the Sanitary Sewer and Rt. 208 Pump Station Repairs in the amount of $ 3,500.00. Seconded by Marcus Kohan, motion carried.

A motion was made by Joe Mattace to appoint Bruce Hague to the Planning Commission for a term of four (4) years ending January 2028. Seconded by Marcus Kohan, motion carried.

A motion was made by Joe Mattace to approve hosting the 2024 Glass Collection Event the week of August 31st through September 5th. Seconded by Marcus Kohan, motion carried.

A motion was made by Marcus Kohan to award the bid of $ 398,492.59 to Bruce & Merrilees for the Signal Equipment Improvement Project. Seconded by Joe Mattace, motion carried.

A motion was made by Joe Mattace to approve Resolution #09- 2024 – Signifying it’s consent to Marion Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania, to join the Pine-Harrisville Authority. Seconded by Marcus Kohan, motion carried.

The Supervisors discussed possibly amending the Zoning Ordinance and removing mineral extraction at the request of some residents of the township. Supervisor Stiffy pointed out that anything below the ground is a mineral. He and Supervisor Kohan feel the township is not able to remove all reference to minerals in the Zoning Ordinance. Solicitor Bogaty will review anything given to him to see if it is lawful as people have bought property knowing what is there and with the thought, they could mine it.

Richard Dillaman wants the ordinance changed for the Commercial District to allow solar farms. He has someone interested in installing solar panels on a parcel of property he owns, and the company will keep them maintained.

The Supervisors discussed the request for Bob Pebbles to donate funds to Liberty Township for legal fees to fight Tri-County Industries, Inc. Supervisor Stiffy stated that with everyone appealing their taxes that we are not able to donate any money too them. Mr. Pebbles stated he does not understand how we can do all these wonderful projects but nothing for the safety of our residents.

Supervisor Kohan brought up the issue that is in the news about squatters taking over property that is vacant or while the property owners are away. He is working with other agencies to form a Neighborhood Watch in Mercer County. There will be a kickoff meeting tomorrow in Grove City. He will report back to the supervisors as the meetings continue.

**Sewer and Water:**

Jim Knight reported that a representative from Cummins is coming out on Wednesday to assess the generator.

**Roads and Bridges:**

Jim Knight reported that they have been maintaining the roads and hoping for an early Spring.

**Public Works Report:**

Jim Knight reported that we will be applying to COSTARS next month for the 2023-2024 Salt Contract.

**Reports:**

Supervisor Kohan reiterated the need to do something about squatters in the township.

**Correspondence:** None

**Public Comment:**

Jeff Hawthorn lives on Rt. 208 below the church and will pay attention to how much truck traffic comes across Leesburg Station Road and let the supervisors know if it gets worse.

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjournment:**

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

The Springfield Township Board of Supervisors adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

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Lucinda G. Lipko, Secretary