

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, February 14, 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. Ms. Lunn presided.

Ms. Lunn opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Standish-Peirce) 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.

Ms. Lunn wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day. She also recognized past commissioners Robert McGrory and Michael Cassidy who were in attendance in the audience.

Police Chief Randall Hummel was asked to the front of the room and was joined by Commissioners Schaum and Harbison. Plaques were then presented to Cpl. Lee Allan and Officer Joe Boyle for actions taken on December 12, 2006 during a suicide at the Springfield High School. Both officers were commended for their bravery.

Special Report

Ms. Lunn announced that on or about January 19, 2007, a substance was introduced to the Mermaid Pond killing several hundred fish. Area residents, the Township, PA DEP and the State Fish and Boat Commission all responded. The Township continues to work with PA DEP to help identify the source of the pollution, but to date neither the source nor the specific toxin have been identified. The Board of Commissioners plans to refer the matter to the newly Created Environmental Advisory Commission for recommendations on how to avoid this in the future.

Mara Baird, 7709 Elm Avenue, addressed the Board and asked that the Board consider creating a protocol for the closure of the park.

Ms. Lunn, Chairwoman of Internal Affairs and Environmental Resources Committee, reported:

Motion (Lunn-Schaum) carried unanimously to approve the January check reconciliation in the amount of \$668,332.23, and the February bill listing in the amount of \$764,747.78.

Ms. Lunn announced that Springfield Township residents recycled 305 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 75.1%. The net cost for the month was \$947.42.

Motion (Standish-Peirce) carried unanimously to enact Ordinance No. 885, an ordinance that re-enacts the Township Realty Transfer Tax pursuant to Article XI-D of the Tax Reform Code of 1971. The ordinance authorizes the Department of Revenue of Pennsylvania to set and collect the tax, interest, and penalties. Ms. Lunn clarified that there was no change in the actual tax burden.

An announcement was made that there are vacancies on the Township Environmental Advisory Commission. The duties and responsibilities of the Advisory Commission were summarized. Residents interest in the Environmental Advisory Committee should forward a copy of their Resumes to the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Schaum, Chairman of Public Safety Committee, had no report.

Mr. Gillies, Chairman of Library Committee, reported:

Motion (Gillies-Schaum) carried unanimously to enact Ordinance No. 886, an ordinance formally repealing Ordinance No. 519, the ordinance that initially established the past Library Board of Directors. The Ordinance also creates a library department, and sets forth the duties of the new library advisory committee.

Mr. Gillies announced that there are currently openings on the Library Advisory Committee. The duties and responsibilities of the committee were summarized. Residents interested in serving on the Library Advisory Committee were asked to send a letter or resume to the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Standish, Chairman of Community Development Committee, reported:

Motion (Standish-Gillies) carried unanimously to waive the formal land development review process for LaSalle College High School, located at 8605 Cheltenham Avenue. The subject of the land development is the razing of an existing single story academic wing on the school's main building, and reconstructing a three story addition at this same location. The waiver was granted subject to the site plans dated November 6, 2006, entitled "McLean Hall Additions", and any representations made before the reviewing entities of the Township. The applicant was also required to secure the requisite building permit and, if applicable, stormwater management permit.

Motion (Standish-Harbison) carried unanimously to enact Ordinance No. 887, an ordinance regulating the placement and keeping of portable on demand storage structures.

Motion (Standish-Peirce) carried unanimously to reappoint James Mascaro to a new four year term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Planning Commission. Mr. Mascaro's new term of service shall expire February 16, 2011.

Motion (Standish-Peirce) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1149, a resolution endorsing a Community Development Block Grant application to realign the Paper Mill Road and Bells Mill Road intersection.

Motion (Standish-Gillies) carried unanimously to establish an ad hoc working committee to provide guidance to the Township and the engineering consultant on the creation of a master plan of streetscape improvements along Bethlehem Pike. The study committee shall include the following: (1) a representative from the following organizations: Springfield Neighborhood Association, Friends of Historic Bethlehem Pike, Flourtown Business Association, Flourtown Erdenheim Enhancement Association, (2) Commissioners Lunn and Dailey, (3) Michael Taylor, Asst. Township Manager, (4) Graham Gill, Erdenheim, (5) Nancy Story, Erdenheim, (6) Steven Lester, Oreland, (7) Joan Biddle, Whitemarsh Township, and (8) Eve Wildrick, Whitemarsh Township.

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

Motion (Peirce-Harbison) carried unanimously to establish a study committee to provide guidance to the Township and planning consultant on the creation of a park and recreation comprehensive plan. The study committee members include: (1) Alison Peirce, Township Commissioner, (2) Charles Carabba, Director of Parks and Recreation, (3) Jay Cohen or Gail Inderweis, School District, (4) Chris Tomlinson, Planning Commission, (5) Steve Griet, Soccer Association, (6) Leslie Talon or Alessandra Cartelli, Library, (7) Mike Lawrence, Parks and Recreation Committee, (8) Herb Luxton or Steve Davis, Little League, (9) Paul Schmidt, Environmental Advisory Commission, (10) Roy Roberts, citizen with senior distinction, (11) Toby Fleming, Jennifer Perry, and David Redfield, parental representatives.

Ms. Peirce announced that the Township is working with Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz to secure Federal appropriations for a project to install sidewalks at the USDA building on Mermaid Lane, and to dredge the Hillcrest Pond.

Mr. Schaum introduced Mike Lawrence, a member of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee, and the new comprehensive plan study group, who was in the audience.

Ms. Lunn also announced that she has recently researched some watershed grants that may be available to the Township.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board would meet on Monday evening, February 26, 2007, at 7:00 PM. Mr. Dailey noted that this is the fourth Monday of the month, as Presidents Day holiday will fall on the regularly scheduled meeting date of the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Dailey summarized the Zoning Hearing Board agenda.

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

Mr. Harbison announced that the Board of Commissioners received seven bids to rebuild the parking lot at the Flourtown Country Club and realign Chestnut Lane and McCloskey Road. The Board of Commissioners is going to take the next 30 days to review the bid documents prior to considering an award of the contract at their March 14, 2007 meeting. The base bid proposals range from a low of \$411,214 to a high of \$598,782.

Mr. Gillies suggested that it was not prudent to lose the month between now and March to consider awarding the bid due to potential construction conflicts at the Club involving the golf and swimming seasons as well as other scheduled events at the Country Club.

Mr. Harbison indicated that the lease calls for Township obligated work to be completed, but there is no time schedule included in the lease agreement.

Mr. Schaum noted that the initial project was considerably different from the current project in that the current project includes many improvements including public safety improvements. The Commissioners had set aside funds in the capital reserve account for improvements to the parking lot. Ms. Lunn suggested she was not aware that the cost of the project would grow to the extent it did, but she was glad that the project included models for the community in such areas as stormwater management and landscaping. Mr. Harbison indicated that he was not opposed to the project, but desired time to review the proposals. Mr. Standish suggested his interest in understanding the progression of how the project grew and what objectives would be accomplished by the increased project. He did understand that the capital reserve was available and believes it is important to maintain the Township properties. Ms. Peirce indicated that she may eventually approve the project, but she would like to take the time to understand the bids. She also expressed her appreciation for the Township being a leader in such areas as stormwater management.

Mr. Schaum suggested the construction schedule might be tight and asked whether the Board would consider holding a special public meeting to discuss the project and consider awarding a contract. Ms. Lunn indicated that she had a concern for scheduling a public meeting when the public has expectations about when the Board of Commissioners would normally conduct their business.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary