

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, January 9, 2008 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 Ms. Peirce. Mr. Harbison presided. Mr. Harbison opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) 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. Gillies noted a correction in the draft minutes that would reflect a vote was taken related to the reappointment of a member of the Zoning Hearing Board.

Mr. Harbison announced that he was elected by the Board of Commissioners to be the Board President at the organization meeting held on January 7, 2008. Mr. Standish was elected Vice President. Mr. Harbison congratulated Commissioners Schaum, Standish and Gillies on their reelection, and welcomed newly elected Commissioner Doug Heller to the Board.

Mr. Harbison indicated that Jeff Hoffman, a partner in the Solicitor's office, would substitute at the meeting for Sean P. Kilkenny, Township Solicitor. Mr. Harbison acknowledged the presence of past Commissioner Jane Roberts in the audience.

Mr. Harbison noted that the Board of Commissioners received a letter dated January 7, 2008 from Susan Yeager, of Willow Grove Avenue, requesting the assistance of the Board of Commissioners to help render the intersection of Stenton and Willow Grove Avenues a safer intersection. Ms. Yeager indicated that notwithstanding the ongoing speed and traffic enforcement by the Township Police Department, crashes regularly occur at this intersection. It was noted that this matter was brought to the attention of the Board of Commissioners and the Board discussed the matter at the workshop meeting on January 7. The Commissioners plan to take the first step in considering ways to make the intersection safer by requesting PennDOT to review the intersection and make recommendations accordingly.

Robert Ryan, 6 Franklin Avenue, raised the following questions: (1) the timing of the release of the Axford/Treml complaint investigation report. Mr. Ryan was told the report was anticipated on January 19, 2008. (2) When would the park use policy be made available to the public. Mr. Ryan was told the Board planned to consider aspects of the aforementioned report in formulating the final park use policy, (3) he was interested in a timeline of events as it related to the Axford/Treml complaint. Mr. Ryan was informed that the Board believed that timeline would be made a part of the investigation report.

Mr. Harbison announced the Committee assignments for the Board of Commissioners for the year 2008. The Committee assignments included the following:

Chairman, Internal Affairs and Environmental Resources Committee – Jeffrey T. Harbison
Co-Chairmen, Public Safety Committee – Glenn A. Schaum, Jeffrey T. Harbison
Chairman, Library Committee – Robert E. Gillies
Chairman, Public Works and Facilities Committee – Baird M. Standish
Chairwoman, Cultural Resources Committee – Alison M. Peirce
Chairman, Zoning Committee – James E. Dailey
Chairman, Community Development Committee – Douglas J. Heller

Motion (Harbison-Gillies) carried unanimously to approve the December check reconciliation in the amount of \$2,499,393.03, and the January bill listing in the amount of \$316,952.29.

Mr. Harbison indicated that the Board of Commissioners would not be taking up the business of appointing a Township Solicitor at the meeting. Mr. Dailey indicated that the appointment of the Township normally occurs at the organization meeting, and he indicated that due to concerns with past legal representation, some of the Commissioners asked that the Board consider interviewing firms other than the existing solicitor's law firm. The Board recently was informed that Mr. Kilkenny had secured other clients that may create conflicts with the business of Springfield Township. Mr. Dailey suggested that Springfield Township was a first class Township and deserves first class legal representation, which includes a seasoned solicitor. At the discretion of the majority of the Board, Mr. Dailey suggested that the Board consider interviews unless the Township can be assured that legal counsel will be available at both commissioners' meetings each month. Mr. Harbison acknowledged that some members of the Board were not comfortable with Mr. Kilkenny being available only one meeting per month and it was recommended that the Board consider Jeff Hoffman as the Solicitor for Springfield Township. Mr. Schaum clarified that Mr. Hoffman was an attorney within the same law firm as Mr. Kilkenny.

Motion (Dailey-Gillies) to interview two to three law firms within Montgomery County either utilizing or not utilizing a request for proposal as a full time solicitor with municipal experience. Mr. Schaum expressed his disappointment that Mr. Kilkenny would secure other clients knowing that there was a meeting schedule conflict with Springfield Township. He also asked if Mr. Hoffman might confirm the billing rate of the newly acquired accounts. The vote on the motion was 3-3, Harbison, Heller, Standish opposed. The motion did not carry.

Mr. Harbison announced that Springfield Township residents recycled 227.5 tons of materials during the month of December with a householder participation rate of 76.8%. The net cost for the month to conduct the recycling program was \$476.84. Mr. Harbison announced that in 2007, 25% of the household wastes were diverted from the waste disposal stream and into recyclable commodities. When yard wastes and Christmas trees were diverted from the waste stream and added to the household recyclable materials, the Township diverted approximately 30% of the residential waste materials from the waste

stream to be recycled or reclaimed. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Harbison congratulated all the households for their recycling efforts.

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

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously to authorize a letter be sent to the City of Philadelphia and PennDOT requesting that both entities work with Springfield Township to review the site conditions and recommend means by which the intersection of Stenton and Willow Grove Avenues might be rendered safer. The Board of Commissioners outlined four points they would like the City and PennDOT to consider. Mr. Harbison clarified the fact that PennDOT regulates the subject intersection, which is on the border of both Philadelphia and Springfield Township.

Motion (Schaum-Dailey) carried unanimously to extend a conditional offer of employment as a probationary patrol officer to Robert Baiada, 336 Broad Street, Harleysville, and a conditional offer of employment as a probationary patrol officer to Sean Badolato, 2016 Harmony Lane, Glenside. Both offers are conditioned upon securing satisfactory physical examination and psychological examination results. Messrs. Schaum and Dailey indicated the Board had the opportunity to interview four fine candidates for these two positions.

Mr. Harbison asked Mr. Schaum if he might summarize a recent training activity of the three Springfield fire companies and three visiting fire companies. Mr. Schaum indicated that the six fire companies had an opportunity to practice on a simulated structure collapse that was housed in a 24 foot trailer. The training exercise took in excess of four hours.

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

Mr. Gillies expressed his disappointment with Mr. Kilkenny securing additional accounts and recognized that this activity was also a business decision by his law firm. Mr. Dailey asked whether the library appointments conducted in December needed to be reaffirmed similar to the Zoning Hearing Board. Messrs. Berger and Hoffman explained their understanding that case law principally related to agencies regulated by the Municipalities Planning Code, and that outgoing elected Boards could not make last minute appointments to agencies such as the Zoning Hearing Board and Planning Commission.

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

Mr. Harbison indicated that the Cultural Resources Committee had no report.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board was scheduled to meet on Monday, January 28, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Dailey noted that the

meeting was rescheduled from the normal meeting night, with respect to the Martin Luther King holiday. Mr. Dailey summarized the Zoning Hearing Board agenda.

Motion (Dailey-Schaum) carried unanimously to reaffirm the appointments to the Zoning Hearing Board as follows:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Term Expiration Date</u>
Edward Fox	12/31/2010
Megan McDonough	12/31/2008
Daniel Clifford	12/31/2008
James Curtis (alternate)	12/31/2009

Mr. Dailey reviewed the need to reaffirm the appointments related to Pennsylvania case law.

Mr. Dailey noted, and was appreciative that Mr. Heller had an associate who reviewed the draft Township Park Use and Review of Adult Supervisors policy. Mr. Dailey noted that the request for proposal for special counsel included the drafting of such a policy with the assumption the Township did not have the skill set to create such a policy. He noted that the Township staff and Park and Recreation Advisory Committee were tasked to create the policy and asked why special counsel was needed. Mr. Harbison suggested that the draft policy could be amended based on comments received by special counsel. Following that, there will be an opportunity for public review of the policy.

Mr. Schaum asked if the policy was currently available for public review. Several members of the Board indicated the policy was not available for public review at this time, but would be made available soon. Mr. Schaum asked if he could secure input from an associate of his in a related field. Consensus of the Board was that would be appropriate.

Mr. Dailey asked for a status report of the Township's inquiry as to returning vital services to the Flourtown Post Office. Mr. Berger indicated that at the request of the Board of Commissioners, he contacted Congresswoman Schwartz' office who was also surprised to learn of the changes. Their office has made contact with the Postmaster General and asked that key services be returned. Mr. Dailey suggested that the three Flourtown and Erdenheim Commissioners make themselves available to Congresswoman Schwartz' office in this matter.

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

Motion (Heller-Schaum) carried unanimously to authorize the proper Township officials to execute the Cooperation Agreement with the Montgomery County Redevelopment Authority as it relates to a Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program appropriation for the renovation of the Keystone Hospice building, on Stenton Avenue in Wyndmoor. Mr. Heller provided an explanation as to the Township's involvement in this matter.

Mr. Harbison recognized Gail Inderwies, Chief Operating Officer of Keystone Hospice. Ms. Inderwies thanked the Board of Commissioners and community for their support in this project and other hospice operations.

Mr. Harbison thanked the Board of Commissioners for electing him as President. He asked that the public have patience with him as he becomes acclimated to his new responsibilities.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary