

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in public meeting on Wednesday, October 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, with the exception of Mr. Dailey. Mrs. Lunn presided.

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

Motion (Peirce-Standish) carried unanimously to dispense 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.

Mrs. Lunn recognized the presence of former Commissioners Drezner, Roberts and Bradley.

Mrs. Lunn announced that in addition to the normal business meeting, the Board of Commissioners was going to conduct two public hearings. The first public hearing was related to the conditional use for the development of the Piszek property on Pennsylvania Avenue near Camp Hill Road and Oreland Mill Road. The second public hearing pertains to an amendment to the Springfield Township Act 537 Sanitary Sewer Service Plan in order that public sanitary sewer service can be provided at the Tecce tract, 9303 Ridge Pike. The Board of Commissioners plans to reconvene the public meeting after the public hearings. At that time, the Board of Commissioners can consider taking action on business related to the two public hearings.

Mrs. Lunn asked Teresa Buzniak, Chairwoman of the Springfield Community Day and 5K Run, to join Ms. Peirce at the front of the room to receive a certificate of appreciation. Mrs. Lunn summarized Teresa Buzniak's service over the past eight years to manage this event in the Township and outlined some of the activities that take place at Community Day. Ms. Peirce presented Mrs. Busniak with the Township's Certificate of Appreciation.

Frank Vitale (young man), 2213 Camp Hill Road, expressed his disappointment that the Piszek property would be considered for development. Mr. Vitale suggested that the Piszek property be preserved for open space or park use, as there is little park land available in his neighborhood. Mr. Vitale discussed the environmental benefits of not developing the Piszek property and the burden of additional traffic congestion he expects as a result of the development.

Mr. Kilkenny responded by stating that the Board of Commissioners may regulate development but cannot necessarily prohibit development. The Township can utilize its subdivision and zoning ordinances to regulate the development of property. Mr. Kilkenny did advise Mr. Vitale that the Township and developer are working with local environmental conservancy groups to help preserve portions of the Piszek tract as open space.

Joan Parsons, 1203 Susan Circle, addressed the Board. Mrs. Parsons expressed her disagreement with the Board of Commissioners conducting an outside investigation of the Axford/Treml complaint, costing in the vicinity of \$20,000. Mrs. Parsons suggested that the Township Solicitor's office probably has the expertise to conduct an investigation. She indicated that there are approximately 600 registered sex offenders in communities surrounding Springfield Township, and the money being spent on the investigation would be better spent to protect our children against those known predators. Mrs. Parsons believes that the underlying issue is between Mr. Axford and the Tremls and did not believe it appropriate to bring Mr. Berger, the Township Manager, into the issue. She indicated that she believed Mr. Berger always had the best interest of the Township in mind and his current record is impeccable. She also believes that after the upcoming election is concluded, the Axford/Treml issue will not be as much of an interest to the Commissioners.

Mrs. Lunn responded by stating that the office of the Township Solicitor recommended that they not conduct the investigation and that the Commissioners should consider utilizing an outside counsel.

Alice O'Neill, 1202 Greenhill Road, discussed her concern for the poor manner in which the Philadelphia Archdiocese investigated the allegations of child molestation by their priests. Ms. O'Neill read a letter she sent to the Archdiocese chastising the Catholic Church for simply relocating the known or suspected pedophile priests. In conclusion, she indicated her interest in conducting the investigation of the Axford/Treml complaint in order that there might be a better understanding of how to protect the children of the future.

Beth Drezner, 12 Terminal Avenue, stated that she believed it was appropriate for the Township to use taxpayers' money to investigate the Axford/Treml complaint. Ms. Drezner indicated that she read information that the Federal Government conducts investigations at a cost of over \$12 million per year. At a cost of \$20,000 locally, divided by approximately 7,000 homes, the cost would be approximately \$3.00 per residence in Springfield Township.

Sharon Littleton, 105 E. Wissahickon Avenue, asked that the Board of Commissioners consider installing a stop sign on Kopley Road at Wissahickon Avenue to help improve the safety of her immediate neighborhood.

Colleen Treml, 6015 Kingdom Court, Murrysville, directed questions to Mr. Kilkenny on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and Mr. Berger. Mrs. Treml inquired whether the current Board of Commissioners is aware of the 1981 charges against Mr. Axford for corrupting minors. If they were aware, she asked if they were made aware prior to the dedication of Oreland Park in the name of Mr. Axford. Mrs. Treml noted that she was not present at the September meeting of the Board of Commissioners wherein the Board of Commissioners decided on the scope of the outside investigation of the complaint. While Mr. Treml was present at the meeting, Mrs. Treml believed she should have received notice that the matter was going to be discussed by the Board of Commissioners. Mrs. Treml was interested in understanding why the Board of Commissioners would modify the scope of the investigation from previous discussions in which she participated. Mrs. Treml stated that she thought that

the Treml family would participate in the investigation. In conclusion, Mrs. Treml hopes that financing the investigation is not the only reason for the reduction in scope of the interviews.

Mr. Kilkenny responded by indicating that the Township posts its agendas on the Township web site as soon as the agendas are set. The Board recently created a policy that the minutes of meetings would not be posted on the web site until they are officially approved by the Board. With regard to the scope of the outside investigation of the complaint, Mr. Kilkenny indicated that the Board conducted a very lengthy discussion which involved Mr. Hugg, the selected counsel to manage the investigation. He noted that the debate on the scope of the investigation was public, and the recommendations that will come out of the investigation will also be public, however, the actual investigation itself will be held privileged. To the extent he did not communicate information to the Tremls, it was because he did not know what action the Board of Commissioners might take on any given subject. Mrs. Treml indicated her interest that the Board of Commissioners expand their investigation with Mr. Hugg to include Mr. Treml. Mrs. Lunn indicated that the Board of Commissioners could expand the scope of the investigation, but that the majority of the Board was not interested in doing so. Mrs. Treml indicated that the investigation should not be about Mr. Berger, but about the children. She reiterated her disappointment that Mr. Axford was permitted to work with children after the Township's knowledge of the alleged abuse, including the police investigation and Mr. Treml's polygraph. Mr. Kilkenny stated that neither the then Board of Commissioners nor Mr. Berger were provided access to the polygraph or the police report back in 1993-94. Mr. Standish stated that he was generally not opposed to Mr. Treml participating in the investigation, however, given the public and private meetings between Mr. Treml and the Board of Commissioners, and the documents provided by the Tremls, he was not convinced that there was anything more to learn by allowing Mr. Treml to participate in the investigation. Mr. Gillies opined that if the Board of Commissioners at the time of the complaint was not satisfied with the conclusion of the investigation at the time, then he assumed that the matter would have been pursued further, however, since it was not pursued further, the then Board of Commissioners must have believed the matter had been concluded, and all moved on from there.

Paul Treml, 6015 Kingdom Court, Murrysville, indicated that he was not likely to return to address the Board of Commissioners on this matter. He asked everyone to review the materials that he made available to the Township and the minutes of the meetings. He urged any victim of child molestation to contact him for his support. He hopes that all future decisions made with regard to this matter maintain the goal of protecting the children. In closing, Mr. Treml thanked the community for their support of him in this matter.

Mrs. Lunn stated her interest in having the broadest investigation as possible in an effort to help protect the children of the community. She hopes the Board of Commissioners might consider expanding the current scope of the investigation. Ms. Peirce agreed that the investigation was needed, and must be as complete as possible to help understand what occurred, and to hold those involved accountable for their decisions.

Jane Roberts, 1106 Churchill Road, stated that she believed the Axford/Treml complaint is a very difficult situation. She stated that she appreciates the service of Mr.

Berger as the Township Manager. She was uncertain how an agreement may have been made with regard to Mr. Axford's involvement in the athletic programs, and how it was changed over time. If indeed that occurred, that is a problem, and an effort should be made to prevent this problem from occurring again.

Denise McNamara, 18 Weiss Avenue, stated that if this matter before the Board did not involve Mr. Berger, then why is it that some Commissioners have discussed the matter for over one year. Mr. Gillies was asked about a letter wherein Mrs. Lunn had asked questions of Mr. Berger related to the Flourtown Shopping Center, and while answers were provided, Mrs. Lunn indicated that she did not trust the information provided. Mrs. McNamara suggested that the investigation should center on the creation of policies or procedures to help the Park and Recreation Department work with children. She also inquired why, if the Tremels left Springfield Township in the year 2000, and Mr. Axford had been at the basketball courts for years prior to 2000, why wasn't that drawn to anyone's attention.

Colleen Tremel addressed the aforementioned points and indicated that the last time this matter was discussed by the Tremels, the matter was not a very public issue wherein the matter was discussed with the Board of Commissioners, Township Solicitor, Township Manager, and the Tremel family. They were aware of the possibility of being found liable, and therefore, opted not to go to the newspapers with their information.

Mike Lawrence, 1202 Malinda Road, was concerned with the reputation of the Park and Recreation Department being tarnished. He believes the Township should move forward with clearing the coaches before working with the children through tests such as drug testing and polygraphs.

Rob Ryan, 6 Franklin Avenue, stated that he would like to understand the truths of the allegation, and would like to know the truths from the Board of Commissioners. He asked the following questions: when did the Board of Commissioners know about the Axford/Tremel allegations, and how does the Township vet the users of the Township facilities. Mr. Ryan stated that the Board of Commissioners must earn the trust of the residents. Mr. Schaum took exception to Mr. Ryan's accusation that the Board of Commissioners had not earned the trust of the residents. Mr. Gillies stated that the awareness of child abuse has changed over the course of recent history. If any conclusive information was available to the past Board of Commissioners, it would be a different matter before the Board than the allegations discussed to date.

Motion (Gillies-Schaum) vote 4 in favor, 2 opposed; Lunn and Peirce opposed, that the Board of Commissioners move forward with other business of the Township by beginning the Committee reports.

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

Motion (Lunn-Peirce) carried unanimously to approve the September check reconciliation in the amount of \$582,388.46 and the October bill listing in the amount of \$1,352,279.87.

Mrs. Lunn announced that Springfield Township residents recycled 210.8 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 68.9%. The net cost for the month was \$1,393.69. Mrs. Lunn also announced that earlier in the year, the Township received a recycling performance grant from the Commonwealth valued at approximately \$139,000.

Mr. Gillies provided a brief explanation of an incentive recycling program of RecycleBank. RecycleBank is a for-profit corporation that provides shopping coupons to individual households based upon their participation in the local recycling program.

Motion (Gillies-Schaum) carried unanimously that the Board of Commissioners authorize Township staff to revisit negotiations with RecycleBank without authorization to enter into a contract to help identify means by which the RecycleBank program might be implemented in Springfield Township.

Motion (Lunn-Gillies) carried unanimously confirming the adoption of Resolution No. 1157, a resolution honoring the life and military service of Lt. Travis Manion, who recently lost his life while serving in Iraq.

Mrs. Lunn announced the following meeting schedule through the adoption of the 2008 budget:

Budget Workshop	10/24/07	7:00 PM
Budget Presentation	11/14/07	8:00 PM
Budget Hearing	12/12/07	8:00 PM
Budget Adoption	12/19/07	8:00 PM

All meetings will be held in the Springfield Township Building.

Motion (Lunn-Schaum) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1160, a resolution directing the distribution of State Aid for the Springfield Township pension plans. The total distribution is \$311,019.93.

Mrs. Lunn announced that the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission is hosting the showing of a film "*Kilowatt Ours*", an entertaining and informative film about the consequences of our fossil fuel-powered economy.

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

Mr. Schaum stated that the Board of Commissioners was pleased to grant permission to the Flourtown Fire Company for Flourtown to provide equipment and a crew of five firefighters to be stationed on a stand-by status in an Upper Darby Township fire station.

Flourtown volunteered to provide this assistance in order that the firefighters from Upper Darby may attend the funeral of a firefighter who lost his life while fighting a fire.

Mr. Gillies, Chairman of Library Committee, had no report.

Mr. Gillies reported on behalf of Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee:

Mr. Gillies announced that the Zoning Hearing Board was scheduled to meet on Monday, October 15, 2007 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Gillies summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda.

Mr. Kilkenny asked for and received confirmation that the Solicitor's office was to attend the Zoning Hearing Board meeting as it relates to the petition of 9425 Stenton Avenue.

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

Motion (Standish-Schaum) vote 5 in favor, 1 opposed, Lunn opposed, that in compliance with Section 512.1 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, the Board of Commissioners waived the formal land development review process for the Schiff/Zemmel land development, 813 Bethlehem Pike, Erdenheim. The subject of the land development includes the installation of a full second story above grade and a 385 sq. ft. two story stair and elevator structure. The waiver was granted in conjunction with a site plan and stormwater management report dated September 10, 2007 and September 13, 2007, respectively. The applicants shall comply with all representations made before the Springfield Township Planning Commission, including the resolution of three conditions set forth in a letter dated September 19, 2007.

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

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

Mr. Harbison announced that beginning September 24, 2007, and continuing through the first week of December, all leaf and garden waste must be separated from regular household refuse. All materials must be placed in approved biodegradable paper bags or bundled and placed at the curb by 7:00 AM on the morning of the regular collection day. Mr. Harbison provided details on how the materials will be collected and where residents may purchase the biodegradable bags.

Mr. Harbison noted that the Board of Commissioners was considering the condemnation of the property at 1504 Paper Mill Road, which is located directly adjacent to the Township Building. While the Township is condemning the property, it is known as a friendly condemnation in that the property owner and the Township have worked together to make arrangements for the Township to purchase the property.

Motion (Harbison-Peirce) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1161, a resolution authorizing the condemnation of 1504 Paper Mill Road, and directing the Township Solicitor to prepare a formal declaration of taking to accomplish the condemnation.

Mr. Gillies asked for and received confirmation that the Board anticipates demolishing the existing structure on the property.

Motion (Lunn-Peirce) vote 3-3, Harbison, Lunn, Peirce in favor; Gillies, Schaum, Standish opposed, to expand the current scope of the Axford/Treml complaint investigation. The motion did not carry.

Greg Bell, 517 Meadow Lane, indicated that he knows all the parties involved in the Axford/Treml complaint, and asked if the Board could explain the investigation of the complaint. Mr. Schaum provided a general overview of the discussions by the Board of Commissioners and their decision to select an outside legal counsel to investigate the complaint and actions taken by the Board of Commissioners and Township staff back in 1993-94. Mr. Bell thanked the Tremls for their courage to come forward in this matter, both in 1993 and today.

Michele Lockman, 117 Chesney Lane, thought it was nice that the Board of Commissioners took time to recognize the service of an individual who recently lost his life while serving in Iraq, and wondered if there was something that the Township or community could do to help all those serving our country. Ms. Lockman also inquired as to how the Axford/Treml matter was drawn to the attention of the Township, and discussed clearance procedures available to help identify problems with those who might work with children.

Bill Supplee, 19 Bridge Street, stated that while some people at the meeting indicated that the 1993 Axford/Treml complaint was handled privately, he remembered reading some accounts of the complaint in the Springfield Sun back in 1993-94.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.  
Secretary