

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 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. Dailey arrived while the meeting was in progress. Mr. Harbison presided.

Mr. Harbison asked everyone 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-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. Harbison announced that Mr. Dailey would be arriving a few minutes late as he had to attend to personal business.

Special Report

Mr. Harbison announced that the presentation related to the Cresheim Trail which was scheduled to take place at the meeting had to be postponed due to a serious illness of the professional planner who was scheduled to make the actual presentation on behalf of the Cresheim Trail Committee. The presentation has been tentatively rescheduled for June 10, 2009 at 8:00 PM.

Mr. Gillies inquired whether the Board was going to read into the record the recent correspondence from the Township Treasurer related to the collection and remittance of Township real estate taxes. Mr. Gillies asked that in absence of reading the letter aloud, the letter be placed as a matter of record as part of the meeting. Mr. Harbison responded by suggesting the correspondence was a communication between the Township Treasurer and the Board of Commissioners as a means of an update related to inquiries made by the Board of Commissioners and he did not believe it was necessary that the letter be a part of the meeting record.

Robin Bradley, 7714 New Street, representing the Springfield Ambulance Association, requested a meeting with the Board of Commissioners to discuss the current economic status of the Ambulance Association. Ms. Bradley felt the meeting was necessary to discuss the continuance of the important service the Ambulance Association provides for the Springfield Township community. Commissioners Harbison and Schaum agreed to meet with the Ambulance Association.

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

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to approve the April check reconciliation in the amount of \$433,722.74 and the May bill listing in the amount of \$620,869.57.

Mr. Harbison announced that during the month of April, Springfield Township residents recycled 242 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 78.2%. The net income for the month was \$3,976.50.

Mr. Gillies announced that the Township continues to review the RecycleBank program which is an incentive program for residents to increase their rate of recycling.

Motion (Harbison-Heller) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1205, a resolution authorizing the appropriate Township officials to execute a consent agreement which will state the intention of Springfield Township to waive the collection of the "rollback" taxes and interest that might be due on a portion of the Erdenheim Farm located in Springfield Township related to the condemnation of an easement in favor of Montgomery County for a recreational trail. The execution of the agreement is conditioned upon the agreement being in a format satisfactory to the Township Solicitor.

Mr. Gillies noted that the non-payment of taxes is merely a deferment of taxes while the property is being utilized as a farm. Mr. Harbison supplemented the explanation by providing background on the current sale of the Erdenheim Farm that includes placement of open space covenants on most of the land and interest of the new owner to grant a trail easement to Montgomery County. The taxing entities believe the retroactive taxes would not be due from the farmland to accommodate a recreational trail, but the consent agreement would waive the collection of the back taxes in the event a Court of proper jurisdiction suggests that the farm is no longer eligible for the preferential tax assessment.

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

Motion (Schaum-Peirce) carried unanimously to grant permission to the Flourtown Fire Company to attend the State Fire Expo in Harrisburg on May 15, 2009. Mr. Schaum explained that this permission is necessary as the Township provides the automobile liability coverage for the fire companies. He also noted that the Flourtown Fire Company will communicate their plans with the surrounding fire departments and Montgomery County fire dispatch.

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously authorizing the distribution of beer by members of the AV Savage American Legion Post as a part of their Memorial

Day Celebration to be held at the Veterans Park on Monday, May 25, 2009. The American Legion Post will provide a certificate of insurance with Springfield Township as an additional insured, and will hire a Township police officer to provide additional security.

A Justice Assistance Grant Program was created as a part of the Federal Stimulus and Recovery Act to provide funding to local law enforcement agencies to purchase equipment, materials or training. Springfield Township is eligible for a grant valued at approximately \$10,000 and intends to buy two in-car laptop computers with required mounting and software. As a part of the grant program, the Board of Commissioners must accept public comment at a public meeting to inform the general public of the Township's intentions. Mr. Schaum then opened the meeting to public comments related to the Justice Assistance Grant Program. No public comments were received.

Motion (Schaum-Standish) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1204, a resolution accepting a Memorandum of Understanding for the 2009 Recovery Act Justice Assistance Grant Application filed on behalf of Springfield Township and other Montgomery County communities.

Mr. Schaum announced that members of the Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission recently completed their annual tree maintenance to street trees along Bethlehem Pike. Commissioner Schaum thanked the Committee members and the Assistant Township Manager, Michael Taylor, for their participation in the project.

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

Mr. Gillies revisited his interest in having the correspondence from the Township Treasurer related to the remittance of real estate tax receipts made a part of the meeting record. Mr. Schaum suggested that the questions for the Township Treasurer were discussed at an earlier public meeting and a response should also be provided at a public meeting. Mr. Hoffmann stated that the correspondence from the Township Treasurer is available to the general public through the Pennsylvania Right to Know Law and, as a result, it is not required to be read at a public meeting.

Motion (Gillies-Schaum) that the correspondence from the Township Treasurer to the Board of Commissioners discussing a \$2.5 million backlog of posting real estate tax receipts be made a part of the minutes of the current meeting. Mr. Dailey suggested that making the letter a part of the record in lieu of reading the letter aloud at the meeting is satisfactory to him. Mr. Heller suggested the discussion on this point is politically motivated and suggested that the Township Treasurer's late appointment to the position and the fact that this is her first year as a Treasurer are reasons why the work is not up to date. Mr. Harbison provided a brief history on the resignation of the past Treasurer due to illness and that the current Treasurer was appointed in mid-January. As a result of the late appointment, the real estate tax invoices were issued a little late. Mr. Harbison agreed with the position of the Township staff that the Board wait until the next meeting before making any budgetary changes as a result of trending the 2009 receipts. Mr.

Dailey inquired whether the Treasurer needed assistance as it appears the letter pointed in that direction. A vote on the motion was 3 in favor, 4 opposed – Harbison, Heller, Peirce, Standish. The motion did not carry.

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

Motion (Standish-Heller) carried unanimously to reappoint Dan Johnson and Michael Sokel to new three year terms of service as members of the Springfield Township Open Space Planning Committee. The new three year terms of service will expire May 12, 2012.

Motion (Standish-Gillies) carried unanimously to engage Phoenix Geo Environmental LLC to provide an environmental assessment of the School District bus garage property, 103 Montgomery Avenue, Erdenheim, in accordance with the Phoenix proposal dated May 1, 2009. The cost of the service is \$8,319. Mr. Standish indicated that the Township is considering the purchase of the bus garage through the Montgomery County Green Fields/Green Towns grant program, and an assessment of the environmental conditions of the property is a part of that process.

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

Ms. Peirce announced that one of the new services being provided through the Springfield Township enhanced website is an e-mail alert system. Residents are encouraged to subscribe to the service to receive the latest Township news and information. Residents can choose from topics in which they are interested, and then would receive email alerts on the topics chosen.

Motion (Peirce-Heller) carried unanimously to reappoint Tom Bell, Rhonda McLaughlin, and Sue Herwig to new three year terms of service as members of the Springfield Township Park and Recreation Advisory Committee. The new terms of service shall expire May 12, 2012.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board would next meet on Monday evening, May 18, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Dailey summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda.

Motion (Dailey-Gillies) carried unanimously authorizing the office of the Township Solicitor to appear at all future Zoning Hearing Board meetings in opposition to the Navo petition pertaining to the property at 39 Springfield Avenue, Flourtown. The applicants are requesting a special exception to permit a multi family dwelling use and variances related to off street parking and the minimum lot width requirements.

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

Motion (Heller-Schaum) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1203, a resolution authorizing the Township to enter into a Reimbursement Agreement with PennDOT in order for PennDOT to reimburse the Township for expenses associated with the Bethlehem Pike streetscape improvement project. Mr. Heller discussed the receipt of a Federal allocation of approximately \$800,000 from the US Department of Transportation to make streetscape improvements along Bethlehem Pike.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.  
Secretary