

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, October 11, 2006 at 8:25 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. Standish presided. Mr. Standish opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) 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 acknowledged the presence of past Commissioners McGrory and Roberts in the audience.

Mr. Standish announced that at last month's meeting, Kimberly Freimuth, counsel for Suzanne Nolde, 7602 Pine Road, outlined stormwater drainage issues on the Nolde property which Ms. Nolde believes is the Township's responsibility to resolve. The Township Engineer reviewed the conditions and provided a report to the Board of Commissioners and Township Solicitor on her observations. The Township Solicitor opined that there were no statutes or case law that would indicate the Township has any responsibility in resolving the drainage issues on the Nolde property. Mr. Standish indicated that, even though the Township was not going to pay for drainage improvements in this area, if Ms. Nolde believes the Township Engineer could provide some guidance, she should make contact with the Township Engineer.

An announcement was made that at the conclusion of the business meeting, the Board would conduct two public hearings. One hearing was to consider amending the Springfield Township Comprehensive Plan. The second public hearing was to consider amendments to the Subdivision and Zoning Chapters of the Springfield Township Code.

Ms. Freimuth addressed the Board and indicated that she was not aware that she should appear at the business meeting, and would have hoped that the Township Engineer and Ms. Nolde's engineer might have met to discuss resolution of the drainage problem. She also would have liked to discuss the matter with the Township Solicitor, but asked for a copy of his written opinion with regard to the drainage conditions. Ms. Freimuth asked that at a minimum the Township maintain the street clean in order that debris not wash onto the Nolde property.

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

Motion (Standish- Harbison) carried unanimously to approve the September check reconciliation in the amount of \$590,220.71 and the October bill listing in the amount of \$804,084.26.

An announcement was made that the Board of Commissioners would meet according to the following schedule to adopt the 2007 budget:

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|---------------------|----------|---------|
| Budget Workshop | 10/25/06 | 7:00 PM |
| Budget Presentation | 11/8/06 | 8:00 PM |
| Budget Hearing | 12/13/06 | 8:00 PM |
| Budget Adoption | 12/19/06 | 8:00 PM |

All meetings will be held in the Springfield Township Building.

Motion (Standish-Harbison) carried unanimously to accept the terms of engagement set forth in a letter dated October 5, 2006 from Cynthia R. Bergvall, CPA, Township Auditor, to audit the financial statements of Springfield Township for year ending December 31, 2006.

Motion (Standish-Gillies) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1139, a resolution directing the distribution of State pension fund aid to the three Township pension plans. The allocation formula to distribute the aid was determined by the pension fund administrator. The total funds received from the Commonwealth were \$290,321.11.

Mr. Standish stated that in an effort to make the workshop meetings more efficient, the Board has established a process by which to accept public comment at the beginning of each meeting. The Board will also adopt Common Meeting Rules for decorum of conducting the public meetings.

Motion (Standish-Peirce) carried unanimously to adopt the Common Meeting Rules dated October 9, 2006. Copies of the Rules were made available for those interested.

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

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously to amend the Springfield Township Code Section 107-28 Schedule V, Stop Intersections, by authorizing the installation of a stop sign on Flourtown Avenue in a northwesterly direction at its intersection with Gravers Lane.

Mr. Harbison asked if the intersection could be posted as an "all-way" stop intersection.

Mr. Schaum paid tribute to the passing of John Spencer, a member of the Flourtown Fire Company. Mr. Schaum referred to Mr. Spencer as a true friend of Springfield Township, outlined his years of service in the fire company, identified the

rank and positions he held within the fire company, and most importantly noted Mr. Spencer's keen sense of humor.

Mr. Gillies, Chairman of Library Committee, reported:

Mr. Gillies announced that the Board of Commissioners received a letter dated September 19, 2006 from B. J. Neary tendering her resignation as a member of the Board of Directors of the Free Library of Springfield Township. Mr. Gillies thanked B.J. Neary for several years of service as a member of the Board of Directors. Mr. Gillies then announced that the Board would accept letters of interest or resumes from residents interested in serving on the Library Board of Directors.

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

Ms. Lunn announced that Springfield Township residents recycled 218.4 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 76.9%. The net cost for the month was \$5,110.88.

Ms. Lunn also announced that residents are encouraged to place leaves and all yard and garden debris in the approved biodegradable paper bags for collection on their regular refuse collection day. Once collected, the leaves will be composted and made available as useful garden mulch next Spring. Ms. Lunn outlined the cost savings to the Township for conducting such a program and identified locations where the biodegradable bags are sold.

Motion (Lunn-Gillies) carried unanimously to accept a letter dated October 9, 2006 from Michael W. Cassidy, Esq., counsel for the Danny Jake Corporation, extending the 90 day subdivision plan review period until November 9, 2006 for the Danny Jake Corporation subdivision. The subject subdivision is also known as the Boorse tract.

Motion (Lunn-Peirce) carried unanimously to authorize the advertisement of a public hearing and zoning ordinance amendment to the AAA Residential zoning district. The public hearing will follow the regular business meeting on November 8, 2006. The Township and County Planning Commissions have been working with the prospective owner of the Pizek property on Pennsylvania Avenue related to a development proposal for the subject property.

Mr. Gillies asked the Township Solicitor whether counsel for the Pizek property rescinded their recent letter. Mr. Kilkenny indicated that the attorney truly appreciates the direction that the Board of Commissioners is taking with regard to their proposal.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board would next meet on October 16, 2006 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Dailey summarized the Zoning Hearing Board agenda.

With regard to the Agans petition, 517 Haws Lane, Mr. Dailey inquired of the Board whether the Board was interested in opposing the petition or creating a record to place conditions on the proposal. Various members of the Board indicated their interest in the Agans meeting with the Township subsequent to the last hearing. That meeting did not take place.

Motion (Dailey-Harbison) carried unanimously that the Board of Commissioners authorize the office of the Township Solicitor to appear before the Zoning Hearing Board in opposition to the petition of the Agans, 517 Haws Lane, for a variance to construct a 50' x 30' accessory building at their residence.

Mr. Peirce, Chairwoman of Communications and Cultural Resources Committee, had no report.

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

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to enact Ordinance No. 879, an ordinance establishing a street degradation fee. Mr. Harbison explained the purpose of such a fee.

Motion (Harbison-Peirce) carried unanimously authorizing the sale of miscellaneous used equipment at public auction. Mr. Harbison outlined the various pieces of used equipment to be sold.

Mr. Haribosn provided a brief background on the establishment of relief associations for volunteer emergency management personnel. Mr. Harbison also noted that since Commissioner Schaum participates in the Firefighters Relief Association, he has abstained from all business related to the Firefighters Relief Association as it has come before the Board.

Motion (Harbison-Peirce) vote 6-0-1, Mr. Schaum abstained, to transfer \$167,814 to the Firefighters Relief Association.

Mr. Gillies asked Mr. Harbison to clarify his thought when he spoke to the eligibility of the two associations to receive funding that perhaps Mr. Harbison wished to use the word "qualified" as opposed to "entitled" to the funding. Mr. Harbison agreed.

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to allocate \$12,585 to the Ambulance Relief Association.

Mr. Harbison noted that both of the aforementioned appropriations equate to \$839 per volunteer member of each of the two Relief Associations.

Ms. Lunn asked Ms. Peirce for a status report on the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Peirce stated that the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee met and interviewed several professionals who are interested in helping the Township create the plan. The Advisory Committee appears to have agreed on which professional to select. This information is being provided to the State and the recommendation will be before the Board of Commissioners as a part of the November business meeting.

Marian Coopersmith, Hawthorn Lane, articulated her perceived difference between the local volunteer fire companies and the paid ambulance association, and asked whether it was appropriate for the Township to contribute to the Ambulance Relief Association. Mr. Harbison acknowledged her argument but stated that the assistance was being provided to the volunteers in order to help facilitate an ambulance service in Springfield Township. Mr. Harbison also talked about a general appropriation to the fire companies that has not previously been available to the Ambulance Association.

Robert McGrory, 501 E. Mill Road, reminded the Board of his interest to have access to the Solicitor's resume via the Township webpage. He also stated that Remington and Vernick is a past Township Engineer and he understands they put forth a proposal to design the streetscape improvements for Bethlehem Pike. He offered himself and former Commissioner Roberts as references for Remington and Vernick. Finally, Mr. McGrory congratulated the Oreland Fire Company on their recent award as State Champions at the Pennsylvania State Firefighters Equipment Competition.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary