

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, December 11, 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 place themselves in harm's way in order to help preserve our safety at home and overseas.

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. Harbison announced that the Board of Commissioners would not be acting this evening on a recommendation received from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to transition the girls softball program currently supported by the Township to an independent program. Instead, the Board of Commissioners directed Township staff to begin accepting registrations for the program, which occurred yesterday. Mr. Harbison also announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session following their regularly scheduled workshop meeting on December 9, 2019 to discuss one personnel matter and one matter of litigation. The Board also met in an executive session prior to this evening's meeting to discuss one personnel matter. Mr. Harbison concluded his announcements by stating that later this evening the Board would be conducting a public hearing on a proposed zoning code amendment to create a historic resources overlay district, as well as a budget hearing on the proposed 2020 budget. It was also noted that the Board would be conducting a special meeting to close out the business of 2019, and to adopt the 2020 budget. Mr. Harbison asked that any questions or comments related to either the zoning code amendment or the budget be held until the hearings are conducted.

Mr. Harbison announced that the Board was now open to receiving public comment, and that the Board drew particular attention to those items listed on the agenda.

Jeannine DePaul-Nelson, Oreland, addressed the Board regarding the Township's girls softball program and the value that it brings to the community. Mrs. DePaul-Nelson explained that she is a long-term volunteer coach of the program, and was recently named the varsity head coach for the girls softball team at Springfield Township High School. Mrs. DePaul-Nelson read from a prepared statement that was distributed to the Board and asked the Board to suspend any vote on the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to require the current Township recreation program to operate independently.

Joseph Kaub, Flourtown, addressed the Board as a representative of the Springfield Little League Girls Softball program. Mr. Kaub provided a brief history of how the current Little League softball program came to existence, and the opportunities that the Little League provides

for tournament play, grants and fundraising. Mr. Kaub referenced an e-mail that he received from the Township Manager this week asking the Little League to discontinue registration for the 12 and under age group at the request of the Board of Commissioners, and asked the Board to reconsider their request. Mr. Kaub noted that there will be several participants of the current 10 and under program who will age out of the program this year and those players would like to continue in the Little League format.

Anna Posluzy, a sophomore at Springfield Township High School, stated that she has been a participant in the Township's softball program for several years where she benefited from a group of dedicated coaches. She noted that the skills she learned and memories created will assist her in other life activities.

Charlotte Hartner, a sophomore at Springfield Township High School, noted that she recently completed her final year in the Township's softball program, but continues to travel throughout the country to play softball, and has aspirations to compete at the college level. She concluded her comments by stating that the program and its coaches are a great asset to the community.

Elana Dunbar, a participant in the Township's softball program, wanted the Board of Commissioners to know that she has played in a number of other softball programs but found a home in the Springfield Township softball program.

Raeanne Landman, a participant in the Township's softball program, spoke of lessons learned through softball, including team-building and hard work. She suggested that the skills learned will assist her in future life endeavors and make her a better leader.

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

Motion (Harbison/Schaum) carried unanimously, to approve the November check reconciliation in the amount \$715,166.94 and the December bill listing in the amount of \$1,107,445.06.

Mr. Harbison announced that the 2020 meeting schedule of the Board of Commissioners and Township agencies will remain substantially the same as the 2019 meeting schedule of the Board of Commissioners and Township agencies, with the exception of the Shade Tree Commission and Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. The Shade Tree Commission will now meet at the Free Library of Springfield Township instead of the Township Administration Building, and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee will begin their meetings at 7:00 PM instead of 7:30 PM. The Board of Commissioners will continue to meet each month on the second Wednesday at 7:30 PM, and on the Monday preceding the second Wednesday at 7:00 PM. Both meetings will take place at the Springfield Township Administration Building. A complete list of the meeting schedule is available upon request. The meeting schedule will also be posted and advertised in the Ambler Gazette.

Mr. Harbison announced that Section 701 of the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code requires the Board of Commissioners to organize through the election of officers and the designation of the financial institution of the Township on the first Monday of January in each even-numbered year. In 2020, the first Monday in January is January 6, which is also a regularly

scheduled workshop meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Therefore, the Board will meet for the purpose of organizing at 6:30 PM. Prior to any new business of the Board, all newly or re-elected Commissioners will be administered the oath of office by District Justice Kate McGill.

Motion (Harbison/Standish) carried unanimously, to re-appoint Michael Bruce, of Oreland, to a new, three-year term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Library Advisory Committee. Mr. Bruce's new, three year term of service shall expire December 31, 2022.

Mr. Schaum, Chairman of the Public Works and Facilities Committee, reported:

Motion (Schaum/Maxwell) carried unanimously to authorize the appropriate Township officials to execute an employment contract with the Springfield Township Public Works Department for the years 2020 – 2023. The amendments to the existing contract are wage adjustments, the use of vacation leave, and a signing bonus. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Schaum thanked the members of the Public Works Department for their service to the Township and for their willingness to work with the Township on the contract agreement.

Mr. Standish, Chairman of Community Development Committee, had no report.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of November 2019, Springfield Township residents recycled 159.21 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 75.3%. The net cost for the month was \$20,413.77.

Motion (Wilson/Maxwell) carried unanimously, to appoint Joy Bergey, of Flourtown, to fill an unexpired term of service on the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission. Ms. Bergey's term of service shall expire June 14, 2020.

Motion (Wilson/Graham) carried unanimously, to adopt Resolution No. 1485, a Resolution authorizing and extending an Intermunicipal Agreement with other Montgomery County and Philadelphia County municipalities, and wastewater treatment plant operators, to advance the development of an alternative Water Quality Improvement Plan for the Wissahickon Creek Watershed. It is the intent of Springfield Township to renew the Intermunicipal Agreement through March 31, 2021, and to appropriate up to \$23,500 to provide its share of funding needed to cover the costs of the professional services associated with the Plan. Springfield Township, along with all of the other municipalities located within the Wissahickon Creek watershed, is mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency to perform water quality improvement activities to reduce phosphorous and sediment within the watershed.

Mr. Harbison thanked Mr. Wilson for his continued participation on the Management Committee working to advance the Water Quality Improvement Plan. Mr. Wilson noted that the Plan is very close to receiving approval from the requisite regulatory agencies, but that the implementation of the Plan recommendations will be costly. Mr. Cobb asked Mr. Wilson to explain how the Plan might improve the water quality of the Wissahickon Creek. Mr. Wilson

explained the various issues affecting the creek and how the reduction of sediment occurring as a result of stream bank erosion will help to improve water quality and aquatic health.

Mr. Wilson announced that beginning in 2020, Springfield Township will begin collecting leaf waste on a year round basis as part of its weekly curbside collection program. Mr. Wilson explained that leaf waste includes leaves, garden residues, shrubbery and tree trimmings, and similar material, but not grass clippings. Residents are asked to place all leaf waste in biodegradable paper bags and place them at the curb for collection on your regular refuse and recycling day. All residents are also asked to practice grass-cycling by mulching their grass clippings and allowing them to decompose in place. Grass clippings are a beneficial fertilizer for your lawn and will reduce the amount of waste that the Township must pay to dispose. Mr. Wilson noted that if you must bag your grass clippings, please place them in plastic bags or refuse cans for disposal.

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

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

Motion (Maxwell/Schaum) carried unanimously, to amend the Springfield Township Code, Section 107-35, Schedule XII, Special Purpose Parking Zones, by repealing the Parking by permit regulations on the North side of Trumbauer Drive from Cheltenham Avenue to a point 308 feet westerly thereof.

Motion (Maxwell/Schaum) carried unanimously, to amend the Springfield Township Code, Section 107-32, Schedule IX, Parking Prohibited, by prohibiting parking on the North side of Trumbauer Drive from Cheltenham Avenue to a point 308 feet westerly thereof.

Mr. Maxwell explained that the aforementioned parking modifications are intended to improve access to the Stotesbury Townhome community by emergency and motor vehicles. Mr. Harbison remarked that he has received several e-mails suggesting that the parking modifications are welcomed by the residents of the Stotesbury community.

Mr. Cobb, Chairman of the Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Cobb announced that there will be no meeting of the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board in December 2019 as no new petitions were received by the November 29, 2019 filing deadline. The next meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board will be on Monday, January 27, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building.

Motion (Cobb/Schaum) carried unanimously, to re-appoint Ed Fox, of Oreland, to a new, three-year term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board. The new, three year term of service shall expire December 31, 2022.

Motion (Schaum/Wilson) carried unanimously, to temporarily adjourn the December 2019 business meeting of the Board of Commissioners, and to convene a public hearing on a proposed zoning code amendment to create the Historic Resource Overlay District Ordinance.

Motion (Schaum/Maxwell) carried unanimously, to re-open the December 11, 2019 business meeting of the Board of Commissioners and to adopt Ordinance No. 962, the Historic Resource Overlay District Ordinance.

Motion (Schaum/Wilson) carried unanimously, to close the December 2019 business meeting and to convene a public hearing on the 2020 budget.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Michael Taylor,
Secretary