

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, September 9, 2020, at 7:30 PM for the purpose of transacting the general business of the Township. Due to social distancing guidelines in effect at the time of the meeting, the meeting was conducted utilizing the Zoom video conferencing platform. All members of the Board were present with the exception of Mr. Cobb. Mr. Standish presided.

Mr. Standish requested 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. Standish led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Wilson-Lee), vote 6-0, 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. Standish announced that Commissioner Cobb was absent from the meeting due to a personal obligation.

Mr. Standish made an announcement that as a result of the pandemic and social distancing guidelines, all public meetings of the Board of Commissioners and its advisory boards will continue to be conducted via the Zoom virtual meeting platform until further notice. Individuals interested in participating in the meetings were directed to the Township website for instructions to join the meeting.

Mr. Standish announced that as part of the advertising for tonight's business meeting, an effort was made to solicit public comment in advance of the meeting. Public comment was accepted via e-mail up to 5 PM prior to the meeting but there were no comments received.

Mr. Standish announced that the Board was also open to receiving public comment as part of the current meeting, and that the Board drew particular attention to those items listed on the agenda.

Dr. Craig Browne, President of the Cheltenham NAACP, addressed the Board of Commissioners on his general interest in Springfield Township. Dr. Browne referenced an article he recently read regarding police community relations in the Township and offered his assistance with those issues.

Mr. Standish responded that at the workshop meeting the previous evening, the Board had a lengthy discussion regarding improving community relations and transparency in the police department. Commissioners Graham and Lee volunteered to facilitate meetings to discuss these types of issues. Mr. Standish noted that several years ago the Township enacted a Human Relations Ordinance through which a Human Relations Commission was formed. Mr. Standish

indicated that the Board may consider modifications to the ordinance in order to provide a forum for the current interests of the community.

Dr. Browne further noted that the Montgomery County branches of the NAACP met with Montgomery County Commissioners Arkoosh and Lawrence, as well as District Attorney Steele. D. A. Steele will be contacting the Police Department shortly with regard to a video titled “Walking While Black”. Dr. Browne encouraged everyone to visit the local, state and national websites of the NAACP in order to learn more about the organization.

Chad Lassiter, Executive Director of Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, commended Commissioner Graham’s activities to combat anti-Semitism and racism. Mr. Lassiter condemned social media attacks on Commissioner Graham, and encouraged a statement from the commissioners condemning those attacks. Mr. Lassiter offered his assistance to the Board as they work to improve relations within Springfield Township.

Mr. Graham thanked Dr. Browne and Mr. Lassiter for their comments and support during these difficult times. Mr. Graham admitted he was initially hurt for being labeled a race hustler, but now embraces it as a mechanism for change and racial harmony. Mr. Graham encouraged the Police Department and Commissioners to work together to connect with the community. Mr. Graham concluded his remarks by stating that it was his goal to ensure that every resident in Springfield Township has a positive relationship with the police department.

Mr. Harbison noted the assistance the Board received from the PA Human Relations Commission when creating the Township’s Human Relations Ordinance and Commission. Mr. Harbison thanked Mr. Lassiter for that assistance.

Renee Brooks, of Wyndmoor, noted that she was appointed to the Library Advisory Committee in February, but other than a letter from the Township Manager advising of her appointment, she has not received any correspondence since then. Mr. Harbison informed Ms. Brooks that there have been no meetings of the Library Advisory Committee due to the pandemic, but Ms. Brooks should have received email correspondence. Mr. Taylor will reach out to the Library Director in this regard to ensure that Ms. Brooks is included on any future communication.

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

Mr. Harbison, Chairman of Internal Affairs Committee, reported:

Motion (Harbison-Maxwell) vote 6-0, to approve the August check reconciliation in the amount of \$503,398.42 and the September bill listing in the amount of \$559,388.06.

Mr. Harbison announced the 2021 Budget Meeting Schedules as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Budget Workshop	10/21/20	7:00 PM
Budget Presentation	11/11/20	7:30 PM
Budget Hearing	12/9/20	7:30 PM
Budget Adoption	12/9/20	7:30 PM

M. Harbison indicated that all meetings will be held via the Zoom virtual meeting platform.

Mr. Harbison announced that the Board of Commissioners has a statutory obligation to adopt a resolution setting forth the minimum municipal obligations to properly fund the three Township pension plans, and incorporate the minimum municipal obligations into the succeeding year Township budget.

Motion (Harbison-Lee) vote 6-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1501, a resolution establishing the 2021 pension fund minimum municipal obligations.

Motion (Harbison-Graham) vote 6-0, to reappoint Bee, Bergvall and Company, Certified Public Accountants, to serve as the Springfield Township Auditors to audit the Township's financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2020, consistent with the audit engagement letter dated August 25, 2020. The cost of the engagement is \$23,000, which is the same as was charged in 2019.

Mr. Harbison announced that under cover letter of September 2, 2020, the Township's appointed Engineer, Mark W. Eisold, P.E., indicated that he would be leaving his current firm in order to accept a position as the Director of Municipal Engineering for Carroll Engineering Corporation. Mr. Eisold has served as the Township Engineer since 1998 and was most recently appointed by the Board of Commissioners in January 2020.

Motion (Harbison-Lee) vote 6-0, to confirm the appointment of Mark W. Eisold, PE, of Carroll Engineering Corporation, to serve as Township Engineer.

Motion (Harbison-Lee) vote 6-0, to appoint Adam Hess, of Flourtown, PA to serve as an alternate member of the Library Advisory Committee. Mr. Hess' term of service shall expire on December 31, 2022.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of August 2020, Springfield Township residents recycled 228.05 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 81.4%. The net cost for the month was \$27,293.12.

Motion (Wilson-Graham) vote 6-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1502, a resolution authorizing the extension of an agreement maintained by the Montgomery County Recycling Consortium for recycling services with J.P. Mascaro & Sons dated October 22, 2015, for an additional period of six months. Mr. Wilson noted that currently the recycling environment is very difficult and that recycling costs are estimated to be more than refuse disposal costs.

Mr. Graham, Chairman of Parks and Recreational Resources Committee, reported:

Mr. Graham announced that Chris Tomlinson, of Flourtown, informed the Township Manager that his family would be relocating from Springfield Township and that it would be necessary for him to resign his position as a member of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. Mr. Graham thanked Mr. Tomlinson for donating his time and talents to the Springfield Township community.

Mr. Graham indicated that as a result of Mr. Tomlinson's resignation, there presently exists a vacancy as a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. Mr. Graham noted that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee advises the Board of Commissioners on the goals and objectives of the Township's parks and recreation programs, and serves as a sounding board for the recreational needs of our residents. Individuals interested in serving on the Committee should send a letter of interest or resume to the attention of the Township Manager.

Motion (Graham-Wilson) vote 6-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1503, a resolution authorizing application to the Peco Green Region Open Space Grant Program for the Mermaid Park Stream and Habitat Restoration Project.

Mr. Standish inquired as to the timing of a decision on the grant application and was advised that a decision would be known by the end of the year.

Mr. Graham announced that a Town Hall will be held on September 16, at 7:00 PM via the Zoom virtual meeting platform, and invited all Board members and Chief Pitkow to attend.

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

Motion (Maxwell-Graham) vote 6-0, to amend Section 107-32, Schedule IX, Parking Prohibited, by restricting parking on the north side of Campbell Lane from Elem Avenue to a point 65' easterly thereof. The parking restriction is necessary in order to allow access by emergency and public works vehicles.

Mr. Maxwell announced that the Montgomery County Consortium of Communities, on behalf of their respective Civil Service Commissions and/or Municipalities, including Springfield Township, will be conducting a written examination for entry level Police Officers on Saturday, October 10, 2020 at Hatboro Horsham High School. Mr. Maxwell outlined the on-line application process and instructed interested individuals to visit www.montcopolicetest.com for additional information.

Mr. Standish reported for Mr. Cobb, Chairman of Zoning Committee:

Mr. Standish announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, September 21, 2020 at 7:00 PM via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Mr. Standish summarized the four petitions before the Zoning Hearing Board.

Mr. Lee, Chairman of Public Works Committee, reported:

Motion (Lee-Wilson) vote 6-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1504 authorizing the appropriate Township officials to execute a five year agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for Springfield Township to provide winter maintenance on specified state highways within Springfield Township.

Motion (Lee-Maxwell) vote 6-0 to authorize the appropriate Township officials to execute an Additional Services Agreement with BL Companies, Inc. to perform additional Act 2 Site Assessment Tasks as outlined in their proposal dated December 20, 2019. The cost of the work is valued at \$136,600 for which the Township has recently obtained a grant from the

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
Industrial Site Reuse Program.

Mr. Wilson stated that it was his understanding that the Township has already received Act 2 approvals from the PA DEP and that the current scope of work was unnecessary. Mr. Taylor indicated that DEP has approved a Work Plan pursuant to the Act 2 program but that the Plan requires additional site assessment activities, which are the subject of the contract at hand. Mr. Wilson expressed his concern with the cost of the current proposal and the likelihood that additional contamination will be discovered requiring additional remediation. Mr. Garrity explained the Act 2 program and requirements in greater detail for the Board of Commissioners, and suggested that it was necessary to perform the current work in order to obtain Act 2 clearance.

Motion (Graham-Maxwell) vote 6-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor
Township Manager/Secretary