

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2007 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 opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Gillies-Schaum) 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 that Mike Savona and Todd Eisenberg, both of the Township Solicitor's office, would be substituting for Mr. Kilkenny.

Joan Parsons, 1203 Susan Circle, addressed the Board. Ms. Parsons stated that she was upset to learn that Mr. Standish was to resign his position as Board President. She suggested that Mr. Standish worked hard for the people of the community. She hoped that the decision was not influenced by his political party and wished Mr. Standish well.

Mr. Standish indicated that he discussed the matter with Ms. Lunn and understood her interest in being President during the reorganization last year. He suggested that Ms. Lunn should be capable of the position and has experience running the Township meetings. He agreed that the change should not take place due to political reasons. Ms. Lunn expressed her appreciation for the kind words provided by Mr. Standish.

Mr. Gillies stated that it was a Township policy that the officers hold their positions for two year terms. To the extent the Board was changing the policy, some members of the Board were not made aware of the interest for the change. He indicated his appreciation for Mr. Standish's moderating manner for the Board but if the Board was interested in changing a policy, the Board should discuss same.

Ms. Peirce said that last year, when the majority party discussed the organization of the Board, they felt they had two good candidates for President and they discussed their interest in making the change at this time.

Mr. Schaum noted that the entire Board was not included in the planning process.

Mr. Dailey suggested his pleasure when selecting Mr. Standish as the Board President. It appeared to be the bridge for providing bi-partisan support on the Board. He too did not recall being included in the planning process with regard to the change in officers.

Mr. Standish said that he was indeed agreeing to the change in Board officers but did not recall the decision having been made last year. Mr. Gillies stated that when there is a proposed policy change, there is an opportunity for discussion and public comment. Mr. Dailey suggested he would like to hear from his constituents on this issue.

Ms. Peirce asked the Township Solicitor what type of comments were appropriate at a public meeting. Mr. Savona indicated that comments on the agenda are appropriate, but the public should not cast disparaging comments on a person nor should any personal comments be made. Mr. Savona then read from the First Class Township Code under the heading of Organization, and he opined that the selection of the President lies within the purview of the Board of Commissioners.

John Hoban, 114 Atwood Road, thanked Mr. Standish for his service to the Board of Commissioners, the Open Space Board and Township Planning Commission. Mr. Hoban inquired why Mr. Standish and the Board of Commissioners were making the change in leadership now. Ms. Lunn stated that some members of the Board discussed making the change after the election last year. She indicated that other Townships have also switched their presidency in years other than organization years. She believed this switch may provide different perspectives in leadership. Mr. Hoban asked why all members of the Board were not involved in the previous discussion, and spoke to earlier comments of the Springfield tradition of selecting a new President every two years. Mr. Harbison stated that prior to the newly elected commissioners being sworn in to office, the four majority commissioners or commissioners-elect met and discussed the selection of such things as the presidency and selecting other officers. Indeed their concern was that they not violate the Sunshine Law and have not discussed the issue since last year. Mr. Harbison indicated he is maintaining his promise to honor the earlier decision. Mr. Gillies asked if the Commissioners caucused on the issue of selecting a new President. Mr. Harbison indicated that the four majority Commissioners did not meet to discuss the issue.

Janice McGrane, W. Wissahickon Avenue, suggested that in December 2004, the Board made a policy change and rezoned the Tecce tract, and she did not believe the Board discussed that policy change well enough. Ms. McGrane indicated that Ms. Lunn is her Township Commissioner and she believes Ms. Lunn has done a great job.

Jane Roberts, Churchill Road, asked that the Board of Commissioners vote on the issue of the President. She noted that when she was a newly elected Township Commissioner, the then-seated board did not necessarily involve her in the business of the Township until seated as a Commissioner. It was her impression that the majority party decides on procedures such that is before the Board now.

Rob Ryan, Franklin Avenue, addressed the Board on behalf of the Friends of Historic Bethlehem Pike. Mr. Ryan stated that Kathleen Lunn has been helpful to the Friends organization. With regard to the Flouertown Erdenheim Enhancement Association Vision Plan, it was his understanding that the Board of Commissioners was not going to provide a comment and response section to the Vision Plan, and asked that

the Board of Commissioners reconsider their position in that regard. Mr. Savona stated that the Township is not a government agency that is required to provide a response to published documents. Mr. Harbison said he was not certain that the Board of Commissioners could provide a single answer to the comments provided on the Vision Plan. Ms. Lunn agreed to meet with Mr. Ryan in regard to his interest.

Denise McNamara, 18 Weiss Avenue, stated her disappointment in Mr. Standish's decision to resign his position as President of the Board. She would have preferred that he fulfill the two year term. She also asked if the democratic leadership would conduct this business in public.

Mo Feldman, 841 Andorra Road, stated his understanding that the majority party has the ability to make the decisions such as leadership of the Board.

Mike Sokel, Montgomery Avenue, thanked Mr. Standish for his leadership as the Chair of the Open Space Planning Committee. Mr. Sokel stated that he hopes Mr. Standish will continue on the Committee as the Committee has additional work to secure a significant grant for the Township. Mr. Sokel stated Mr. Standish was a good steady influence on the Open Space Planning Committee.

Jean Frissora, 328 Woods Road, thanked Mr. Standish for joining with the minority Board members when recently voting to reduce real estate taxes.

Howard Supplee, 105 Orlemann Avenue, did not believe it would be appropriate to change the Board leadership every year. He indicated that it takes a whole year for an individual to learn the position. He understands the need to make changes from time to time, however, this change might not be appropriate.

Joan Parsons, Susan Circle, readdressed the Board and apologized if she said anything poorly against Ms. Lunn. She stated that the constituents need to understand the reorganization prior to the Board voting on the issue.

Roy Roberts, 1106 Churchill Road, while attempting to think of a precedence in Springfield Township for making this change, he could not think of any. He did note that several years ago, the Speaker of the US House of Representatives indeed stepped down prior to the end of his reign as Speaker.

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

Motion (Standish-Harbison) carried unanimously to approve the December check reconciliation in the amount of \$122,090.14 and the January bill listing in the amount of \$603,533.45.

Motion (Standish-Lunn) carried unanimously to appoint Mary Ellen Alviti, 7-B Grove Avenue, Flourtown, as the Chairperson of the Springfield Township Vacancy Board.

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

Mr. Schaum announced that a second community meeting has been arranged to help with the healing process related to the December 12, 2006 tragedy in the Springfield Township High School. The presentation, entitled "Students and the Aftermath of Trauma", has been scheduled at the Springfield Township High School, on January 22, 2007 at 7:00 PM. The presenter will be Dr. Mary Margaret Kerr, of the University of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Gillies, Chairman of Library Committee, reported:

Motion (Gillies-Schaum) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1148, a resolution abolishing the existing Board of Directors of the Free Library of Springfield Township, establishing a new Library Department, delegating the supervision of the library operations to the Township Manager, establishing a library advisory committee, and transferring the current Library Board members as members of the new advisory committee.

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

Ms. Lunn announced that Springfield Township residents recycled 229.7 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 77.6%. The net cost for the month was \$4,488.83. Ms. Lunn also reviewed the year-end statistics for 2006, noting the number of tons of materials collected exceeded expectations by 4.4%, and the cost to operate the program was 14% under budget.

Motion (Lunn-Peirce) carried unanimously to award a contract to Baker Engineering, of Horsham, and Carter VanDyke Associates, of Doylestown, to provide engineering and planning services to the Township for the Bethlehem Pike streetscape improvement project. Details of the proposal and costs associated with the contract were provided. The total cost of the project is \$151,908.

Motion (Lunn-Peirce) carried unanimously to waive the formal land development review process for the Dugan land development, 905 Bethlehem Pike, Erdenheim. The subject of the land development is the construction of a second story addition over an existing portion of the structure. The addition will be used as an expansion of an existing business office. The waiver was granted in conjunction with a land development plan dated October 27, 1993, architectural plans dated December 6, 2006, and any representations made before the Springfield Township Planning Commission. The applicant will be required to secure a building permit and stormwater management permit.

Ms. Lunn announced that the Board of Commissioners accepted a letter of resignation from Lloyd Sturgeon, who, for personal concerns, resigned his position as a member of the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission. The Board thanked Mr. Sturgeon for his assistance in establishing the new Advisory Commission and for his previous service as a member of the Township Planning Commission. As a result of the resignation, the Board of Commissioners is soliciting any interested resident to serve as a member of the Township Environmental Advisory Commission. Ms. Lunn summarized the activities of the Commission and directed letters of interest or resumes be sent to the Board of Commissioners, c/o Township Manager.

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

Ms. Peirce noted that for the past six months, an ad hoc communications committee met and provided a series of recommendations for how the community may have better access to the government. Some of the recommendations include an updated interactive webpage and the rescheduling of Township meetings. The Board of Commissioners will discuss the recommendations received.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board will not meet during the month of January 2007, as the Board did not receive any petitions. The Zoning Hearing Board is next scheduled to meet on Monday, February 19, 2007, at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building.

Mr. Dailey thanked the Township staff for their assistance offered to him as a new Commissioner. Mr. Dailey noted he is now completing his first year of service as a Township Commissioner.

Mr. Harbison, Chairman of Public Works and Facilities Committee, had no report.

The Board of Commissioners then conducted a public hearing to consider an amendment to the Township Zoning Code.

Upon reconvening the business meeting, the Board conducted votes for the office of President and Vice President of the Board of Commissioners.

Motion (Standish-Peirce) to elect Kathleen M. Lunn as President of the Board of Commissioners.

Motion (Dailey-Gillies) to elect Baird M. Standish as President of the Board of Commissioners.

Motion (Dailey-Gillies) to elect Glenn A. Schaum as President of the Board of Commissioners.

Motion (Dailey-Schaum) to elect Jeffrey T. Harbison as President of the Board of Commissioners.

The vote on the motion to elect Ms. Lunn as President: in favor - Harbison, Peirce, Lunn, Standish; opposed Dailey, Gillies, Schaum. The motion was approved.

Motion (Lunn-Peirce) to elect to Baird Standish as Vice President of the Board of Commissioners.

Motion (Schaum-Dailey) to elect Robert E. Gillies as Vice President of the Board of Commissioners.

The vote on Mr. Standish as Vice President: in favor Harbison, Lunn, Peirce, Standish; opposed Schaum, Dailey, Gillies. The motion was approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary