

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at 7:30 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. Mr. Harbison presided.

Mr. Harbison announced that immediately prior to the meeting, the Board conducted an executive session to conduct interviews for a position on the Township Environmental Advisory Commission.

Mr. Harbison also noted that due to the Labor Day holiday falling on the same date as the September workshop meeting, this meeting would be conducted similar to a workshop meeting of the Board, but official action will be taken by the Board of Commissioners on items required.

500 Block of Oreland Mill Road. Residents from the intersection of Oreland Mill Road and Barclay Road expressed concern for back yard flooding that is threatening their homes. It appears that a good deal of the adjoining neighborhood drains to this area. Township staff is aware of the matter and will review the situation during a storm event. Staff will then report back to the Board of Commissioners.

Engineering Report. The Township Engineer and Township Manager, working from a memorandum dated August 31, 2009, took the Board of Commissioners through a variety of problem spots as a result of a storm event on August 2, 2009. The Board of Commissioners authorized the Township Engineer to spend additional time on specified locations to determine if municipal improvements might aid with the problem identified by various residents. The Commissioners also discussed several stormwater storage options that might be available in the Oreland Mill Road drainage project. Mrs. Montgomery is working with a structural engineer to help determine the best methodology.

Recreation Programs for Special Needs Children. Mr. Carabba, Director of Parks and Recreation, joined the Board of Commissioners to discuss his review to date of special needs recreation programs. Mr. Carabba suggested that currently all special needs children are folded into existing recreation programs. Special needs information is gathered for the individuals and, if necessary, one on one aides can be made available. Mr. Carabba indicated his interest in working with the School District to bridge the gaps between the school programs and needs within the community. He has met with some school officials and plans to meet with high school guidance counselors to determine how to integrate the children into existing programs and when to create independent programs. Because the School District receives funding for their programs, the Township needs to be cognizant not to duplicate their effort. A review has been made on what surrounding

communities are providing. It appears Cheltenham provides a few programs for special needs children. Abington provides programs for autistic children, and the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare provides a special kids network.

On-line Registration. Mr. Carabba is finalizing his work in reviewing on-line recreation registration options. He has reviewed opportunities with InCommand Technologies, the firm that created the Township website. Unfortunately, they are interested in the payment of \$9,000 to create the on-line payment program, plus between \$2.50 and \$3.95 per registration. The registration information will, however, be available via Excel data spreadsheets. Sports Conductor LLC already has a program in place and would only charge \$2.95 per registration. The registration information would also be available via Excel spreadsheets. Mr. Carabba would recommend utilizing Sports Conductor LLC. The Board of Commissioners agreed and asked Mr. Hoffmann, Township Solicitor, to review any contracts.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Alla Korsun and Tony Quinn, both of the 700 block of Pleasant Avenue, and Jodi Bromberg, of 7846 Flourtown Avenue, requested that the Board of Commissioners place additional street lights on existing utility poles. This request was in response to burglaries in the Summer of 2009. The chief of police did not recommend the additional street lighting, but was certainly not opposed. The Commissioners may continue discussion on this point later in the meeting.

Mike Lawrence, 1202 Malinda Road, asked why the immediate meeting was not being videotaped. Mr. Harbison indicated that the Board discussed this topic in both July and August and decided that the format of the meeting is not conducive to being videotaped.

Rick Moore, Drayton Road, expressed concern for the condition of Drayton Road as it relates to the recent completion of the Aqua PA water main replacement project. Mr. Schuam indicated that the Board of Commissioners was aware of many streets in similar conditions and is taking steps to repair streets based on need. Those streets not addressed in 2009 will be provided priority during 2010.

Motion (Schaum-Heller) 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. Mr. Gillies asked that staff review his comments with regard to the riparian corridor. He wished to be sure that his comments focused on riparian corridor education rather than the enactment of an ordinance.

Motion (Standish-Peirce) carried unanimously to authorize the installation of a street light on pole #104 in the 700 block of Pleasant Avenue.

Township Manager's Report. The Board of Commissioners reviewed the September Township Manager's Report and discussed in greater detail the following

points: (1) Waste System Authority, (2) the Township Pandemic Plan, (3) sanitary sewer connection of Keystone Hospice, (4) 911 dispatch services, (5) progress on the Bethlehem Pike gateways project, (6) pension fund reform, (7) future police entry level examinations, and (8) possible improvements to Germantown Avenue and Thomas Road.

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously accepting the August check reconciliation in the amount of \$508,434.88 and the September bill listing in the amount of \$1,298,601.14.

Recycling Report. Mr. Harbison reviewed the August recycling report.

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1209, a resolution establishing the preliminary 2010 minimum municipal obligation for the Township pension plans.

Mr. Harbison announced the 2010 budget meeting schedule through adoption of the 2010 budget.

Township Auditor. The Board of Commissioners will consider hiring Bee Bergvall, Township Auditor, to perform the audit for year ending 2009 if the Auditor will maintain the fee charged for the 2008 audit of \$16,100.

Shade Tree Commission. The Township received a letter from Jennifer French, a member of the Shade Tree Commission, who expressed interest in resigning her position. The Board of Commissioners will announce the resignation next month as well as make an announcement with regard to the opening and future interviews.

Pennsylvania Avenue and Camp Hill Road. In conjunction with the intersection realignment of the subject intersection, PennDOT recently completed a study and recommended that no pedestrian accommodations are needed at the intersection. PennDOT requested that the Township confirm that no pedestrian crosswalks will be required by Springfield Township. The Board agreed that no crosswalks would be needed if PennDOT was not providing any other pedestrian accommodations at the intersection.

Motion (Harbison-Heller) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1210, a resolution accepting deeds of dedication for a parcel of land adjacent to Ridge Pike from the estate of Fred Tecce.

Motion (Harbison-Heller) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1211, a resolution granting deeds of dedication for a parcel of land adjacent to Ridge Pike, once owned by the Tecce family, to Montgomery County.

Black Horse Inn Advisory Committee. The Black Horse Inn Advisory Committee would like to modify their meeting schedule in September by meeting on September 29. By doing so, the Committee will have an opportunity to review

construction bids received on September 28 prior to making a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners in October.

Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Gillies reviewed the Zoning Hearing Board agenda for the month of September. The Board of Commissioners did not take a position on any of the matters before the Zoning Hearing Board.

Flourtown Shopping Center. The owners of the Flourtown Shopping Center would like to modify their existing pylon sign which currently is non-conforming due to its location, size and height. Counsel for the owners provided a legal opinion that the owners could modify and reduce the non-conformities, without the sign having to comply in all aspects. The Township Solicitor reviewed the position of counsel, and agreed that the existing sign could be modified as long as the non-conformities were not increased.

Bethlehem Pike Streetscape Improvement Project. The Township received five bids on August 6, 2009 ranging from \$1,024,602 to \$1,380,342. The three lowest bids were comparably priced. The low bid was provided by Wampole-Miller Inc./Miller Brothers. Their bid was \$300,211 over budget. The Board discussed rejecting all bids, transferring funds from a transportation community assistance preservation grant, or value-engineering the current low bid. Township staff previously discussed value-engineering with the contractor, who was able to reduce his price by \$273,602 or \$26,609 over budget.

Motion (Heller-Peirce) carried unanimously to award the contract to Wampole-Miller/Miller Brothers for their low bid price of \$1,024,602.17, but to issue a work change order that would reduce the cost of the project by \$273,602.

Planning Commission Membership. George McDowell, a member of the Township Planning Commission, had to resign his position as his new employer restricts employees from serving on community boards or commissions. An announcement will be made with regard to the resignation as well as the opening and future interviews.

Group Homes for the Handicapped. A residence was purchased on Hull Drive, Wyndmoor, by a community organization that specializes in providing services for adults with intellectual disabilities. The community wanted to be assured that the style of living will be viewed as a family per the Zoning Code, and how to protect from similar arrangements for drug addicts, sex offenders or those who have committed other criminal activities. The office of the Township Solicitor reviewed the immediate occupancy and suggested that the critical issue is whether there are 5 or less individuals involved, and if the individuals are handicapped as defined by the Fair Housing Act. If they are, then the Township must make reasonable accommodations for those residents. The office of the Township Solicitor was asked to review the definition of family in the Township Zoning Code as well as possibly expanding the definition as it relates to handicapped individuals occupying a residence.

Community Day. Mr. Schaum indicated that the committee organizing the Springfield Community Day scheduled for September 13, 2009 has indicated they will not need any financial backing from the Township which was earlier secured.

Webcasting. The Commissioners discussed their interest in providing the webcasting of their business meetings in the future. The Township previously received a quote of \$285 per meeting for the videographer to convert the materials to an electronic format and host the file on his server. Mr. Heller indicated that he had discussions with school district officials and they indicated that they would do the work and host the file on their server for free. Mr. Heller volunteered to assist with the arrangements.

Flourtown Country Club. Mr. Gillies asked that Mr. Heller review his discussion with Brian Halligan, Club Manager, regarding a politically oriented party and a general membership party that were scheduled simultaneously. Mr. Heller indicated that he did discuss the parties with Mr. Halligan to understand how the two events were scheduled together. He and Mr. Harbison contacted Mr. Berger who discussed the matter with Mr. Halligan further. Mr. Gillies opined that Mr. Heller went too far by relaying a comment from a constituent who felt the scheduling error was a violation of his lease agreement with the Township. Mr. Gillies suggested that individual members of the Board should not speak on behalf of the Board unless permission was received. Mr. Harbison disagreed with Mr. Gillies' position suggesting that he does not believe he surrendered any of his personal rights when he became a member of the Board. Mr. Harbison volunteered to speak with Mr. Halligan again to see if there are any other points he wished to clarify on the overall matter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Business Tax Audit. Northwest Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Inc. was recently audited for business tax returns. A deficiency was found and the taxpayer is willing to pay the principal, interest and penalty due over a six month period. The Board of Commissioners approved same.

Environmental Advisory Commission. The Board of Commissioners was favorably impressed with Tarek Selim who is interested in becoming a member of the Township EAC. The Commissioners will consider making the appointment during an open session of the meeting.

OPEN SESSION

Motion (Harbison-Gillies) carried unanimously to appoint Tarek Selim, 406 Lincoln Woods, to fill an unexpired term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission. The term of service shall expire June 14, 2010.

STEMS. Mr. Schaum indicated that the Springfield Township Emergency Management System board members wished to thank the Board of Commissioners for its interest in their recruitment and retention issues.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary

DEB:cmt
9/30/09