

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, August 22, 2007 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building for the purpose of transacting the general business of the Township. All members of the Board were present. Mrs. Lunn presided. Mrs. Lunn indicated that prior to the meeting, the Board of Commissioners met briefly in executive session related to a personnel matter. Mrs. Lunn suggested the meeting would be a combination of the monthly business and workshop meetings.

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

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) 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. Daily asked if Ms. Peirce could clarify her motion related to the future construction of phase III of the Black Horse Inn. Ms. Peirce said she would need to refer to her file from July. The motion was carried unanimously, with an amendment to the motion to accept the July 11, 2007 minutes pending the clarification on the motion for the construction of phase III of the Black Horse Inn.

John Borrell, 101 Lorraine Avenue, addressed the Board with regard to the renaming of the Oreland Park. Mr. Borrell indicated that his prepared statement was previously sent to the Springfield Sun, but after several requested amendments, he opted to simply read it at the Board meeting. Mr. Borrell explained his familiarity with both Mr. Axford and the Treml family. He indicated he was aware of the 1993 abuse allegations about Mr. Axford, noting there was a police investigation, but no corroboration of the allegations or trial. Mr. Borrell noted Mr. Axford's involvement with his children, his dedication to the large basketball league in Oreland, and several other athletic leagues throughout the Township. Mr. Borrell opined that the Township acted justly in naming the Oreland Park in honor of Mr. Axford's service given the facts as currently presented. He noted that there are two sides to every story, and Mr. Borrell wished to remember Mr. Axford for his community service.

Paul and Colleen Treml, 6015 Kingdom Court, Murrysville, PA, stated they returned to discuss issues raised at last month's meeting. Mr. Treml began posing questions to the Township Manager and Board of Commissioners. Mr. Kilkenny reviewed his earlier recommendation that the Commissioners and staff not comment on the issue at hand. Mr. Kilkenny further indicated that the Board of Commissioners is considering the appointment of special counsel to conduct an administrative investigation of the relationship between Joseph Axford, Springfield Athletic Association, a private basketball league, and Springfield Township over time. He stated the Commissioners are committed to protecting the children of the Township to the fullest extent allowed by law, while still providing a professional high quality recreation program for residents of all ages. Colleen Treml indicated her interest to understand why the Board and Township staff were directed by the Solicitor to not comment on issues raised. Mrs. Lunn indicated her interest in having a professional investigation of the situation. Mr. Kilkenny noted that the Board of Commissioners has met with the Tremls and the Board is currently considering hiring a professional to conduct an investigation of the

situation and to review policies. Township staff is working to remove the Axford website. The Tremls inquired why the 1993 information was not passed on to the Board of Commissioners before the rededication of the Oreland Park. The Tremls are interested in the relationship between Joseph Axford and the Springfield Athletics Association, and they are also interested in speaking to individual commissioners. Mr. Kilkenny suggested that all questions can be referred to him in written form and he will respond.

Linda Young, Hemlock Road, applauded the Board for considering the conduct of an investigation of the Axford/Treml situation. She inquired whether any future policies would be made available to the general public. She was assured that the policies would be made available.

Alice O'Neil, 1202 Greenhill Road, indicated that she did not know the Tremls or Mr. Axford, but heard about the topic discussed at last month's meeting, and she was curious as to why Mr. Axford would be permitted to return to his duties after one year given the allegations. Ms. O'Neil compared this activity to the activities of the Catholic Church. She was glad to know that a policy would soon be in place to help safeguard residents within the Township.

Paul Hamilton, a future resident of Oreland, indicated his deep concern when the faith of the youth is damaged by Township or school officials. Mrs. Lunn agreed with Mr. Hamilton and suggested that the future investigation will help the Board understand what previously occurred and what future actions must be taken.

Ms. Pat Treml Hoffman, Schwenksville, stated her observation that she did not believe the Board of Commissioners was interested in addressing the issues raised. Mr. Kilkenny indicated that that was not true, and that through personal and public conversations with the Board, all are interested in addressing the issue.

Liz Ann Rode, 509 E. Gravers Lane, thanked the Board of Commissioners for addressing a drainage issue on Spring Lane. Her property extends back to Spring Lane and the drainage improvements were placed adjacent to her property. Motion (Harbison-Gillies) carried unanimously to extend the existing river rock appearance along the entire Spring Lane frontage of the Rode property.

Lavelle Subdivision. The Township Engineer summarized several outstanding features of the Lavelle subdivision at 200 Lynn Avenue. The Township Manager indicated that the Township had received a letter extending the 90 day subdivision plan review period. Mr. Lavelle, who was present at the meeting, was encouraged to have the plans modified to address as many issues as outlined by the Township Engineer prior to next month's meeting.

Carlisle and Marshall Roads Drainage. Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to award a contract to Ply-Mar Construction Inc., for their low bid price of \$78,523 to install specified drainage improvements known as the Marshall and Carlisle Roads Drainage Project. The Township received two other bid proposals opened on July 24, 2007.

1100 Chestnut Lane. As a part of the zoning certification process, the resident at 1100 Chestnut Lane replaced the curb and sidewalk at the intersection of Chestnut and Haws

Lanes, and was required to do so compliant with Township specifications. The specifications include the installation of a truncated dome inlay for the sight-impaired. The resident was interested in the Board of Commissioners paying for the inlay. The Commissioners decided that this additional cost was an issue between the homeowner and her contractor, since the need was set forth in the Township specifications.

16 Whitemarsh Avenue. The most immediate past homeowner of 16 Whitemarsh Avenue was required to replace 3 damaged sections of sidewalk at this location as a part of the zoning certification process. The resident does not believe it met any of the criteria for replacement. The Board of Commissioners agreed with the municipal inspector and Township Engineer that there was a structural issue and the sidewalk needed to be replaced.

Thomas Road Construction. Mrs. Lunn asked if the stormwater facilities of the two new dwellings being built on Thomas Road were installed properly. Mr. Berger indicated he would contact the building inspector to be assured that the improvements are installed and maintained properly.

Mermaid Pond. The Board of Commissioners discussed in detail the notice of violation from PA DEP to the Metlab Corporation of Mermaid Lane, and Metlab's response to that notice, related to a January 2007 fish kill at Mermaid Pond. Mr. Kilkenny noted that the Township is not a party to the future enforcement action in this matter. Both Mark Podnog and Jim Conybear, Metlab, addressed the Board of Commissioners on the notice of violation from PA DEP. They both remarked on the assumptions made by the Department to link compounds stored by Metlab to the suspected pollutant in the pond. The gentlemen also addressed the interest of the Board of Commissioners in finding a cause and to avoid a similar situation in the future. They outlined past steps they have taken to help avoid future accidents. Mrs. Lunn agreed to contact Paul Schmidt of the Township Environmental Advisory Committee, to see if his past professional affiliation with PA DEP would help the Township understand any future actions of PA DEP in this matter.

Bethlehem Pike Improvements. Mr. Taylor explained the current status of various projects related to improvements along Bethlehem Pike. He indicated that the steering committee continues to meet to review progress of the special engineers engaged to manage the creation of a streetscape master plan for Bethlehem Pike. Mr. Taylor presented sketch plans of the improvements and described the improvements and their locations. The plan is to utilize the \$800,000 earmark obtained by Rep. Schwartz to construct streetscape improvements including pedestrian lighting, street trees, and other selected treatments, principally in two village areas. These areas are between Springfield Avenue and Wissahickon Avenue, in Flourtown, and Yeakel Avenue to Cisco Park in Erdenheim. The commencement of construction could begin as early as Spring, 2009. An effort will be made to help clarify the required match from Springfield Township. It is believed that the match is valued at \$200,000 however, it is not certain that in-kind services, such as engineering, can be included in that match. The "gateway projects" are further along in design and review. The three gateways to the Flourtown Erdenheim community will include new concrete sidewalks, lighting, benches, and gateway pillars. In some areas there will be stamped crosswalks, in other areas, simply a ribbon treatment in the roadway to catch the motorists' attention.

Motion (Schaum-Daily) carried unanimously that the Board of Commissioners adopt Resolution No. 1156, a resolution authorizing an agreement between the Board of Commissioners and PennDOT in order for PennDOT to manage the reimbursement of funds from the United States Department of Transportation related to the \$800,000 allocation for the Bethlehem Pike Flourtown-Erdenheim street enhancement project. An application is near complete for assistance through the LUPTA grant program. It is hoped that a grant will be received by the Township in order to secure professional planning assistance to help create a town village ordinance for Springfield Township.

The Board of Commissioners discussed a recent pedestrian accident on Bethlehem Pike near Weiss Avenue. There was some concern that a Septa bus and/or bus stop may have contributed to the accident. Mr. Berger will secure a copy of the accident report for review by the Board of Commissioners.

Black Horse Inn. Staff drew to the attention of the Board, the interest of the architect for the Black Horse Inn project to repair two floors within the building as a part of phase II construction. Initially, staff was supportive of the change, however, additional costs related to a radon collection system was drawn to the Township's attention. This work must be done prior to the installation of the concrete floor in the structure, therefore, consideration should be given to the radon project prior to the floor repairs. The Board of Commissioners agreed to a work change order #2, to include the repair of the floor over room #106, for \$2800, and the installation of the radon collection system for a cost of \$1800. Some members of the Board reminded all of their interest to clarify the minutes of the July meeting related to the origin of the 50% of funds that were to be secured in advance of beginning the third phase of the Black Horse Inn renovation project.

Open Space Plan Update. Mr. Standish indicated that the Township met with the Montgomery County Open Space Board this month, and reviewed the recommended projects from the Township. The County Board apparently did not appreciate the purchase of the two small properties on Oreland Mill Road in order to assist with a stormwater detention project. The County did like all the other Township projects, including the hopeful purchase of the School District bus garage, and the improvements of existing township parks. Ms. Peirce indicated that she was not necessarily interested in purchasing the small properties on Oreland Mill Road for the principal purpose of stormwater management. Mr. Standish agreed, but warned that if the money was not obligated, the Township is likely to lose the money, which is not acceptable. Mr. Daily volunteered to begin discussions with St. Philip in the Field Church on Oreland Mill Road related to the proposed stormwater detention project proposed for Oreland Mill Road. The Board of Commissioners also agreed to move forward with advertising the requisite public hearing for the adoption of amendments to the Open Space Plan which would include the purchase of the two small properties on Oreland Mill Road.

Flourtown Shopping Center. Staff was asked to follow up with the owners of the Flourtown Shopping Center to see if they might reschedule their parking lot sweeping to an hour of the day that is more suitable to a shopping center surrounded by residential properties.

Township Manager's Report. The Board of Commissioners reviewed the Township Manager's Report and discussed in greater detail the status of the financial review of the

Springfield Ambulance Association. Mr. Berger reported that the past payroll debts have been paid.

Flourtown Trail. Mr. Berger indicated he had contact with the Montgomery County Planning Commission who is working on a strategy to consider how to manage the future of this trail project. Mr. Gillies noted his concern for the height of the proposed retaining wall near the Flourtown Acme.

Cresheim Trail. The design consultant is in the process of establishing public meetings to review the current status of the Cresheim Trail. Mr. Daily asked if the consultant could provide aerial photographs of the trail in the vicinity of the Flourtown Gardens. He also asked if the liability issue for maintaining such a trail has been finalized.

Park and Recreation Comp Plan. Mr. Berger indicated that the invitation letters inviting the public to participate in a future survey of the park and recreation system have recently been distributed. The Board asked for a copy of the final letter.

Motion (Schaum-Harbison) carried unanimously approving the July check reconciliation in the amount of \$900,867.76, and the August bill listing in the amount of \$766,534.79.

Recycling Report. Mrs. Lunn asked if staff could double-check the values of the annual performance grant as it relates to the monthly value posted in the monthly recycling report.

RecycleBank. Mr. Berger indicated that he and members of staff met twice over the past month with new representatives of RecycleBank. Apparently, the original founder sold the business to a venture capitalist group. While the semi-automatic can dumping mechanisms have been improved in efficiency, they can only dump approximately 750 containers per day. The Township currently collects between 1000 and 1100 stops per day. Unlike the previous representatives of RecycleBank, the current representatives do not believe they can double the recycling weights or participation in Springfield Township, however, they do believe they can increase both the number of stops and weight per stop. RecycleBank also believes the Township might be in the position to sell their single stream recyclable materials as opposed to currently paying \$15 per ton to handle the materials. If the Township is successful in securing a grant for the specialized recycling containers, the net annual cost for the project will be approximately \$32,556. If a grant is not available, the annual cost will be \$118,956. The cost per household will range between \$4.52 to \$16.52 per year. It was the general consensus of the Board not to pursue this project any further at this time.

Springfield Avenue Parking. The Board of Commissioners was asked to consider authorizing permit parking on Springfield Avenue. Before doing so, the Board was interested in surveying all the neighbors to ascertain their interest in this program.

Truck Traffic. A resident of Queen Street requested that the police department enforce the weight limitations for vehicles traveling on Queen Street. The police department warns that almost all the roads listed as having weight limitations, including Queen Street, do not meet the current criteria by which the weight limitations can be maintained and enforced.

The Board prefers to utilize the current signage as deterrents rather than a strict enforcement and the possible loss of all the currently posted weight limitations.

Stop Sign. A resident requested a stop sign be installed on Churchill Road at Gladstone Road. The police department performed a study at this location and indicated that a stop sign is not warranted.

College Avenue Street Postings. A resident of College Avenue requested that College Avenue be posted a “No Thru” street. This resident also requested stop signs be placed on the “Y” intersection of College Avenue, as well as at its intersection with Schnell. The Township police department conducted a study of the request. The study indicated that none of the signs requested are warranted.

Fire Company Accountability Tags. The Springfield Township fire companies are in the process of unifying their accountability tag system. They requested the opportunity to use the Township seal on the new tags. Motion (Schaum-Harbison) carried unanimously to authorize the use of the Township seal on the new fire company accountability tags.

Motion (Gillies-Schaum) carried unanimously to waive provisions of Section 3301 of the Springfield Township Fire Prevention Code in order that North Hills Country Club may conduct a fireworks display at their property on Sunday, September 2, with a rain date of Monday, September 3, 2007.

Township Library. Mr. Gillies indicated that there is some discussion by the Library Advisory Committee to rename the library the Springfield Township Library, as opposed to the Free Library of Springfield Township. There is no action required by the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Gillies simply wanted to inform the Board of the current discussions. Mr. Gillies also noted that the library is planning a “Back to the Library” event to be held on October 4. This is to introduce the residents to the changes at the library and to try to encourage more use of the facility.

Jubilee Presbyterian Church. The aforementioned church currently located in Conshohocken is interested in converting an existing warehouse and office to a church use at 701 Pennsylvania Avenue in Whitmarsh. The applicant is currently in the process of petitioning the Whitmarsh Zoning Hearing Board and going through the land development process. Mr. Berger brought this matter to the attention of the Board of Commissioners in the event there is any interest from the immediate neighborhood. So far, neither Whitmarsh nor Springfield have received any comments from the general public.

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously to waive the formal land development review process related to the installation of a 764 sq. ft. patio to be utilized as an outdoor seating area at the Oreland Inn, 101 Lorraine Avenue. The waiver was subject to the applicant fulfilling all obligations represented to the Planning Commission, and those set forth in a letter dated August 8, 2007. Ms. Peirce asked if there would be an issue with noise given the outdoor seating area. Mr. Schaum indicated he did not believe so.

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously to waive the formal land development review process for the Wyndhill Professional Center, 8200 Flourtown Avenue, as it relates to

the relocation of a trash dumpster and the installation of a storage shed located in the southwesterly corner of the property. The waiver was granted subject to all representations made before the Springfield Township Planning Commission, and resolving any issues outlined in a letter dated August 8, 2007.

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously granting a three year extension to the waiver of the formal land development review process for Carson Valley School to maintain the two existing modular classroom structures on their premise. The Board of Commissioners was informed that the buildings were inspected and found to be in good order.

Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Daily reviewed the actions of the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board at their August 20, 2007 meeting.

8600 Block of Hull Drive. The Board reviewed the engineering report with regard to possible improvements of the stormwater system adjacent to the 8600 block of Hull Drive. There are currently no easements in the area and if facilities are built, it is suggested that the facilities be maintained as private. The Township Solicitor reminded all that there was no legal obligation to perform these drainage improvements. No decision was made with regard to moving forward with the project.

Motion (Lunn-Daily) to require the installation of sidewalks along the Bethlehem Pike frontage of 601 Bethlehem Pike pursuant to the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code. Motion (Daily-Schaum) carried unanimously to table the previous motion and to provide an opportunity for staff to contact the property owner and suggest that improvements to the area are necessary and consider other courses of action prior to requiring concrete sidewalk.

Consideration will be given to adopting Resolution No. 1176, a resolution honoring the life and service of Travis Manion, a graduate of LaSalle College High School, who recently lost his life in Iraq.

Douglas Road Speed Limit. The Board of Commissioners will review recommendations with regard to the posting of Douglas Road 25 MPH at the September workshop meeting.

Piszek Property. The Board of Commissioners agreed to conduct a public hearing as a part of the conditional use approval for the Piszek subdivision and land development. The public hearing will be held as a part of the business meeting in October. The Board of Commissioners can consider taking action on the proposal in October, but could also table action until November if there is a great deal of interest.

Building Permits. Mr. Gillies indicated that a resident recently complained of the high cost of a permit to replace a door. Since the value of a permit is based on cost of construction, the Board had no interest in changing the policy.

Mr. Gillies asked for any support that can be offered by the Board or Township staff to get the Willow Grove Avenue bridge reopened. Mr. Gillies reviewed that Sandy Hill Road was voluntarily closed by Springfield Township to help facilitate the reconstruction of the

Willow Grove Avenue bridge. The work on this bridge has not proceeded in a timely fashion, and needs to be rejuvenated.

Mr. Schaum asked if staff could look into why traffic barrels are still adjacent to the Route 309 expressway at the Flourtown exit. It was his understanding that there was an issue with a light on an overhead sign, which has been damaged for an extended period of time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.  
Secretary