

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, December 13, 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. Mr. Standish presided.

Mr. Standish stated that on December 12, 2006, the Springfield Township community suffered the tragic loss of life of Shane Halligan. Mr. Standish extended his thoughts and prayers to the Halligan family, and also thanked the emergency responders who responded to the tragedy at the Springfield Township High School.

Mr. Standish opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Hummel was present at the meeting and provided a summary of events surrounding the suicide that occurred at the Springfield Township High School on December 12, 2006. Mr. Berger took the opportunity to commend Chief Hummel for his efforts in taking command of the incident.

Fred Shilling, of the Oreland Lions Club, joined Commissioner Gillies and the President of the Library Board of Directors, Marian Rothbart, to present the Library with a check from the Oreland Lions. The Oreland Lions White Cane Day is a fundraising event that provides library materials for the sight-impaired.

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 acknowledged the presence of past Commissioner Robert McGrory in the audience.

Mr. Gutowski, Northwestern Avenue, expressed his hope that a landscape architect be a part of any firm appointed by the Board of Commissioners to design the Bethlehem Pike streetscape improvement project.

Motion (Gillies-Schaum) carried unanimously to approve the November check reconciliation in the amount of \$813,852.80, and the December bill listing in the amount of \$1,926,664.39.

Mr. Standish announced that the Board of Commissioners would conduct a special meeting to adopt the 2007 Township Budget on December 19, 2006 at 8:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building.

An announcement was made that the Commissioners had set the dates and times when the official agencies of the Township would transact their business. In summary,

all the agencies will maintain their current meeting schedule and location that exists in 2006.

The Board of Commissioners then conducted the 2007 budget hearing.

Upon conclusion of the budget hearing, the Board reconvened the business meeting.

Lisa Maldonado, 3 Golf View Drive, stated that in September when the Springfield Township High School was placed in a lockdown related to another gun incident, the school only provided one letter explaining the incident. With regard to the most immediate gun incident at the High School, she is awaiting communications from the schools. She asked what would be done to help prevent a future gun incident at the Springfield Township High School. Mr. Standish indicated that the Township cannot dictate actions to be taken by the School Board, but stated his understanding of her concern. Mr. Harbison suggested her thoughts might be best relayed to the School District Board of Directors.

Mr. Schaum, Chairman of Public Safety Committee, stated he had no official report, but wanted to commend the Township Manager and all Township departments as well as all outside agencies that responded to the tragedy at the High School. He noted that he had conversations with School Superintendent Nyiri, who also passed along her accolades for the assistance provided to the School District from the Township.

Mr. Gillies, Chairman of Library Committee, reported:

Motion (Gillies- Peirce) carried unanimously to reappoint Robert Gersteneker and Marian Rothbart as members of the Library Board of Directors for new three year terms of service. The new terms shall expire December 31, 2009. Mr. Gillies also announced that there was an opening on the Library Board, and while all residents were encouraged to express interest in serving in this position, the Board was particularly interested in a resident who has a background in fundraising.

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

Mrs. Lunn announced that Springfield Township residents recycled 301 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 75.8%. The net income or savings for the month was \$934.92.

Mrs. Lunn also announced that the Township Christmas Tree reclamation program would be conducted during the first three weeks of January 2007. Residents were provided guidance on how and when to place their trees at curbside for collection. The trees will be chipped and made into garden mulch for Township residents.

Motion (Lunn-Peirce) to engage Baker Engineering, of Horsham, and Carter VanDyke Associates, of Doylestown, to provide engineering and planning services for the Bethlehem Pike streetscape improvement project.

Mr. Dailey opined that both firms appeared qualified, however, he was concerned that these firms were provided an opportunity to reduce their costs, and other firms that participated in the bidding, were not provided the same opportunity. Mr. Dailey asked if there was a conflict between the engineering and planning designs who would be the lead agency. Mrs. Peirce stated that her desire to select the two aforementioned firms was not entirely financial, but she liked their comprehensive approach to the project. Mr. Gillies expressed his appreciation for the Gilmore Engineering firm, which is currently working on gateways to Bethlehem Pike for the Township and has demonstrated their savvy with PennDOT. Mr. Kilkenny stated that when a municipality bids professional services, such that the Commissioners are currently considering, the use of an RFP does not require them to select the lowest bidder, and indeed the Township can negotiate with the professionals. It was his opinion that the negotiations did not jeopardize the legal awarding of the contract. Mr. Dailey indicated that from his work with the Flourtown Erdenheim Enhancement Association, it was his understanding that FEEA believed that the Carter VanDyke firm could have extended greater good will with the group when completing their project. He also suggested that the Baker Engineering firm could improve their public outreach, which was demonstrated during discussions on recreation trails through Flourtown. Mr. Harbison believed that the Flourtown Erdenheim Enhancement Association Vision Plan was a good product that was produced principally by Carter Van Dyke. He was made aware of concerns as the project came to a conclusion.

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) to table the award of the contract for the engineering and planning of the Bethlehem Pike streetscape improvement project.

Mrs. Lunn suggested that the Board of Commissioners has had the proposals for some time and has discussed the proposals previously. She believes that waiting to award the contract was not in the public's best interest. Mr. Standish said that while he would like to move forward with the project, he would like an opportunity to assess the reduced meeting schedules, and other new information received by Baker Engineering and Carter VanDyke. The vote on the motion to table the award was 4-3 in favor. Mrs. Lunn, Mrs. Peirce, and Mr. Harbison were opposed.

Motion (Lunn-Gillies) carried unanimously to enter into a three year planning assistance contract with the Montgomery County Planning Commission for the County Planning Commission to provide general planning assistance as well as specified or structured assistance as set forth by the Board of Commissioners. The total cost of the engagement is split 50/50 with Montgomery County. The Township's financial requirement is \$28,476.

Motion (Lunn-Schaum) carried unanimously to waive the formal land development review process for the Vecchione land development, 31 Lynn Avenue, Oreland. The owner proposes to create multiple leaseholds on the subject property and install a storage shed on the industrially zoned property. The waiver is subject to all representations made by the owner at the November 21, 2006 meeting of the Springfield Township Planning Commission, and all representations made in the proposal dated October 6, 2006 as presented by Daniel J. Helwig, of Dan Helwig Inc. Realtors.

Motion (Peirce-Lunn) carried unanimously to appoint David Morris, Chairman of the Friends of Hillcrest Pond, as the ad hoc member on the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Mrs. Peirce thanked Mr. Cutler, the previous representative, for his service to the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee, but more significantly for the preservation and maintenance of the Hillcrest Pond.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of the Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board would next meet on December 18, 2006 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Dailey summarized the Zoning Hearing Board agenda.

Motion (Dailey-Harbison) carried unanimously to reappoint James Curtis to a new three year term of service as the alternate member on the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Curtis' new term of service shall expire December 31, 2009.

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

Motion (Harbison-Peirce) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1141, a resolution calling upon the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to undertake the repair and maintenance of all State highways and their appurtenances within Springfield Township at the sole cost and expense of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Harbison explained that without the authority of law, PennDOT is passing along the responsibility and associated costs of maintaining drainage facilities along State Highway to the local municipalities.

Motion (Harbison-Dailey) carried unanimously to engage PJJ Realty Advisors, of Erdenheim, to provide property appraisals in various forms for properties in the 300 block of Lorraine Avenue, 300 block of Oreland Mill Road, and one property on Integrity Avenue. The appraisals are in conjunction with a proposed drainage improvement project to benefit properties in the 300 block of Oreland Mill Road. The appraisals shall be conducted for a fee not to exceed \$10,000.

The Board of Commissioners then conducted a public hearing to consider a request by the owners of the Piszek property, on Pennsylvania Avenue in both Oreland and Fort Washington, to rezone their property from the existing “A Residential” to “AAA Residential” zoning district.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Board reconvened their business meeting.

Mrs. Lunn, Chairwoman of Community Development and Environmental Resources Committee, made two motions:

1. Motion (Lunn-Peirce) carried unanimously to adopt Ordinance No. 883, an ordinance amending the Springfield Township Zoning Map by rezoning the Piszek properties, on Pennsylvania Avenue, in both Oreland and Fort Washington, from “A Residential” to “AAA Residential” zoning. Mrs. Lunn described the two tracts of land by providing the Township tax map units and blocks for both the 6.07 acre tract of land in Oreland, and the 13.15 acre tract of land in Fort Washington.
2. Motion (Lunn-Dailey) carried unanimously to enact Ordinance No. 882, an ordinance amending the Springfield Township Zoning Code, by amending the permitted uses within the AAA Residential Zoning District, establishing a conditional use process, creating special regulations for tracts of land which are 25 acres or larger that provide a minimum of 75% open space, and providing building requirements and property boundary setbacks.

Mr. Gillies inquired whether setbacks to certain natural features of 75 feet are permitted to be reduced in half with certain conditions. Mr. Gillies was informed that his understanding was correct.

Mr. McGrory, 501 E. Mill Road, asked if Carter VanDyke has a registered landscape architect on staff as requested by Mr. Gutowski.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary

