

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, May 10, 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 Mr. Maxwell.

Mr. Lee asked Mr. Taylor to summarize any comments received remotely prior to the meeting. Mr. Taylor stated there was one comment received from a Wyndmoor resident who expressed his support for the appointment of Mr. May to fill the Commissioner vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Graham.

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 acknowledged the absence of Commissioner Maxwell who had a family obligation. Mr. Lee also acknowledged the presence of former Commissioner Bob Gillies in the audience.

Mr. Lee announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session as part of its May 8, 2023 workshop meeting to discuss the acquisition of real estate, and three active litigation matters.

Mr. Lee provided a public safety announcement with regard to minibikes. Mr. Lee reminded everyone that the operation of motorized, non-licensed vehicles is prohibited upon public streets and sidewalks. Unlicensed vehicles present a public safety hazard for their operators as well as other pedestrians, cyclists and properly licensed motor vehicles. Mr. Lee stated that people should call 911 if they observe an unlicensed motorized vehicle such as a golf cart, minibike or scooter being operated on a public street or sidewalk.

Mr. Lee announced that the ReadyMontco notification system delivers alerts to individuals about severe weather and emergencies in Montgomery County. Mr. Lee encouraged residents to set up their ReadyMontco account at [montcopa.org](http://montcopa.org).

Mr. Lee invited Heidi Shiver, President, Bird Town Pennsylvania, to join Commissioner Peter Wilson at the front of the room to present the Township's Bird Town Pennsylvania Certificate of Participation, and one of four street signs marking Springfield Township as a participating Bird Town Pennsylvania community.

Mr. Lee invited all residents to join the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission on Saturday, May 13 beginning at 9 AM at Mermaid Park for a free guided bird walk led by local bird enthusiast Andi Wingert.

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment. No public comment was received.

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

Motion (Lee-Ratsavong) vote 5-0, to enact Ordinance No. 973 to amend the Code of the Township of Springfield, by rewriting in its entirety Chapter 69, "Police", to eliminate a residency requirement that is no longer observed, and to establish the Springfield Township Police Department to preserve the public peace, enforce the criminal laws and penal ordinances, and to protect the life and property of the citizens of Springfield Township. The ordinance is required as one of 370 current standards established by the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission for the Police Department to be recognized as an accredited agency.

Motion (Lee-Ratsavong) vote 5-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1606, a resolution increasing the current Police Special Detail Rate from \$90 per hour to \$120 per hour for each officer. Mr. Lee explained that the Board of Commissioners desires to set the Special Detail Rate so that it is consistent with the cost of providing the contracted police service so that there is no cost to those taxpayers who have not requested the service. The new fee shall be effective for all services rendered on or after July 1, 2023.

Mr. Lee announced that the Springfield Township American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Spending Plan consists of fifteen (15) projects across four expenditure categories including contributions to the 3 fire companies that will be used for the replacement of Fire Apparatus. In order to memorialize the Township's ARPA contribution to the 3 fire companies, a Beneficiary Agreement has been created to formalize the transaction by establishing requirements for record keeping, a timeline for the dissemination of funds, and the specified purpose of the contribution.

Motion (Lee-Wilson) vote 5-0 to authorize the appropriate township officials to execute a Beneficiary Agreement with the Wyndmoor Hose Company for the distribution of \$150,000 in ARPA finds to be used for the purchase of a Rescue Pumper.

Mt. Standish, Chairman of the Community Development Committee, reported:

Mr. Standish announced that on or about November 4, 2022, Patrick Deacon, owner of the property located at 902 Pleasant Avenue, Wyndmoor, filed a subdivision/land development application seeking preliminary approval to subdivide the subject property to create four separate parcels upon which three new single-family dwellings are to be constructed. The 90-day land development review period is due to expire on May 12, 2023.

Motion (Standish-Ratsavong) vote -5-0 to accept a letter from Patrick J. Deacon received April 26, 2023 extending the 90-day subdivision/land development plan review period up to and including June 16, 2023.

Mr. Standish reported for the Public Works and Facilities Committee:

Mr. Standish announced that on Thursday, May 4, 2023, bids were received and opened for the 2023 Highway Resurfacing and Milling Program. Three bids were received that ranged from a low of \$421,521 to a high of \$431,695. All bids exceeded the Township's budget estimates due to rising petroleum costs. As a result, the Township intends to apply a portion of its unused winter maintenance budget to complete the work.

Motion (Standish-Wilson) vote 5-0 to award a contract to General Asphalt Paving Company of Philadelphia, PA to mill and resurface specified Township streets for their combined low bid price of \$107.88 per ton for resurfacing, and \$3.36 per square yard for road milling, for a total estimated price of \$421,521.

Mr. Standish announced that Section 1501.2 of the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code sets forth the regulations for the sale of Township personal property via electronic auction. The Township Fleet Supervisor has requested permission to sell a 2012 International Street Sweeper.

Motion (Standish-Wilson) vote 5-0 to authorize the sale of a 2012 International Street Sweeper with 73,000 miles and 8,181 hours of service via the Municibid on-line public auction site.

Motion (Standish-Ratsavong) vote 5-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1607, a resolution designating May 21-27, 2023 as National Public Works Week, and commending the performance and contributions of the individual employees of the Springfield Township Public Works Department.

Mr. Standish summarized the duties and responsibilities of the Public Works Department.

Mr. Lee encouraged residents to engage and thank the members of the Public Works Department if they happen to encounter them during the course of their day.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of April 2023, Springfield Township residents recycled 150.2 tons of material with a householder participation rate of 70.0%. The net cost for the month was \$25,412.76.

Mr. Wilson reminded residents to remove all packing materials from cardboard boxes before placing the materials out for collection. Cardboard boxes that contain packaging materials will be considered trash and disposed of accordingly.

Mr. Wilson also announced that the Environmental Advisory Commission is conducting a native plant sale at the Free Library of Springfield Township on Saturday, May 13 beginning at 10:00 AM.

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

Motion (Cobb-Wilson) vote 5-0 to approve the April check reconciliation in the amount of \$815,466.66, and the May bill listing in the amount of \$881,526.74.

Mr. Cobb announced that on April 25, and May 8, 2023, the Board of Commissioners met with four individuals interested in filling a vacancy in the position of Township Commissioner, Ward 7. The vacancy was created as a result of the resignation of Eddie T. Graham.

Mr. Cobb reiterated the comments he made on Monday evening when he urged the Board to take a bipartisan approach when considering an appointment to fill the vacancy. He pointed to the qualifications of Ms. Jane Thomas. Mr. Cobb noted that Ms. Thomas is a long-term resident of the Township, makes an effort to attend most meetings of the Board, and is truly interested in what is happening in the Township. Mr. Cobb expressed his hope that Ms. Thomas' political affiliation would not disqualify her. Mr. Cobb noted that the Township was fortunate to have four highly qualified individuals interested in filling the vacancy.

Mr. Cobb made a motion to adopt Resolution No 1608 to nominate Jane Thomas for appointment to fill the vacancy on the Board of Commissioners. No second to the motion was received.

Motion (Wilson-Ratsavong) to adopt Resolution No. 1608 to nominate Brendan May for appointment to fill the vacancy on the Board of Commissioners, Ward 7.

Ms. Ratsavong wished to recognize Ms. Thomas' qualifications and her volunteerism but stated her belief that Mr. May is equally qualified and that she intends to vote for Mr. May to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Lee noted that the Township is fortunate to have four highly qualified individuals willing to serve on the Board of Commissioners.

Vote on Mr. Wilson's motion to adopt Resolution No. 1608 to nominate Brendan May: 4-1 (Cobb opposed). The motion carried.

Motion (Cobb-Ratsavong) vote 5-0 to amend the Springfield Township Personnel Policy Manual to observe the Juneteenth holiday, as well as a modified work schedule from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The Juneteenth holiday will be observed annually on June 19, and the modified work schedule will require employees to work one additional hour weekdays from Monday through Thursday, and from 8 AM to 11:30 AM Friday. The changes apply only to those employees who are not represented by a collective bargaining agreement.

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, May 22, 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-Wilson) vote 5-0 to authorize the Township Solicitor to attend the May 22, 2023 meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board with respect to the application submitted by Robertson & Ferry, LP involving the property located at 1301 Mermaid Lane, and any subsequent meetings involving the subject property, in order to oppose the multiple variances that have been requested in order to permit a snowplow equipment storage/contractor yard to operate at the premises, which is located in the B Residential Zoning District.

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

Motion (Ratsavong-Wilson) vote 5-0 to reappoint Kerry Boccella to a new, three-year term of service as a member of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee. Mrs. Boccella's new, three-year term of service shall expire May 12, 2026.

In addition, at the recommendation of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, the Board of Commissioners created a non-voting student representative position on the Parks & Recreation, and Recreation Center Advisory Committees. The purpose of adding a student-representative to the committees is to offer a youth perspective to new and existing programs and recreational needs.

Motion (Ratsavong-Wilson) vote 5-0, to appoint Asher Dahlgren, Wyndmoor, as a non-voting student representative to the Parks & Recreation and Recreation Center Advisory Committees. Master Dahlgren is presently a sophomore at Springfield Township High School and shall serve on both committees through his senior year.

Motion (Ratsavong-Standish) vote 5-0, to grant permission to the Arthur V. Savage American Legion Post of Wyndmoor to utilize Veterans Park for a community day event following the annual Memorial Day Parade, and to serve beer at the park as part of the event. The permission is granted subject to the following: (1) the American Legion Post shall secure a permit for the use of the park, (2) the American Legion Post shall hire a police detail to be at the park while beer is served, and (3) the American Legion Post shall secure an insurance rider for the day's events naming Springfield Township as an additional insured.

Ms. Ratsavong announced that the Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, May 29, 2023 and will begin at 9:30 AM at the American Legion Post on Elm Avenue and Willow Grove Avenue. Following the parade, a remembrance ceremony will be held at 11 AM at the Veterans Park Memorial Area along Willow Grove Avenue. The Community Day activities will be held from approximately 11:45 AM to 3 PM at Veterans Park.

Ms. Ratsavong noted that the Arthur V. Savage American Legion Post and the Wyndmoor Hose Company recently sent out their annual fundraising letters and encouraged residents to make donations to both organizations.

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment.

Robert Gillies, Glenside, thanked the Board for the opportunity to be considered for appointment to fill the vacancy on the Board of Commissioners, Ward 7. Mr. Gillies stated his appreciation for Mr. Cobb's statements with regard to how he wished the Board would proceed with an appointment.

Jane Thomas, Oreland, thanked the Board for the opportunity to be considered for appointment to fill the vacancy on the Board of Commissioners, ward 7. Ms. Thomas congratulated Mr. May on his appointment and thanked Mr. Cobb for advocating on her behalf.

Brendan May, Wyndmoor, thanked the Board for appointing him to fill the vacancy as a Commissioner of Ward 7. Mr. May stated he is honored to be given the opportunity to serve the community and that he agreed with many of Mr. Cobb's comments with regard to bipartisanship and the need to bring the community together.

Asher Dalhgren, Wyndmoor, a Springfield Township High School student, thanked the Board for appointing him to serve as the student representative on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and the Rec Center Advisory Committee.

Motion (Wilson-Ratsavong) vote 5-0 to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor  
Manager/Secretary