

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP**

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, January 9, 2019 at 7:30 PM in the Springfield Township Building for the purpose of transacting the general business of the Township. All members of the Board were present. Mr. Harbison presided.

Mr. Harbison asked everyone to join the Board of Commissioners in a moment of silent reflection honoring the service men and women who have placed themselves in harm's way in order to help preserve our safety.

Mr. Harbison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Schaum-Wilson) carried unanimously dispensing with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and approving same as written and recorded in the official minute book of the Township.

Mr. Maxwell noted that the Girl Scouts have begun their cookie sales throughout the region. Seven girl scouts from four local troops introduced themselves, identified their troop and the school that they attend. Together the girl scouts identified the cookies currently for sale and announced the locations where the sales will take place throughout the community. The girl scouts also informed those in attendance that the proceeds from the sale of the cookies will help pay for girl scout camps and their trips. They also noted that from time to time people buy cookies but donate them back to the girls. In 2019, the girl scouts plan to donate those cookies to the local police and fire departments.

Mr. Harbison recognized Chief Michael Pitkow and Magisterial District Justice Kate McGill, who will introduce the police officers to be administered the oath of office. Chief Pitkow indicated that this evening, District Justice McGill will administer the oath of office to one officer being promoted to the position of corporal, and to three new police officers. He remarked that the night was perfect for the ceremony as it coincides with National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. He stated that the officers will swear to support, obey and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Springfield Township impartially, and that the oath is the backbone of what they do each and every day. Chief Pitkow introduced Officer Joseph DiSantis, who has been with the Township Police Department since January 2014. He attended the Delaware County Community College Municipal Police Academy, Montgomery County Community College and graduated from Harriton High School. Judge McGill administered the oath of office to Cpl. Joseph DiSantis. Zachary Saurman recently graduated from the Montgomery County Community College Municipal Police Academy, attended online courses through the University of Maryland, and is a graduate of Abington High School. After serving 5 years in the United States Navy, Mr. Saurman is serving in the United States Naval Reserve Unit. Thomas Sweeney graduated from the Montgomery County Community College Municipal Police Academy in 2018, graduated from Penn State University-Abington Campus, and is also a graduate of Abington High School. Gage Wellington also graduated from the Montgomery County Community College Municipal Police Academy, received an associates degree in criminal justice from Montgomery County

Community College, and is a graduate of North Penn High School. Judge McGill administered the oath of office individually to the three police officers.

Mr. Harbison announced that the Board of Commissioners held an executive session prior to this evening's meeting to discuss two matters of potential litigation.

Giuseppe Monticelli, aka Joseph Craney, stated his support for the approval of the subdivision/land development plan involving 2 Chesney Lane.

Mr. Harbison, Chairman of Internal Affairs and Library Committees, reported:

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to approve the December check reconciliation in the amount of \$648,873.16 and the January bill listing in the amount of \$484,127.57.

Mr. Harbison indicated that the Board of Commissioners had completed their negotiations of a franchise agreement renewal with Comcast and made the draft agreement available for public review and comment throughout the past month. He suggested there is not a great deal of latitude to negotiate the provisions of the franchise agreement. In summary, the major points found in the agreement are as follows, but are not limited to: (1) term – 12 years, (2) gross revenues – the definition of gross revenues was modified and expanded to include new forms of revenue that can be attributed to cable television services, (3) rates – no change. All rates, fees and charges shall be in accordance with FCC regulations. The Federal Cable Act precludes the local franchise authority from setting rates, (4) franchise fees – a maximum 5% of gross revenues shall be remitted to the Township, (5) complimentary cable service – Comcast shall continue to provide complimentary cable service to each public and private school building, as well as all municipal buildings, (6) educational and government access channels – Comcast will continue to provide one educational and one governmental access channel for community programming, (7) capital support grant – Comcast will pay the Township a capital support grant or technology grant in the amount of \$41,580.

Motion (Harbison-Standish) carried unanimously to authorize the Board of Commissioners to execute a cable TV franchise agreement with Comcast of Pennsylvania as transmitted to the Township on December 5, 2018 from Brian R. Jeter, Senior Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs.

Mr. Harbison stated that the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code requires that the Board of Commissioners appoint a Chair to the Township Vacancy Board during the first meeting of each calendar year, or as soon thereafter as practical. The Vacancy Board consists of the Board of Commissioners and one registered elector of the Township who shall serve as the Chair. The Vacancy Board shall convene a meeting to fill a vacancy within an elected office if the Board of Commissioners is unable to fill the vacancy in the elected office within 30 days of the vacancy.

Motion (Harbison-Wilson) carried unanimously to appoint Joy Bergey, of College Avenue, Flourtown, to serve as the Chair of the Vacancy Board of Springfield Township for 2019.

Mr. Schaum, Chairman of Public Works and Facilities Committee, had no report.

Mr. Standish, Chairman of Community Development Committee, reported:

Mr. Standish stated that the Manna Funeral Home (formerly Craft Funeral Home) subdivision/land development plan is a minor subdivision plan or lot line change between 814 Bethlehem Pike and the adjoining 2 Chesney Lane. Mr. Standish described the details of the plan, and stated that the lot size of 814 Bethlehem Pike will be increased from 22,469 sq. ft. to 34,059 sq. ft. An existing two car garage will be demolished, but replaced with a 3 car garage and additional offstreet parking will be added to the funeral home property. 2 Chesney Lane will have the lot area reduced from 29,631 sq. ft. to 18,052 sq. ft., but no further improvements are indicated on this lot.

Motion (Standish-Wilson) carried unanimously to approve the minor subdivision plan prepared for David Peake, 2 Chesney Lane and 814 Bethlehem Pike, Erdenheim, dated August 31, 2018, prepared by Ash Associates Inc., and approve the preliminary/final land development plan prepared for Robert L. Manna Funeral Home Inc., dated October 26, 2018, which consists of a 10 sheet plan set prepared by Land Core Engineering Consultants, and a copy of a stormwater management report prepared by Land Core Engineering Consultants dated October 26, 2018.

The plan approval was subject to and conditioned upon the following:

1. All matters contained in a letter from the Township Engineer to the Zoning Officer dated December 14, 2018 are to be resolved to the satisfaction of the Township Engineer, except for those matters specifically identified as matters waived as a part of the approved subdivision plan and/or land development plan.

The following sections of the subdivision and land development ordinance were waived:

1. Section 95-10(A) – a 70 foot ultimate right of way for Bethlehem Pike is required. The applicant shall be permitted to retain the existing 60 foot legal right of way.
2. Section 95-11.I.(2) – street trees are required for each 35 ft. of street frontage. The applicant has requested a waiver due to the lack of space to plant the trees.
3. Section 95-11.I.(11)(c) – requires that any tree over 3 inches in caliper that is removed shall be replaced at a rate of 2 trees for each tree removed. The applicant shall provide a fee in lieu of the tree replacement to the Township Landscape Fund.
4. Section 95-11.I.(1)(b) – screening buffers shall be at least ten feet in width. A buffer does not currently exist along the southern property line but no new improvements are planned in this area, therefore, a buffer will be waived along the southern property line.

Mr. Harbison explained that at 2 Chesney Lane, next door to the funeral home, an 18th century building is being maintained. He noted that the building was constructed by Christopher Ottinger, who happens to be his sixth great grandfather.

Motion (Standish-Schaum) carried unanimously to accept a letter dated December 17, 2018 from Steve Schagrin resigning his position as a member of the Springfield

Township Planning Commission. Mr. Standish indicated that Mr. Schagrin was a member of the Township Planning Commission for approximately 7 years and was a dedicated member of the Commission. Mr. Standish wished Mr. Schagrin all the best in the future.

Mr. Wilson, Chairman of Cultural and Environmental Resources Committee, reported:

Motion (Wilson-Cobb) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1469, a resolution supporting the vision of the Township for a 100% clean renewable energy future. The Township will join other leading towns and cities in the national movement to transition to 100% clean and renewable energy, and complete the transition for electricity by the year 2035, and 100% renewable energy for heat and transportation by the year 2050.

Mr. Wilson reported that during the month of December 2018, Springfield Township residents recycled 206.7 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 84.1%. The net cost for the month was \$17,405.51. Year to date, the Township residents recycled 96% of the materials anticipated to be recycled, and on a weekly basis, 80% of the residents participated in the recycling program. Since smaller households do not need to recycle on a weekly basis, it is believed that the actual percentage of households that participate in the recycling program is much greater than 80%.

Mr. Graham, Chairman of Parks and Recreational Resources Committee, had no report.

Mr. Graham made an announcement that he would be facilitating a town hall community meeting on Empowering, Diversity and Inclusion in Springfield Township. The meeting will be held on Monday, February 18, 2019, at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. The theme of the open forum will be "Diversity and Inclusion: The Art of Thinking Independently....Together". Mr. Graham provided background information on the distinguished panel members which will include Judge Christopher Cerski, Angela Bell, Esq., Dean Beer, Esq., Rabbi Saul Grife, Jacob Grey, and Dr. William Taylor.

Mr. Maxwell, Co-Chairman of Public Safety Committee, reported:

Motion (Maxwell-Graham) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1470, a resolution authorizing an application be made to PennDOT for consideration of establishing a school zone on Paper Mill Road adjacent to the Springfield Middle School.

Mr. Berger was asked to provide an outline of the process by which the Township will make application to PennDOT, including the need for a professional traffic engineer study, and final review by PennDOT. Mr. Graham was pleased that the school zone matter was being considered and indicated that Ms. Shechtman and Ms. Silberman, and other parents, will be pleased as well. Mr. Wilson asked for clarity in that the school zone requested would be a 15 mph school zone, and that the costs associated with the school zone would be the responsibility of the Township. He was told he was correct. Mr. Harbison noted that during the planning process for the School District's early learning center project, the Township added a note on the plan that if a school zone was to be considered adjacent to this school, the school district would be responsible for the costs associated thereto.

Mr. Cobb, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Cobb announced that the Zoning Hearing Board did not receive any applications for hearings for the month of January 2019 and therefore, the Zoning Hearing Board will not meet in January 2019. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board will be on Monday, February 25, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building.

Motion (Cobb-Maxwell) carried unanimously to appoint Jennifer Guckin, of Carlisle Road, to serve as a full board member on the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board for a new three year term of service to expire December 31, 2021.

Motion (Cobb-Graham) carried unanimously to appoint James Brown, of Gypsy Lane, to serve as the alternate member on the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board for a new three year term of service to expire December 31, 2021.

Mr. Graham congratulated the Board on their efforts towards diversity in order that the committees may reflect the composition of the community.

Joseph Craney opined that it was unfortunate that it almost took an accident for the Board to consider the creation of a school zone along Paper Mill Road. He also suggested that the new Montgomery Avenue school may require a school zone. He inquired whether the Board planned to advertise the vacancy on the Planning Commission. Mr. Harbison indicated there was a backlog of individuals who have previously expressed interest in serving on the Planning Commission and the Board would work from that list initially. Mr. Craney inquired to whom he might deliver a Federal 1983 law suit. He was advised to deliver it to the Township Manager who would attend to the business of the suit.

J. Bailey-Smith, a member of the Township Environmental Advisory Commission, addressed the Board of Commissioners to thank them for their leadership in looking towards renewable energy for the community. It is his belief that Springfield Township is the first township in Montgomery County to move forward with this initiative.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary