

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, February 8, 2006 at 8:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building for the purpose of transacting the general business of the Township. All members of the Board were present, with the exception of Ms. Peirce. Mr. Standish presided. Mr. Standish opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Gillies-Dailey) 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. Standish noted that Ms. Peirce was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment. Mr. Standish also acknowledged the presence of former Commissioners Robert McGrory and Jane Roberts in the audience.

Mr. Standish announced that as part of the regular business meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Board would conduct a meeting to consider amending the 2006 budget. At the conclusion of the regular business meeting, the Board would also conduct a public hearing to present the Springfield Township Open Space Plan and receive comment on same.

Roy Roberts, 1106 Churchill Road, addressed the Board. Mr. Roberts acknowledged the urgency in resolving the issue of management of the Flourtown Country Club, and asked that the Board of Commissioners also consider reviewing the assets of the Club on a broader basis, instead of just a golf course, swimming pool and banquet facility. Mr. Roberts discussed other outdoor recreational uses, senior/teen center, facility for clubs and activities, and maintaining other memberships to the country club that are not necessarily swimming or golf. Mr. Roberts also outlined his thoughts on how to move forward with studying potential other uses for the club. Mr. Roberts presented his written comments to the Board.

Jim Kuriger, 1521 Lucon Road, asked that the Board of Commissioners move forward with making future plans for the Flourtown Country Club. A great deal of money has been lost by the operator and the Township as a result of the delays. The delays have also adversely affected the social activities of the existing members of the club.

Alan Reeves, 2103 Fairwold Lane, suggested not only the standard parks should be reviewed or be given consideration as part of the Park and Recreation Master Plan, but all recreational facilities should be reviewed and it should be an ongoing evaluation. Mr. Standish indicated that the Board of Commissioners is nearing completion of a Request for Proposals in order for the Township to secure a professional to help create a comprehensive plan for the Township's parks. The RFP will also include a survey of the Township residents. Residents are welcomed to comment on the draft RFP.

Janice McGreen, 110 West Wissahickon Avenue, called to the Board's attention to a recent editorial in the Springfield Sun wherein the writer asks that the Commissioners keep the interest of the residents in mind as they perform their duties. Ms. McGreen also suggested that handicapped access to the Flourtown Country Club should be an important facet of any improvements at the Club.

Denise Quigg, 8718 E. Willow Grove Ave., suggested the Flourtown Country Club is an important feature for both young children and mothers within the community and that the community needs more activities for the children.

Joe Ruggieri, 201 Spruce Road, remembered the existence of a 32 lane bowling alley in Flourtown during the 1960s and suggested such a use was a good activity for both children and adults.

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

Motion (Standish-Schaum) carried unanimously to approve the January check reconciliation in the amount of \$408,099.90 and the February bill listing in the amount of \$498,586.19.

Mr. Standish announced that the Board of Commissioners is accepting letters of interest or resumes from residents who are interested in serving as members of the following advisory committees: Zoning Hearing Board, Planning Commission, Library Board, and Open Space Planning Committee.

Motion (Standish-Dailey) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1128, a resolution creating a volunteer position within the Board of Commissioners known as a legislative liaison.

At this point, Mr. Standish indicated the Board would hold a short special public meeting to consider amendments to the 2006 budget. Mr. Standish announced that the special meeting was being held in accordance with the Sunshine Law, Act 84 of 1986, as amended, and Section 1701.1 of the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code. The purpose of the special meeting was for the Board of Commissioners to consider amending the 2006 budget of Springfield Township.

The legal requirements associated with conducting the meeting, and amending the 2006 budget were met by publishing a notice of the special meeting in the Springfield Sun issue of January 19, 2006, as well as posting the notices in the Township Building and Library.

Mr. Standish summarized the budget status which included the existing 2006 millage rate of 3.440 mills with gross real estate tax receipts estimated at \$4,316,326. The Commissioners discussed reducing the real estate tax millage for 2006 as low as 3.121 mills. A reduction of approximately \$392,000 would be satisfied by re-allocating that sum

of money from unanticipated earned income tax receipts from 2005. The 2006 operating budget would remain as adopted at \$16,140,599.

Jane Roberts, 1106 Churchill Road, stated her understanding of additional receipts from 2005, but suggested that the Township maintain the funds and earmark the funds to help reduce the pension fund liability as a result of the pension fund fraud.

Steve Neuffer, 233 Integrity Avenue, suggested the Board of Commissioners allocate the additional money to the police pension fund.

Commissioner Gillies suggested that the Board of Commissioners previously discussed the additional receipts during the last quarter of 2005, but wanted to better understand the total budgetary picture at year's end. He noted that the capital reserve account has grown over the years and the Township can pay back the pension fund loss over time as opposed to in a lump sum. Mr. Gillies hoped the Board would provide consideration of how these revenues might help reduce the real estate taxes in 2006.

Mr. Dailey agreed with Mr. Gillies' earlier comments, and suggested the approximately \$50 savings is meaningful to many Township residents. He also suggested the Commissioners have known about the possibility of having to make a payment to the pension plan for some time.

Mr. Harbison suggested that the liability to the Township pension plan is in excess of \$500,000. He also took the time to explain the Court process to help recover the stolen pension funds. He would like to give due consideration to placing the money in capital reserve for future capital improvement projects. He did appreciate the good discussions held by the Board of Commissioners on this issue.

Ms. Lunn suggested the matter before the Board is weighing returning between \$25 and \$50 per household or eliminating a \$500,000 debt. She believes it appropriate to eliminate the liabilities than to return the tax dollars.

Motion (Gillies-Dailey) to reduce the 2006 real estate tax millage rate to 3.121 mills. Vote in favor Gillies, Dailey, Schaum. The motion did not carry.

Motion (Dailey-Gillies) to reduce the 2006 real estate tax millage to 3.249 mills, thereby reducing the taxes with approximately 60% of the 2005 surplus, and allocating 40% of the surplus to reduce the pension fund liability. Vote in favor Gillies, Dailey, Schaum. The motion did not carry.

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

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously to amend the Springfield Township Code Section 107-24 Schedule I, Speed Limits, by establishing a 25 MPH speed limit on Pine Road from Mermaid Lane to East Willow Grove Avenue.

Motion (Schaum-Dailey) carried unanimously to amend the Springfield Township Code Section 107-28 Schedule V, Stop Intersections, by authorizing the installation of a stop sign on Valley Lane in a southeasterly direction at Summit Valley Lane, as well as on Valley Lane traveling in a northwesterly direction at its intersection with Quill Lane.

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously to amend the Springfield Township Code Section 107-26 Schedule III, One Way Streets, by establishing one way traffic on Bells Mill Road in an easterly direction, from Bethlehem Pike to Paper Mill Road.

Mr. Gillies, Chairman of Library Committee, reported:

Mr. Gillies announced that the regularly scheduled meeting of the Library Board of Directors has been rescheduled from February 20, Presidents Day, to February 13, 2006 at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held in the Springfield Township Building.

Mr. Gillies suggested he hopes that the Board of Commissioners has as much difficulty in taking \$50 from the taxpayers as it has giving back \$50 to the taxpayers.

Ms. Lunn, Chairwoman of Community Development and Environmental Resources Committee, reported:

Ms. Lunn announced that during the month of January 2006, Springfield Township residents recycled 240.9 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 72.8%. The net cost for the month was \$3,874.48.

Motion (Lunn-Gillies) carried unanimously to authorize letters be sent to Springfield locally elected State officials requesting that they provide a more clear definition of the word "regular" as it relates to the proposed requirement that municipalities provide for regular collection and recycling of yard waste as set forth in House Bill 1902.

Ms. Lunn announced that the Board of Commissioners recently received a letter of resignation from Gerry Birkelbach as a member of the Township Planning Commission. Mr. Birkelbach served in excess of seven years, and the Board of Commissioners thanked him for dedicating his time and talents to the betterment of the community.

Motion (Lunn-Dailey) carried unanimously to reappoint John Schaeffer and Chris Tomlinson to new four year terms of service as members of the Springfield Township Planning Commission. Their new terms of service shall expire February 16, 2010.

Ms. Lunn reported on behalf of Ms. Peirce, Chairwoman of Communications and Cultural Resources Committee:

Motion (Lunn-Schaum) carried unanimously to waive the requirement to install a fire suppression system as set forth in Section 13-6-B(2)(ix) of the Springfield Township Building Code, in a proposed park pavilion to be built at Laurel Beech Park. In lieu of the fire suppression system, the Township shall install a fire and burglar alarm system within the building.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Motion (Dailey-Gillies) vote 5-1, Lunn opposed, to approve the land development plan of Beneficial Savings Bank, 1311 Bethlehem Pike, dated June 6, 2005, last revised November 18, 2005. The subject of the land development includes the demolition of the existing structure on site and the reconstruction of a banking facility. The approval of the land development included the following conditions: (1) that a note be added to the plan that the land area between the legal right of way and the ultimate right of way has been granted to Springfield Township, and Springfield Township may accept the land grant at its discretion, (2) that a note be added to the plan that the exit onto Bethlehem Pike is limited to right turns only, (3) that Beneficial will fulfill the representations made to the Township Planning Commission with regard to their architectural improvements to the proposed structure, and (4) that the five waivers to Chapters 95 and 89 of the Springfield Township Code related to landscape improvements and off street parking are granted. Township staff was directed not to record the land development plans until such time as Beneficial provides for a lot consolidation plan for this property.

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board is rescheduling their February meeting from February 20, Presidents Day, to February 27, 2006 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Dailey summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda.

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

Motion (Harbison-Gillies) vote 5-0-1, Mr. Dailey abstained, to authorize the commencement of negotiations for a future lease and security agreements, and to work cooperatively to secure a new Liquor Control Board license, with Joseph Halligan, Brian Halligan and Kevin Lawn, based on their proposal to operate the Flourtown Country Club dated June 8, 2005 and supplemented by a letter dated July 22, 2005.

Motion (Harbison-Lunn) vote 5-0-1, Mr. Dailey abstained, to enter into an independent contractors agreement with Angelo DiCandilo, providing for Mr.

DiCandilo to manage the Flourtown Country Club commencing on January 1, 2006 and ending on March 31, 2006. The contract may be extended on a month to month basis via mutual consent by the parties.

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1129, a resolution authorizing the execution of an intergovernmental cooperation agreement in order that Springfield Township may participate with other communities of the Montgomery County Consortium of Communities to negotiate a model agreement with Verizon for Verizon to provide cable services in Springfield Township.

Mr. Dailey provided an explanation why he needed to abstain from voting on matters of business related to the Flourtown Country Club. He noted that he is assigned to work as counsel to the Liquor Control Enforcement Agency of the Pennsylvania State Police and therefore has to remain clear of any appearance of a conflict of interest associated with the liquor license at the Flourtown Country Club.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary