

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
WORKSESSION MEETING AGENDA
FEBRUARY 6, 2014
7:30 PM

1. Meeting called to order by the Mayor
2. Reading of the Sunshine Notice
3. Salute to the Flag
4. Roll Call: Mr. Frank, Mr. Hlubik, Mr. Marinello, Mr. McDaniel, Mr. Sobotka
5. Oath of Office - Police Sergeant Kevin O'Malley
6. Review of Department Reports
7. Review of Bills
8. Review Correspondence
9. Township Officials' Business
 - Approval of Application for Blue Light – Anthony Sam
10. Public Comment
11. Adjournment

**TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2014**

The meeting of the Springfield Township Council was called to order by Mayor McDaniel with Council Members David Frank, John Hlubik Anthony Marinello and Peter Sobotka present. Also present was Township Manager Mr. Keller.

The Sunshine Notice was read:

"Public notice of this meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given by the Springfield Township Council in the following manner on January 6, 2014:

- a. Posting written notice on the official bulletin board at the Municipal Building, Jobstown, NJ
- b. Transmitting written notice to the Register News and the Burlington County Times
- c. Filing written notice with the Clerk of Springfield Township
- d. Mailing written notice to each person who has requested copies of the regular meeting schedule and who has prepaid any charges fixed for such services."

OATH OF OFFICE-POLICE SERGEANT

Sergeant O'Malley was sworn in by Ms. Clayton.

Mayor McDaniel congratulated Sergeant O'Malley and thanked the police department for the job they do. Council also added their congratulations.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Guzzi stated that the plans and specs are done for the road projects. In Springfield Acres the specs call for the rehab of the storm sewers, maintenance on the inlets and reconstruction of the roadways and for reconstruction of Juliustown Road from White Rd. to the bridge going towards Juliustown. Mr. Guzzi would like to advertise this month and receive bids in March to allow for getting better paving prices. He added that we are putting an alternate for the base reconstruction to allow for more bidders. Mr. Sobotka asked which of the two options would hold up with the salt and sanding better and Mr. Guzzi responded that both because the top paving would be the same in both instances. Mr. Guzzi explained that the sub base is failing which is why you shouldn't just do an overlay or you will have the same issue with the long cracks in the paving.

Mr. Guzzi stated that the paving will be done in phases where parts of the road may be closed but vehicles will have access. Mr. Frank asked if it is possible to close the portion of Juliustown Rd. to White Rd. and Mr. Guzzi responded that you could do that using a detour since it is a local road, as long as it is okay with the police department. Mr. Guzzi added that they will bid it with the traffic control and when the project is about to begin the Township can ask the contractor to give a credit for the traffic control if the Township decides to close the road. Mr. Guzzi stated that you have to specifically identify which order you will accept the alternates in the bid.

Mr. Guzzi stated that all the asphalt is subject to a price adjustment based on the asphalt index but in the past five years it has been relatively stable.

Mr. Frank made a motion seconded by Mr. Sobotka to authorize the engineer to go out to bid on the projects. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. McDaniel asked about the construction time frame after the award of a contract and Mr. Guzzi responded that you could do Juliustown Rd. in the spring but he would suggest doing Springfield Acres after school lets out.

Mr. Frank made a motion seconded by Mr. Sobotka to accept the Engineer's report. All were in favor. Motion carried.

REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Council commented on the amount of dog licenses in the town and asked if this amount is accurate as to what is collected per year for licenses. Ms. Clayton advised Council that another 150 late notices just went out.

Mr. Sobotka asked the Chief about the Sergeant's training and the Chief stated the earliest he could get Sergeant O'Malley enrolled is May. Mr. McDaniel asked if Sgt. Antonucci filed a resignation yet and Chief Trout responded that he has officially submitted his retirement to the State. Council expressed concern about covering shifts with Sgt. Antonucci retiring in April and Sgt. O'Malley attending training. Chief Trout stated that he has been helping to cover shifts when needed.

Council decided to hold the reports until next week.

REVIEW OF BILLS

Mr. McDaniel asked about the lock replacement that is on the bill list and Chief Trout responded that it was the lock for the evidence room that got jammed. He added that the lock was going bad and was previously moved from the outside door to the evidence room to keep it going a little longer.

Council decided to hold the bills until next meeting.

REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE

2. Jeff Richter – Recommendation for Bike Path Award- Council agreed to have a resolution to award the contract on next week. Mr. McDaniel asked for clarification about the alternate and Mr. Frank stated he will contact the County about how far they are with their project to redesign the intersection.

4. Parker McCay- Complaint for Declaratory Judgment-Mr. McDaniel stated that he hasn't heard anything from the solicitor on this but would expect to have a report from Mr. Guest next week.

5. Manal Sous, MD- seeking Resolution in Support of A4464- Mr. Sobotka stated that the Chief may want to look at this legislation since it has to do with blood test in DUI cases. Chief Trout stated that currently the police have to get a telephonic warrant to draw blood and Mr. Sobotka added that this would compel a person to give blood. Mr. Frank stated that you may still have to get a warrant under this legislation. Council did not feel that they should be supporting legislation like this because it can get complicated in areas that Council does not have expertise.

6. CFO- Certificate of Award of General Improvement Bonds-Mr. Frank asked if this is a variable interest rate and Mr. Keller responded that after 2024 the Governing Body could consider a refinance if the rates are good. Mr. Keller added that this correspondence is for informational purposes and now that we have the money we can move forward with the generators, drainage issues and fire truck. Mr. Keller stated that he did hear from the Co-op today and the contract is in the 2nd phase of review and we should hear in the next few weeks.

7. Draft Ordinance Police Regulations- Mr. Sobotka found this counter to what we proposed originally to get good quality people and not just one or two candidates. Mr. Sobotka feels that the testing gives you a better quality of candidates. Mr. Marinello stated that the whole purpose of this change is so that when there is an officer that is already a trained working officer that person could qualify without testing. Mr. Sobotka asked if the position has been advertised and Mr. Keller responded that we could not advertise because the Ordinance would need to be amended first to waive the testing if a qualified and certified officer could be found. Chief Trout stated that he was just looking to allow for the waiver of the testing if he can get a pool of 3 or 4 candidates that are already certified and currently employed or separated due to reduction of force in another municipality. Mr. Sobotka stated that he would still like to see it advertised even if we waive the testing. Mr. Hlubik clarified that this would just take the testing out of the mix if we can find a qualified certified officer. Mr. Sobotka just wants to insure that the Township is getting a pool of candidates so that the best candidate available can be found since this person may be Chief some day. Mr. Frank clarified that this would not

impact testing for promotions and was only for the initial hiring of an officer. Mr. Frank stated that he thinks we should move forward with waiving the testing but he does agree we should seek a pool of candidates under general circumstances. He added that the Ordinance should not tie our hands and require us to advertise but allow for that if Council feels it is necessary. Mr. Marinello stated that we currently find ourselves in need for an officer and don't want to take a year to fill this position if we have a candidate that turns out to be a good fit and meets all the other qualifications and can pass the psychological and background check. Mr. Hlubik asked if this would apply to qualified Sergeants and Lieutenants and Chief Trout responded that it would not because you would need to comply with the current Ordinance regarding promotion. Mr. Keller stated that you will need to negotiate with the Union as to what step an experienced candidate would come in at. Council agreed to lower the years of experience to two years. Mr. Frank made a motion seconded by Mr. Hlubik to introduce Ordinance No. 2014-02 by title only. All were in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Frank made a motion seconded by Mr. Sobotka to have the Manager and Chief put together a confidential report on the candidate that is available for discussion in closed session next meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Sobotka would like the candidate to be made aware of the implications if his department becomes aware of his interest in a position in Springfield.

TOWNSHIP OFFICIAL'S BUSINESS

A motion was made by Mr. Sobotka and seconded by Mr. Frank to approve the Application of Anthony Sam for a Blue Light Permit. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Sobotka asked about the discharge for Ms. Meyers and Ms. Clayton advised him that the resolution to authorize the discharge will be on for next week and then it would need to be filed with the County Clerk.

Mr. Sobotka asked if the amount in the temporary budget would cover the snow removal that has occurred already and Ms. Clayton responded that there would be a resolution on for next week to cover the January invoice for roads.

Mr. Sobotka asked if we resolved the salt issue and Mr. Keller responded that we have our order from January 3rd and he has advised the contractor to use it sparingly. He added that he is trying to make arrangements to have Mr. Eggleston pick up the load that was order a couple weeks ago.

Mr. Sobotka stated that he thought we would have more public here tonight about the revaluation and Mr. Keller responded that he hopes to have a report soon on the impact. Council discussed the farmland assessments and Mr. Frank stated that those values are set by the state. Mr. Frank wants to confirm that the revaluation company used the State numbers to value farm assessed properties.

Mr. McDaniel asked why we don't do a snow removal trust fund like other towns and Mr. Keller responded that would hurt the surplus for the following year. He added that over ten years you may have two winters like this so you will have more money then you will need in that fund. Mr. Frank stated that we currently have the option to do a special emergency appropriation if needed and retain our surplus.

Mr. Sobotka asked if the storm is declared a State of Emergency will we get FEMA money and Chief Trout responded that after the hurricane the FEMA representative stated that FEMA is getting out of the snow business.

Mr. McDaniel asked the Manager to check on why the lights are always on in the Jacksonville Park.

Mr. McDaniel met with the Mansfield Ambulance Corp. and they are going to work up a proposal to cover the town from 6 am to 6 pm with the exception of weekends and holidays. Mr. Marinello would like to hear their proposal and he added that he would like a proposal from Deborah. Mr. McDaniel asked about the contracting and Mr. Keller stated that we could probably do it as a shared service without bidding. Mr. McDaniel stated that Mansfield would want to back up our EMS during all hours. Mr. McDaniel asked about the Mt. Holly Squad and the Chief responded they currently back up our squad and stated there are a couple other paid squads in the area as well that the township may want to look into. The Chief stated that Deborah misses out on calls at the Market on Sundays which is the busiest day. He added that lately Mt. Holly has been the squad responding on Sundays and Mr. Marinello stated maybe we could offer the market calls to Deborah on Sunday so they can get their call numbers up. Mr. Marinello asked about the property on Cedar Lane Ext. that is calling for ambulance response four or five times a week to deal with a medical issue because they don't want to go to the hospital and suggested maybe contacting Social Services and have them contact the individual.

Mr. McDaniel asked about the complaints regarding trash collection in response to the email Council received. Mr. Keller stated that he has maybe received a dozen or so complaints that were telephoned in and we have had no written complaints. He added that we receive no more complaints than what we received for the previous contractor other than the cans in the street. Mr. Keller stated that overall they are performing okay and just as good as the previous contractor.

Mr. Hlubik stated that last month Mr. Hancock was at the meeting expressing concerns over the cleaning up of the hedgerows on Jacksonville-Jobstown Rd. because of the pipeline and the owners had been in contact with the pipeline company and they are working with them to make sure that the line is not disturbed.

Mr. Frank stated that he has looked into agricultural labor housing and discovered that Springfield does not allow this as a permitted use in the Township. Mr. Marinello stated that he had this conversation with the Zoning Officer and if we allow it there could be a problem with the number of kids it adds to the school and the impact it will have on other services. Mr. Hlubik added that Springfield has a history of labor housing on the farms and Mr. Marinello responded that we haven't addressed it in the Ordinance even if it has existed. Mr. Frank thinks we should have the Planning Board look into adding it as a permitted use in the Township. He added that the Right to Farm does not have a provision to allow for agricultural labor housing. Mr. Sobotka asked if this would help us with COAH and Mr. McDaniel responded that it might if we can get the Court to put the Township under its jurisdiction. Mr. Marinello stated that this would be the only way he would go for the idea because it will be a drain on our resources. Mr. Frank stated that there is one in Chesterfield right by the Garden State Diner and he doesn't believe there are any problems there and asked the Chief to call Chesterfield's Chief to see if they have any problems. Chief Trout stated that the farm labor housing that currently exists in the Township illegally looks like Cambodia and he agrees there should be standards to the living conditions. Mr. Hlubik stated that there would be some regulations if the property is a preserved farm. Mr. Frank added that he would be fine with just allowing it on preserved farms. Mr. Marinello is concerned that we would have this burden on our resources without the taxes to back it up and Mr. Frank disagreed because the building would be taxed. Mr. Hlubik added that about 90 percent of the agricultural laborers in the Township are single males so he does not think it would bring in a lot of kids into the school system and Mr. McDaniel added that an increase in enrollment might help the school which currently has declining enrollment numbers. Mr. Marinello stated that we need to look at other towns that already have this type of housing and see what the impact on the schools is in those towns and again Mr. Hlubik stated that the type of housing that Mr. Frank is talking about in Chesterfield is not set up for families. Mr. Frank stated that our Master Plan supports

agriculture and the industry right now is more labor intense than other types of farming that existed in the township before and this type of housing would support that. Mr. McDaniel stated that the proposal was for the Planning Board to just look at it and it could save us money with the COAH if we can have that type of housing in our plan. Mr. McDaniel added that these are all questions for the Planning Board. Mr. Frank stated these people are not usually here year round. Mr. Frank made a motion to have the Planning Board look at this matter and Mr. Sobotka seconded it if there is a time frame set. Mr. Frank amended his motion to add a deadline of July 1st with Mr. Sobotka seconding the amended motion. Mr. Marinello asked how it worked before and Mr. Hlubik responded that all these regulations did not exist back then and he added that there was a history of it existing and if you look at the older farms you will see it. Mr. Frank would like to see the Board recommend standards for the housing and not just amend the language to allow it. Mr. Marinello is concerned about sub-standard housing and Mr. McDaniel stated that this could be the remedy for that if done properly. Mr. McDaniel stated that labor housing became obsolete around the same time as the Zoning Ordinances began to come into play. He added that this is what COAH should be about and Mr. Marinello added that this is the type of low income housing that could function in this township. All were in favor of the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Marinello recommended that Mr. Frank attend the Planning Board meetings when this matter is discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Hearing no comments, Mr. Marinello made a motion seconded by Mr. Sobotka to close public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Frank made a motion seconded by Mr. Sobotka to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Clayton
Township Clerk