

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 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.

Mr. Harbison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Schaum-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.

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

Motion (Harbison-Gillies) carried unanimously to approve the October check reconciliation in the amount of \$1,128,178.30 and the November bill listing in the amount of \$900,247.49.

Mr. Harbison announced that during the month of October, Springfield Township residents recycled 258.4 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 84%. The net income for the month was \$10.09. Mr. Gillies asked for a status report with regard to the RecycleBank program. Mr. Berger noted that the Board received a written report on a near by community that bid the RecycleBank service as a part of a private refuse collection program. Indeed, the costs anticipated by Springfield Township are identified in those bids as well. Mr. Berger also indicated, however, that one of the hurdles associated with continuing to consider the RecycleBank program was removed with a very favorable bid to process the recyclable materials that prior to now cost \$15.00 per ton, and will receive income of \$12.23 per ton. Mr. Gillies hopes that the Township will continue to consider the RecycleBank for the potential increase in percentage of participants, the tonnage of materials collected, as well as the ability to make an investment in financial benefits that will assist residents.

Mr. Harbison announced that the Board of Commissioners issued a Request for Proposals for general banking services for the Township in the Spring of 2008. The Township received 7 proposals from the area banks. Responses from the banks were analyzed in several categories and Mr. Harbison recited the points of interest. After a lengthy review and meetings with representatives of the banks, the decision was made to remain with Commerce Bank/TD Bank based on past performance and a favorable proposal for the future.

Mr. Harbison announced a schedule of meetings through the adoption of the 2009 budget:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
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. Harbison read into the record the 2009 Budget Statement. The Commissioners propose a balanced operating budget for 2009 of \$17,257,091 with a real estate tax rate of 3.370 mills, and an earned income tax rate of 1%. The impact on the typical taxpayer includes a net increase to the combined real estate tax and service fees of \$12.16. The real estate tax rate will remain at 3.370 mills identical to 2007 and 2008. The refuse service fee will be reduced by \$22.07 while the sanitary sewer rental will be increased by an average of \$34.23. Mr. Harbison noted that the Commissioners plan to buffer the much larger increase in the sanitary sewer rental by appropriating funds from the sanitary sewer reserve fund. A comparable increase in the sanitary sewer rent as seen in 2009 is expected in 2010. Mr. Harbison noted that summary copies of the budget are available in the Township Manager's office and Township Library and reminded all of the special public meetings to be held in December related to the adoption of the 2009 budget.

Mr. Gillies asked the Board to monitor any excess revenues from 2008 that might be available to reduce the projected \$12 increase in real estate taxes and users fees in 2009.

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously authorizing a letter be sent to State Senator Hughes and State Representative Curry asking for their support to approve State Legislation that will allow municipalities who had an Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability as of the next valuation date to amortize the 2008 pension fund investment losses in the upcoming Minimum Municipal Obligation calculations.

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

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1185, a Resolution recognizing the Oreland Volunteer Fire Company for 100 years of service to the Springfield Township community. Mr. Schaum read into the record Resolution No. 1185.

Mr. Harbison stated the Board's appreciation for the time and courage of all the dedicated members of the three volunteer fire companies in Springfield Township. Mr. Schaum recognized two members of the Oreland Volunteer Fire Company in the audience.

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously to appeal the decision of the Springfield Township Construction Code Board of Appeals pursuant to the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code as it relates to the need for an automatic fire suppression system at 1014 E. Willow Grove Avenue, Wyndmoor. Mr. Harbison noted that the

Commissioners believed they needed more time to review the decision and technical materials involved in the case, and authorization of the appeal at this point merely preserves the right to an appeal.

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

Mr. Gillies referred to the 2009 budget statement indicating that the Township is reviewing the increase in the sanitary sewer fees from the City of Philadelphia. The review includes testing of the wastewaters to confirm the levels and possible source.

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

Mr. Standish announced that the Township leaf collection program is ongoing. Mr. Standish reviewed the types of materials that will be collected by the Township in the biodegradable bags along with the schedule and related regulations. Mr. Standish also announced the locations where residents can buy the biodegradable leaf bags.

Motion (Standish-Peirce) to authorize an amendment to the original grant agreement with the Pennsylvania Office of the Budget to reflect an additional \$500,000 (total \$1,000,000) appropriation from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program for the renovation of the Black Horse Inn. In conjunction with the agreement, Springfield Township is pledging that the local match of \$500,000 is currently available through the Township. The subject appropriation will assist in paying for construction costs for phase 3 of the renovations at the Black Horse Inn. Mr. Standish also clarified the motion by indicating that the Township is not proceeding with the construction of phase 3 improvements, but that a fundraising campaign has begun to help raise the local matching funds. Mr. Harbison agreed and indicated that the Township is not committing to spend Township funds on this project, but preserving the appropriation through this agreement. Mr. Gillies disagreed indicating that it was his belief that the Township was indeed committing funds for the project and he did not believe it was appropriate for any additional Springfield taxpayers' funds to be spent on this project. Mr. Hoffmann clarified that the purpose of the motion was to meet a November 20, 2008 deadline to make application for the additional funding. It is Mr. Hoffmann's opinion that to the extent there are not sufficient funds from local sources, the Commonwealth can withdraw their proposal without harm to the Township. Mr. Gillies stated his understanding that the motion was to commit local funds with the anticipation to replace those funds by the ongoing fundraising effort. He noted that the fundraising effort is having some difficulties at this early stage. Mr. Dailey suggested there may be some benefits to hearing from the Friends of Historic Bethlehem Pike and the Springfield Township Historical Society on the future of the project. He also asked if there was a means to save money on the project by bidding the project in several smaller phases to avoid State thresholds for such things as prevailing wage rates. Mr. Berger indicated that the Commonwealth is very clear that any matter that requires bidding cannot be artificially divided to avoid the bidding requirements and/or associated State requirements. Both Messrs. Gillies and Dailey

reviewed the history of the Black Horse Inn project including agreements with the Friends of Historic Bethlehem Pike. Both Mr. Harbison and Ms. Peirce stated their interest in removing the financial burden from Township residents, but they believe the subject authorization is needed to protect the availability of State funding for the project. Mr. Schaum asked if the pending motion might be amended to simply state that there will be no additional Township funds spent for this phase of construction at the Black Horse Inn.

Motion (Dailey-Gillies) vote, 3-4, Harbison, Heller, Peirce, Standish opposed, to table the motion to authorize an amendment to the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program appropriation. The motion did not pass.

A vote was conducted on the original motion authorizing the amendment to the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program appropriation. Vote 4-3, Dailey, Gillies Schaum opposed. The motion carried.

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) that no additional Springfield Township tax dollars will be spent on the rehabilitation of the Black Horse Inn. Vote 3-4, Harbison, Heller, Peirce, Standish opposed. The motion did not carry.

Mr. Dailey suggested that at some future meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Board should meet with the Black Horse Inn Advisory Committee, Friends of Historic Bethlehem Pike and the Springfield Township Historical Society to discuss the future renovations at the Black Horse Inn.

Motion (Standish-Schaum) carried unanimously to authorize the execution of a master casting agreement for the adjustment of utility facilities owned by Springfield Township located within PennDOT highway rights of way. Mr. Standish explained that the agreement will establish a reimbursement rate that PennDOT will be paid by Springfield Township if sanitary sewer manholes need to be adjusted as a part of a PennDOT construction project.

Motion (Standish-Peirce) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1186, a resolution accepting the terms and conditions of a Montgomery County Open Space Grant to fund the acquisition of both the Schwartz and McLaughlin properties located within the 300 block of Oreland Mill Road for land conservation, open space and recreational purposes.

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

Ms. Peirce announced that the Township is pleased to release the draft Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan for public review. The Comprehensive Plan is a planning document that represents a broad view of the parks and recreation programs in Springfield Township and includes an analysis of the condition and operation of these resources. The Plan also crafts a vision for transforming the parks and recreation system into

one that protects the Township's natural and scenic resources, and serves the citizens of all ages and interests.

The Board of Commissioners plans to conduct a public hearing on December 10, 2008 at 8:00 PM. The general public will be free to make comments on the Plan at the public hearing. The Commissioners could adopt the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan as a part of their regular meeting to be held on January 14, 2009. Ms. Peirce took time to thank the individual members of the planning committee that helped develop the Plan.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board would next meet on November 17, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Dailey summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda.

Motion (Dailey-Peirce) carried unanimously to authorize the office of the Township Solicitor to attend the meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board on November 17, 2008 and any subsequent Zoning Hearing Board meetings related to the application of "Traditions of Springfield", 350 Haws Lane, Flourtown. The Board of Commissioners is interested in a clear determination by the Zoning Hearing Board that the proposed use is indeed a "retirement home use", and to take a position that the off-street parking requirements be applied as set forth in the Zoning Code classification "Other Uses".

Motion (Dailey-Heller) carried unanimously to accept a deed restriction offered by the Agans, owners of 517 Haws Lane, related to the construction of an approximately 30 ft. x 40 ft. accessory building on their property. The two substantive sections of the restriction include a statement that as long as the property is residentially zoned, the out building shall be used for an accessory use subordinate to an expressly permitted residential use on the property, and that the restriction shall run with the land.

The office of the Township Solicitor was asked to contact counsel for "Traditions of Springfield" to alert counsel to the Board's concern for the application, and to suggest that it may be beneficial to have an informal meeting with the area neighbors to explain the proposal in greater depth.

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

Mr. Heller provided a brief summary of the Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative, which is a program linking land use and transportation to create improvements in local communities. \$60,000,000 in Federal and State transportation funds will be made available for the projects. The funding provides for both construction and planning activities.

Motion (Heller-Peirce) to authorize an application to the Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative Smart Transportation Project Program, submitting the Bethlehem

Pike Taming Traffic Study Version II as prepared by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.

Mr. Gillies suggested that since the plan was created by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, perhaps Mr. Heller might recuse himself from the vote because a member of Mr. Heller's family works for the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. Vote 6-0-1, Mr. Heller abstained, authorizing the application to the Commonwealth.

Mr. Schaum commented that all plans that have been considered for Bethlehem Pike up to this point have been coordinated. He noted that FEEA provided an overall blueprint for concepts of changing traffic on Bethlehem Pike. The streetscape improvement project includes improvements from the curb area back to the private property, and the most recently discussed traffic taming study suggests improvements between the curbs within the actual roadway. Both Messrs. Gillies and Heller stated that the immediate application being discussed would entail only lane realignments within Bethlehem Pike, and not any physical reconstruction of the infrastructure of Bethlehem Pike.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary

DEB:cmt