

Centre Documenters

Meeting: Board of Supervisors

Township: Spring Township

Documenter name: Alicia Ernst, Kayla Dembrak

Date: Nov. 6, 2023

Start Time: 7:00 p.m.

End Time: 7:28 p.m.

Terry Perryman, chairperson
David Capperella, vice-chairperson
Frank W. Royer, Jr., supervisor
Michael Danneker, manager

Notes

Approximately 20 attendees, including two documenters. A panel of six board members sat in a semicircle at the front of the meeting space.

Hearing of Visitors

Jessica Meyer is a resident of the Amberleigh development. Meyer was informed by Amberleigh Home Owners Association and Spring Township at the end of August 2023 that a shed on her property is in violation of a water easement. It has been on her property since 2010, before she moved in. Previous residents, along with Meyer herself, have never reported any issues of water entering the property. In August, the township requested that she work on the property (removing the shed) and informed her that the work should be completed by Oct. 15, 2023. She argued that this is short notice and requested that the deadline be extended to spring of 2024.

A board member explained that nothing should be placed, planted or set in the way of an easement. One member of the audience said that he did not see a problem with the shed if it hadn't caused a problem in the past 13 years, and he believed the extension should be granted to Meyer.

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Meyer also requested the board change the 10-foot water easement to a 5-foot water easement. Currently, there are 20 feet in total, 10 on each property — she requested to cut this in half.

The board explained that the reason the easement is 20 feet is because that allotment allows for easier access if construction is necessary in the area. A board member states, you would need 100% agreement from all the homeowners to be able to change the space allotments for the easement. The board members settled that the best solution that wouldn't require legal battles would be to grant Meyer an extension until June 30 to get the shed moved. A board supervisor made a motion to give an extension to June 30, 2024. All present board members were in favor of this decision. This motion applies to all properties that currently have this issue, whether it be with a shed, tree fence, or any obstruction. Though the board didn't specify exactly what motion was passed, they acknowledged that anyone else who has been notified of similar circumstances on their property by the HOA can also enjoy this extension, out of fairness.

A note from your Documenter: An “easement” is a limited right to use the property of another and homeowners aren't able to place things like sheds, driveways, play sets, trees, or fences on land that has an easement.

REPORTS ON OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEES:

Township treasurer's report, water authority treasurer's report, police report, municipal employee's report, code enforcement report, fire company report

All the panel members confirmed that they have reviewed the list of committee reports, and accepted all of the committee reports with a unanimous vote. (*Documenters were not provided with copies of these reports.*)

“Information” Section:

A member briefly went through each item on the list in the meeting pamphlet and made comments on only a few of them; for the rest, he simply read the title on the pamphlet and confirmed he had no comments regarding the topics.

The Trans Associates 72-Hour Traffic Study for S. Harrison Road: 4,000 cars pass through South Harrison Road every day. 85% of people that drive that route don't go over 35 mph, a conclusion from data conducted over a three-day period.

“That is the speed at which honest people believe they can drive that way safely,” said Mike Danneker, township manager.

Correspondence:

CATA has confirmed they have lost money in the past few years, requesting the township

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pay \$118,000 instead of the previous \$30,000.

A note from your Documenter: Audience members audibly exclaimed.

There were approximately 21,000 rides taken in and around Spring township in the past year. One board member, Dave Capperella, claims this increase can be attributed to the fact that CATA changed from a typical bus service to CATAGO, which he says is more like an Uber service.

The board discussed the possibility of charging individual members who used services like CATAGO, but that was eventually thrown out because it came down to issues of potential discrimination.

Budget Approval:

The board approved the budget for December which was \$14,558.71, out of a yearly budget of \$110,219.18.

The panel gave the opportunity for an open forum, to which one audience member reminded everyone to vote. With that, the meeting adjourned.

Follow-Up Questions

What are you left wondering?

- Will any other community members of the Amberleigh development benefit from the issue that Jessica Meyer resolved today at the meeting?
- Is it guaranteed that the township will terminate CATA services due to their raised expenses?
- I did not understand the execution of the “information” section on the meeting agenda. The speaker simply listed out the topics as they were written down and gave no further context.

Summary

- CATA has requested Spring township pay \$118,000 a year, instead of the \$30,000 it has been paying. The bus service informed the township that it was losing money by serving residents of the township.
- A public hearing will be scheduled in December if tax rates are going to increase.
- A resident of Amberleigh (a neighborhood in Spring Township) sought an extension from the board to address a water easement violation. A 13-year-old shed was built within the boundaries of the easement. Did you know that many easements are

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meant to provide the necessary space for construction vehicles to make their way, if necessary, through those areas of your property? In this case, the easements in question are 20 feet wide.

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