

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 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. Mr. Harbison presided.

Mr. Harbison asked all to join the Board of Commissioners in a moment of silence honoring the service men and women who have placed themselves in harm's way in order to help preserve our safety, and to keep the victims of the September 11, 2001 tragedy in our thoughts.

Mr. Harbison led 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.

Special Reports

Mr. Harbison reported on an inquiry made at the August business meeting. A resident asked that the Township enforce the "Thru Traffic Prohibited" signs that are posted on McCloskey Road and Chestnut Lane as the streets approach the Flourtown Country Club. Mr. Harbison noted that the signs are advisory, and not regulatory, and therefore, they cannot be enforced. These styles of signs are properly utilized to help curtail the use of private roads and private driveways such as those in the Flourtown Country Club. In a related matter, the Board plans to ordain the intersection of McCloskey Road and Chestnut Lane as a true stop intersection that can be enforced by the Police Department.

A resident of Haws Lane asked the Board to clarify the ownership of an abandoned right of way adjacent to his property. The right of way in question is a portion of the Flourtown branch of the Reading railroad. The office of the Township Solicitor reviewed the related law and reported that the legal principal that the land of an abandoned right of way reverts back to the abutting landowners is firmly entrenched in Pennsylvania law. The solicitor's office also clarified that there was no need for the adjoining property owners to take an affirmative action to claim the land, as the law states that the act of the railroad company abandoning the land returns the ownership of the land back to the adjoining property owners.

Joan Parsons, 1203 Susan Circle, addressed the Board on a variety of funding issues related to the Black Horse Inn renovation project. Ms. Parsons asked several questions with regard to the advancement of funds by the Township towards the renovation project, and the current effort by a professional fundraiser to raise additional

funds necessary for ongoing renovations at the Black Horse Inn. Several members of the Board addressed Ms. Parsons on the effort of the fundraiser to reimburse the Township for all costs advanced for this project, including the costs associated with the professional fundraiser himself. Ms. Parsons noted that there is a planned Black Horse Inn Heritage Day. With regard to the planned events, Ms. Parsons hoped that birch beer could be substituted for the planned alcoholic beer.

Ms. Lombard and Mr. Hughes, 24 Highland Avenue, stated their opposition to an application before the Zoning Hearing Board related to the planned construction of a triplex at 39 Springfield Avenue. The residents suggested their concerns that the triplex was not in character with the existing neighborhood as well as related traffic concerns. The Board of Commissioners accepted a copy of a petition with photographs from the couple, but suggested their efforts should be directed to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Mr. Harbison, Chairman of Internal Affairs and Environmental Resources Committees, reported:

Motion (Harbison-Gillies) carried unanimously to approve the August check reconciliation in the amount of \$1,046,753.37 and the September bill listing in the amount of \$758,742.26.

Mr. Harbison announced that during the month of August, Springfield Township residents recycled 193.6 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 84.4%. The net cost for the month was \$3,357.43.

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1180, a resolution stating the intent of the Board of Commissioners to fund the police, salaried and hourly employees pension plans for the year 2009.

Motion (Harbison-Peirce) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1181, a resolution authorizing the Township Manager to dispose of surplus or obsolete personal property of Springfield Township valued at less the \$1,000 in the manner that is most beneficial to the Township.

Mr. Harbison announced the following schedule of meetings through the adoption of the 2009 Budget:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Agency Meetings	9/17/08	7:00 PM
Budget Workshop	10/22/08	7:00 PM
Budget Presentation	11/12/08	8:00 PM
Budget Hearing	12/10/08	8:00 PM
Budget Adoption	12/17/08	8:00 PM

All meetings will be held in the Springfield Township Building.

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

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1182, a resolution dedicating specified portions of the Flourtown Country Club property for use as public streets. The two areas in question are described in a legal description attached to the deeds, but includes an area of 14,389 square feet adjacent to Chestnut Lane, and 7,586 square feet adjacent to McCloskey Road. In both instances, the area is located directly adjacent to the existing public streets.

Motion (Schaum-Heller) carried unanimously to amend the Springfield Township Code, Section 107-28, Schedule V, Stop Intersections, to authorize the installation of a stop sign on Chestnut Lane traveling in a northwesterly direction with its intersection with McCloskey Road, and to authorize the installation of a stop sign on McCloskey Road travelling in a northeasterly direction at its intersection with Chestnut Lane.

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously to waive the provisions of Section 3301 of the Springfield Township Fire Prevention Code that prohibits the use of fireworks in Springfield Township to permit LaSalle College High School to hold a fireworks display on their property on Sunday, October 5, 2008. The purpose of their celebration is their 150th anniversary as well as the opening of a new academic wing and their athletic fields. The waiver was conditioned upon the professional pyrotechnics company adding Springfield Township as an additional insured on their certificate of insurance, and that the fireworks professional work with the Township Fire Marshal and local fire companies.

Motion (Schaum-Harbison) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1183, a resolution congratulating LaSalle College High School for 150 years of educating students and serving the community adjacent to LaSalle College High School.

Mr. Gillies, Chairman of Library Committee, reported:

Mr. Gillies announced that the regularly scheduled Board meeting of the Free Library of Springfield Township has been rescheduled from September 15, 2008 to September 22, 2008 at 7:30 PM in the Library Building.

Mr. Gillies wished to publicly thank Teresa Buzniak of Firstrust Bank for her efforts in organizing the 2008 Community Day held at Cisco Park on Sunday, September 7, 2008. He also thanked others who assisted in organizing the event. Mr. Schaum commented on a new feature of Community Day known as "Touch a Truck". Emergency vehicles and several public works vehicles were placed up front for the community to appreciate. Several other members of the Board made positive comments with regard to the Community Day event.

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

Motion (Standish-Schaum) carried unanimously to authorize membership in the Central Westmoreland Council of Governments in order that Springfield Township might continue participating in the cooperative purchase program sponsored by the COG.

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

Motion (Peirce-Dailey) vote 6-0-1, Mr. Heller abstained from the vote, that the Board of Commissioners award a contract to inCommand Technologies of Corning, New York, in accordance with their proposal dated July 23, 2008, in response to the Township's RFP for website redesign services issued June 17, 2008, for their bid price of \$14,500. The award was conditioned upon the contractor's ability to establish a platform that will accommodate a security system that will permit individual segments of the website to be updated by support agencies. Mr. Heller explained that his abstention was related to his familiarity with one of the competing firms that was not awarded the contract for the website redesign.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board would next meet on September 15, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Dailey summarized the Zoning hearing Board agenda.

Motion (Dailey-Heller) carried unanimously to authorize the office of the Township Solicitor to appear at all future Zoning Hearing Board meetings on behalf of the Board of Commissioners in opposition to the application of David and Janice Navo pertaining to the construction of a multi-family dwelling at 39 Springfield Avenue, Flourtown.

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

Motion (Heller-Gillies) carried unanimously to approve the revised land development plan of the Fountain of Life, also known as the West Oak Lane Church of God, to increase the business center or office area by 27,000 square feet in a two story addition to the existing structure at 1331 Ivy Hill Road, Wyndmoor. The subject plans are dated February 5, 2008, last revised July 3, 2008. The approval was subject to the following conditions: (1) that the applicant secure the requisite stormwater management permit, (2) that all construction be in compliance with the Springfield Township Construction Code and the Uniform Construction Code, (3) that the applicant shall pay a fee in lieu of dedicating park and recreation space as set forth in the Springfield Township Code, and (4) that the applicant shall resolve to the satisfaction of the Township Engineer all

outstanding matters outlined in a letter dated July 23, 2008 from the Township Engineer to the Code Enforcement Officer.

The approval of the plan also included waivers to the following Code Sections: (1) 95-11.I (1) eliminating softening or screening buffers as required, (2) 95-11.I (2) (b) one canopy tree shall be planted where three are required, (3) 95-11.I(3)(a) reduce perimeter buffers where such are required, and (4) 95-11.I(6)(a)(1) planting of understory trees and shrubs along the street where canopy trees are required. Mr. Heller noted that the Board of Commissioners approved the original land development plan for the conversion of an old grocery store to a school, retail space and business center in July 2005.

Motion (Heller-Peirce) carried unanimously to accept a letter dated September 9, 2008 from Robert Anderson, representing the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, extending the 90 day land development plan review period without limitation as to time as it relates to the land development plan application of the Morris Arboretum.

Motion (Heller-Schaum) carried unanimously to waive the formal land development review process for the Claffey land development, 13 Springfield Avenue, as it relates to constructing a second detached single family dwelling to the rear of the existing single family dwelling located at 13 Springfield Avenue in compliance with the site plan received by the Township dated September 5, 2008.

Motion (Heller-Dailey) carried unanimously to appoint Amanda Helwig, 42 West Mill Road, Flourtown, to fill an unexpired term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Planning Commission. The term of service shall expire February 16, 2010.

Mr. Heller noted that the Board of Commissioners was privileged to meet with four residents of the Springfield community to discuss their interest in serving as a member of the Planning Commission. The Township is fortunate to have such talented residents interested in serving the community. Mr. Heller stated that unfortunately, at this time, the Board could only appoint one candidate.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary

