

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, March 8, 2023, at 7:30 PM at the Springfield Township Building for the purpose of transacting the general business of the Township. The meeting was also offered in a live streaming feature. All members of the Board were present with the exception of Commissioners Graham and Standish.

Mr. Lee asked Mr. Taylor to summarize any comments received remotely prior to the meeting. One such comment was received related to the resignation of Commissioner Graham and a pending litigation matter.

Mr. Lee 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 at home and overseas.

Mr. Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Wilson-Ratsavong) vote 5-0 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. Lee noted the absence of Commissioners Graham and Standish.

Mr. Lee announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session as part of their March 6, 2023 workshop meeting to discuss one personnel matter and two litigation matters.

Mr. Lee announced that on March 6, 2023, the Board received an e-mail from Eddie T. Graham announcing that he has resigned his position as Ward 7 Commissioner, effective immediately. Mr. Lee explained in detail the process and timeline that must be followed in accordance with Section 530 of the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code, to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Graham's resignation.

Mr. Lee announced that any registered elector who has continuously resided in ward 7 of Springfield Township for at least one year is eligible to serve as Commissioner. Residents meeting the eligibility requirements were encouraged to submit a letter of interest and resume to the attention of Michael Taylor, Township Manager, 1510 Paper Mill Road, Wyndmoor, as soon as possible, but no later than April 7, 2023.

Mr. Lee invited Chief Michael Pitkow to the front of the room to conduct a commendation ceremony to recognize members of the police department who have demonstrated significant initiative, intelligence or ability as part of his or her police duties and contributed to the safety of the Springfield Township community. Chief Pitkow described the different types of

commendations that will be presented to the officers. The following police personnel were recognized for major incidents that occurred in 2022:

- Commendatory Letter to Officer Wiley for a traffic stop that led to DUI and firearm charges;
- Unit Citation to Sergeant Badolato, Officer Tauscher, Officer Seltzer and Det. Craig - the unit assisted Cheltenham Township Police at an active shooting on W. Cheltenham Avenue in Cheltenham Township;
- Commendation of Merit to Officer Wiley for a traffic stop that led to charges for drugs and firearms;
- Unit Citation to Sergeant Hart, Officer Tauscher, and Officer Wiley - arrest for numerous charges of access device fraud and theft by unlawful taking;
- Commendation of Merit to Det. Craig for an investigation that resulted in multiple arrests for a gun store burglary;
- Unit Citation – Sergeant Wilbur, Corporal Calhoun, Officer Gross, Officer Porrini, Officer Lopez and Officer Sweeney – arrests of two males for stolen vehicle and firearms charges; and
- Highway Safety Award - Officer Wiley nominated by the sergeants following a review of all traffic stops initiated in 2022.

Commissioner Lee opened the meeting to public comment. No comments were received.

Mr. Lee, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported:

Motion (Lee-Ratsavong), vote 5-0, to waive Section 3303.1 (12) of the Springfield Township Fire Prevention Code in order that the Sandy Run Country Club may conduct a professional fireworks display on Saturday evening, September 16, 2023 at approximately 7:00 PM as part of the Club's 100-year anniversary celebration. The approval is conditioned upon the following: (1) the pyrotechnical firm and Sandy Run Country Club shall add Springfield Township as an additional insured on their certificates of insurance for the event; (2) the pyrotechnical firm and the Sandy Run Country Club shall work closely with the Springfield Township Fire Marshal and Oreland Fire Company to help prevent an accident and to create a plan of action in the event that an accident does occur during the activity; and (3) the pyrotechnical firm or Sandy Run Country Club shall provide notice of the fireworks display to all property owners adjoining the country club property prior to September 16, 2023.

Commissioner Cobb stated he is happy to support Sandy Run Country Club as they celebrate their 100th anniversary and thanked the club for their cooperation with the flood mitigation project to benefit the Burton Road neighborhood.

Mr. Lee wished to acknowledge the actions of the volunteer fire companies as well as the Police Department in response to a significant fire that occurred at a dwelling on Kingston Road on March 6. Commissioner Lee thanked the volunteers and the police department for their preparation and quick response to the fire.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of February 2023, Springfield Township residents recycled 139.0 tons of material with a householder participation rate of 70.2%. The net cost for the month was \$27,051.

Mr. Wilson reminded residents that plastic bags are not suitable for recycling as part of the Township's curbside recycling collection program. In addition, plastic bags should not be used to place recyclables out for collection by Township crews. Plastic bags slow the sorting process at material recovery facilities which increases the processing costs paid by the Township. Residents are encouraged to recycle their plastic bags at drop off locations such as those found at local supermarkets.

Mr. Wilson announced that on Saturday, May 13, 2023, the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission will be conducting their second annual Native Plant Sale at the Free Library of Springfield Township. All plants will be offered for sale at cost. In addition, in order to prepare and educate the Springfield Township community about native plants, the Environmental Advisory Commission will be conducting a Native Plant Educational Workshop on Thursday, March 30, 2023 at the Free Library of Springfield Township.

Mr. Wilson also announced that as part of its April 10, 2023 workshop meeting, the Board will be receiving a presentation from representatives of the Environmental Advisory Commission regarding their request for a limited number of households in the community to observe "No Mow May". No Mow May is an effort that discourages traditional lawn maintenance practices in order to create habitat and forage for bees and other early season pollinators.

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

Motion (Maxwell-Cobb) vote 5-0 to authorize the Township Manager to execute a Listing Agreement with Dan Helwig, Inc. to market and secure tenants for two office suites at the Black Horse Inn, 1432 Bethlehem Pike, Flourtown. Pursuant to the terms of the proposed agreement, Dan Helwig Realtors shall serve as the Township's Broker and Agent and shall receive compensation during the term of the Agreement in an amount equal to one month's rent per unit. The term of the Agreement shall expire July 31, 2023.

Motion (Maxwell-Wilson) vote 5-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1598 authorizing an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation Partnership Program for the acquisition of 2.759 acres of open space located at 380-402 Haws Lane, and Phase 2 of the Walnut Avenue Trail Project. The grant request is in the amount of \$525,000 for the open space acquisition, and \$175,000 for the Trail project.

Mr. Cobb, Chairman of Administrative, Fiscal Affairs and Zoning Committee, reported:

Motion (Cobb-Ratsavong) vote 5-0 to approve the February check reconciliation in the amount of \$621,686.57, and the March bill listing in the amount of \$802,174.67.

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, March 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Cobb summarized the Zoning Hearing Board agenda and announced that copies of all applications are on file in the Code Enforcement Office and may be viewed during normal business hours.

Motion (Cobb-Ratsavong) vote 5-0 to authorize the office of the Township Solicitor to attend the March 27, 2023 meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board involving the property located at 622 East Gravers Lane, and any subsequent meetings involving the subject property, in order to support and defend the determination of the Springfield Township Zoning Officer that a business or businesses are being operated from the subject location in violation of Sections 114-21 and 114-139.2 of the Springfield Township Code.

Motion (Cobb-Maxwell) vote 5-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1599, a resolution authorizing the disposition of township records in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipal Records Manual.

Ms. Ratsavong reported for Mr. Standish, Chairman of the Community Development Committee:

Motion (Ratsavong-Wilson) vote 5-0 to accept a letter from Patrick J. Deacon extending the 90-day subdivision/land development plan review period up to and including Friday, May 12, 2023 for the subdivision plan involving the property located at 902 Pleasant Avenue, Wyndmoor. The extension of time will provide the applicant the opportunity to revise their land development plans to be in compliance with the Springfield Township Code.

Ms. Ratsavong, Chairwoman of Parks and Recreational Resources Committee, reported:

Ms. Ratsavong made an announcement that on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 7:00 PM, the Township will be hosting a public meeting in the Township Building regarding trails in Springfield Township. Attendees will learn about different types of trails, possible amenities, the benefits of having a trail network in our community, and how our community wants to use trails. The presentation will be followed by an opportunity for attendees to provide feedback on proposed trail segments. All residents were invited to attend the meeting on March 13.

Ms. Ratsavong also announced that the Board of Commissioners has created a non-voting student representative position on both the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee and the Recreation Center Advisory Committee. The purpose of adding a student-representative to the committees is to offer a youth perspective to new and existing programs and recreational needs. Interested candidates must be a resident of Springfield Township, and must be enrolled as a Sophomore, Junior or Senior in high school. Candidates were instructed to send a letter of interest to the attention of Mr. Michael Taylor, Township Manager, 1510 Paper Mill Road, Wyndmoor, PA.

Ms. Ratsavong expressed her sadness at the resignation of Commissioner Graham. She stated that Mr. Graham was an excellent colleague, mentor and public leader.

Mr. Wilson commented he was saddened to hear of Mr. Graham's resignation. He stated that Commissioner Graham was a dedicated public servant and was always focused on serving his constituents. Mr. Wilson concluded that Mr. Graham will be missed.

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment.

Mary Ellen Reeves, Glenside, offered best wishes for a Happy International Women's Day to Commissioner Ratsavong. Ms. Reeves asked if Commissioner Graham's resignation letter would be available to residents. It was suggested that Ms. Reeves reach out to Commissioner Graham directly or submit a right to know request.

Motion (Lee-Maxwell) vote 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor
Manager/Secretary