

NOVEMBER 10, 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, November 10, 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 Mrs. Sage followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION

Mrs. Sage presented the 2020 Loyalty Day Award to Firefighter of the Year Certificate of Appreciation to John Hinchcliffe. Johnny came forward and accepted his certificate.

Mr. Wechsler presented the 2020 Loyalty Day Award to Police Officer of the Year Certificate of Appreciation to Officer Michael Kinsbury, in absentia.

Mr. Layden presented the 2020 Loyalty Award to EMT of the Year Certificate of Appreciation to Daechaton Pumpuckdee, in absentia.

AMERICAN LEGION
BANNERS

Mr. Bill Smeck, First Vice Commander of American Legion Post #227, said on February 11, 2020, he spoke with the Board of Commissioners about starting the creation of placing Springfield Hero Banners in area of Saxer Avenue and Powell Road. The first banner is in memory of firefighter Matt LeTourneau. The second banner is in memory of Private 1st Class George P. Talbot. He was serving the 63rd infantry listed as "missing in action." His remains were returned to the United States in 1949.

MINUTES

On motion of Mr. Layden, the minutes of October 13, 2020 was approved as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Lanciano and carried.

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Mr. Rudolph asked if anyone in the audience wished to comment on any of the agenda items. Seeing none, the meeting continued.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Rudolph called for Reports of Committees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Sage reported the Ice Skating Rink is going into their 3rd month under Covid guidelines. The hockey teams are almost back to full schedule as 41 ice times are rented each week for games and/or practices. Skating lessons are scheduled on Sunday afternoons. Small birthday parties are also being scheduled under all Covid guidelines.

Ice Rink

Mrs. Hoffman reported the Library has reopened and the Adult and Children's programs are back in full-swing. The Annual Direct Fund Drive envelopes have been mailed out to residents of Springfield. The Library would love to have 100% participation to help them continue to provide excellent library services to the community. The library is a 501(c)(3) organization and gifts are tax deductible.

Library

Mrs. Hoffman stated as the 3rd Ward continues to grow and prosper, she is glad to see new businesses opening their doors in the 3rd Ward. It has been brought to her attention that the Olde Sproul Shopping Village Shopping Center has received inquiries in regard to ordinances with respect to idling trucks and any other issues with new establishments. She requested the Board approve authorizing Mr. Byrne to continue to review these ordinances in regards to the 3rd ward and Olde Sproul Shopping Center.

3rd Ward

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Mr. Byrne stated it is great to have continued businesses in the 3rd Ward, but at the same time, there is a need to balance the property rights of the businesses as well as the residents. Mr. Byrne met with the neighboring residents and hopes to develop a plan to move forward with respect to more communication with the Olde Sproul community. He noted that he will be meeting with Olde Sproul Shopping Center's lawyers so they can address some of the concerns of the residents.

Mr. Byrne said the idling of trucks is a difficult issue because there are some trucks that need to idle with respect to refrigeration. Current ordinances say that trucks cannot idle but refrigerated trucks can. He suggested that to move forward tonight with the motion that Mrs. Hoffman suggested. Mr. Byrne stated to make a motion to amend the ordinance regarding idling trucks the motion be introduced under new business. One motion is to put it on tonight's agenda and the second motion will be for him to amend the ordinance and have it advertised so that it can be voted on at the next meeting.

Parks

Mr. Lanciano read the monthly Parks report. The Parks crew removed the old playground system and swing set from Walsh Park, cleared the trail of fallen trees and debris in Indian Rock Park. Removal of leaves in the parks has begun.

Zoning

Mr. Layden reported that on October 22, 2020, the Zoning Hearing Board met and heard two application regarding sign variances. A hearing regarding a two lot subdivision was continued at the request of the applicant.

Golf Course

Mr. Layden reported for the month of October, total rounds were 3,655, bringing the year-to-date total to 29,273 rounds. Total revenue for the month of October was \$203,131.00, bringing the course year-to-date revenue to \$1,477,149.00. The golf shop total revenue for the month of

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October was \$12,149.00, bringing the shop’s year-to-date total sales to \$96,957. The crew prepared the irrigation system for winterization, trimmed surrounding hedges and bushes and performed fall clean-up of pinecones, leaves and debris.

Mr. Wechsler thanked Bill Smeck and the American Legion for working hard all year-round on different items, not just the banners. One of the things they do is the Memorial Day celebration honoring a vet at the end of the parade. The presentation and research they do when those veterans of Springfield Township are worthy of the history channel. They bring to life the names on the plaques outside of the Township Building.

American Legion

Mr. Wechsler commented about social media where residents are posting issues about the Township. He suggested residents contact their Commissioner directly.

Social Media

Mr. Kelly reported the Public Works Department continue to collect trash and recycling on regularly scheduled days throughout the Township. The paving from our 2020 Overlay list is complete. A punch list from residents who have reported damaged incurred by the paving/milling is in the process of being confirmed prior to providing the list to the contractor. Leaf collection began on November 2nd. The schedule is on the website and social media pages. There will be no trash or recycling collection on Veterans Day, November 11th and on the Thanksgiving holidays, November 26th and 27th.

Public Works

Mr. Kelly reported for the month of October, the Health Officer inspected 11 restaurants, 4 retail establishments and 2 reinspections. He reminded residents to keep in mind that it’s a violation of Township Code

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County-Wide Tax

to rake leaves directly into the street. For those who bag their leaves, he asked that the leaves be placed into compostable paper bags.

Mr. Rudolph said several months ago the Springfield School District Business Administrator reached out to the Township Manager and Board leadership to discuss a problem with the County-Wide Reassessment. The School District advised that the County reassessment contained a hidden shift to residential tax payers. Delaware County Council, on their website, promised that the County-Wide reassessment would be fair, transparent and equitable. Unfortunately, it is none of these things. Residents were told by the County that their primary concern should be whether their assessment matches what they think their home is worth. That may be true if the County uniformly reassessed all properties. But based on the information from our expert appraiser, we do not believe that has happened. If nothing is done, the average Springfield resident taxpayer may pay 8.55 % more before the Township or School District levy their tax for 2021. According to the Delaware County, Springfield Township lost 212 million dollars in commercial value. These are not Covid values. These are loses which took place when property values were at an all-time high in August of 2019. The Board is asking County Council for an immediate postponement of the implementation of the reassessment until these mistakes are cleared-up. Mr. Wechsler noted that this is not a partisan issue. This is a core function of government topic that should not have gone to court to remedy the issue. Every taxpayer in Springfield Township should be taxed at a fair rate based on a correct assessment.

2021 Budget

Mr. Rudolph reported the Township's 2021 General Fund Budget will be approximately 18.3 million dollars. This is approximately \$600,000.00 less than the 2020 budget. The Township proposes no increase in real estate tax millage for 2021. The County-wide reassessment will impact taxes, some will increase, some will decrease and some will remain close

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to the same. The reassessment does not create additional tax revenues for the Township. The Township's property tax will decrease significantly. It is estimated the rate to be close to 3.1212 mills.

Mr. Rudolph reported that sanitary sewer costs continue to escalate. In the past two years the Township's sewer expenses have increased over \$800,000, which has impacted the sewer reserves. In order to keep up with the increases, the Board has proposed to increase the sewer rate to \$10.25 per 1,000 gallons.

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

Mr. Lanciano moved to reject the bids for Springfield Trail Signs due to a large discrepancy in cost between the two proposals received through PennBid. Seconded by Mr. Layden and carried.

Mrs. Hoffman made a motion to add to tonight's agenda directing the Township Solicitor to draft an amendment to the current regulations relating to the idling of trucks. Seconded to direct by Mr. Layden and carried.

Mrs. Hoffman moved to amend the idling of trucks and have Mr. Byrne research and prepare the format for advertising of the amendment. Seconded by Mr. Lanciano. Mr. Rudolph asked if anybody has any questions on this issue to come forward and state their name and address. Seeing none, The motion carried.

Mr. Kelly noted this proposed zoning amendment is related to Overlay District for the Saxer Avenue District, Chapter 143-89.A – TND 1. He moved that the proposed ordinance be accepted on its first reading and advertised. Seconded by Mrs. Sage and carried.

BILLS SUBMITTED

BIDS REJECTED

PROPOSED ORDINANCE
Idling TrucksPROPOSED ORDINANCE
Zoning Code Amendment
TND-1 Saxer Avenue

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RESOLUTION #17-20
Public Hearing Date

Mr. Kelly moved for the adoption of Resolution #17-20 setting the time and date of the public hearing on a Zoning Code amendment to be held at 7:30 p.m. on December 8, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Lanciano and carried.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE
2021 Budget

Mr. Lanciano read the proposed 2021 Budget Ordinance. He moved that the proposed ordinance be approved on its first reading and advertised. Seconded by Mr. Layden and carried. A full copy of the budget is available in the Township Building for public viewing.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE
Sewer Rent

Mrs. Hoffman read a proposed ordinance setting the Sewer Rent Rate for the year 2021 at \$10.25 per thousand gallons of water consumed. She moved that the proposed ordinance be accepted on its first reading and advertised. Seconded by Mr. Lanciano and carried.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE
Two Hour Parking Zones

Mr. Wechsler read a proposed ordinance creating "Two Hour Parking" zones on both sides of S. Rolling Road from Saxer Avenue to S. Hillcrest Road, Orchard Road from Saxer Avenue to S. Rolling Road, Lownes Lane from Speakman Drive to Orchard Road and Orchard Road from Lownes Lane to Saxer Avenue. Mr. Wechsler noted parking spaces have been created on S. Rolling Road running parallel with the trolley tracks. He moved that the proposed ordinance be accepted on its first reading and advertised. Seconded by Mr. Lanciano and carried.

RESOLUTION #18-20
Disposal of Records

On motion of Mrs. Sage, Resolution #18-20 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.

2021 GOLF FEES

On motion of Mr. Layden, the 2021 Springfield Country Club Golf Daily Playing Fees were approved. All daily fees will be increased by \$2.00. Seconded by Mr. Lanciano and carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT
(9:11 p.m.)