

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 9, 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. 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.

Everyone was asked to remain standing for 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 announced that two weekends ago, representatives from the Springfield Rotary Club, the Oreland Lions Club, the Oreland Fire Company and the Flourtown Fire Company joined together to purchase and install garland and decorative lights on the pedestrian street lights located in the Oreland business district and along Bethlehem Pike. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Harbison thanked the two service organizations and fire companies for their efforts.

Mr. Harbison stated that as a part of this meeting, the Board of Commissioners would be conducting a budget hearing to receive public comment on the preliminary 2010 budget. Mr. Harbison stated that the budget would not be adopted at this meeting, but would be adopted at a special meeting to be held on December 16, 2009 at 8:00 PM in the large meeting room in the Township building. Anyone interested in making comment on the 2010 budget was asked to do so during the budget hearing.

Michael Lawrence, 1202 Malinda Road, suggested that perhaps the Board of Commissioners not waive the formal land development review process related to the revision to the land development for the Erdenheim Elementary School. Mr. Lawrence expressed concern for off-street parking needs and provided examples of his concern.

Valerie Cloutier, representing the RecycleBank program, addressed the Board of Commissioners and provided a brief history of the RecycleBank program. Ms. Cloutier also explained how the RecycleBank program might work in Springfield Township and the benefits of providing an incentive program for additional recycling. Mr. Harbison asked if there was a process by which local merchants might be brought into the coupon program. Mr. Cloutier indicated that the Township can meet with the rewards team from RecycleBank to consider including local merchants. Messrs. Gillies and Dailey discussed how residents might find local and national stores on the RecycleBank website. Ms. Cloutier also indicated that there is a toll free 800 number available for residents who are not comfortable with a computer.

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

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to approve the November check reconciliation in the amount of \$659,882.03 and the December bill listing in the amount of \$2,225,037.04.

As previously announced, the budget adoption meeting will be held on December 16, 2009 at 8:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building.

Mr. Harbison announced that the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code requires the Township Commissioners to organize on the first Monday of January in each even-numbered year. The purpose of the meeting is to administer the oaths of office to newly or re-elected officials, and for the Board to elect the officers of the Board of Commissioners. The 2010 organization meeting will be held on Monday evening, January 4, 2010, at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building.

Mr. Harbison summarized the 2010 meeting schedule for all of the advisory commissions and committees. The meeting schedule for 2010 is exactly the same as the meeting schedule in 2009.

Mr. Harbison announced that during the month of November, Springfield Township residents recycled 192.4 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 69%. The net income for the month was \$234.09.

Mr. Harbison stated that the RecycleBank program is a service that provides municipalities with a unique incentive based recycling rewards program which is designed to enhance residential curbside recycling, decrease waste disposal, increase recycling participation and create local economic benefits through their coupon rewards program. Based upon the weight of the materials recycled, Springfield households can benefit through the RecycleBank coupon program. It was noted that the Commissioners have been reviewing the program for some time, and while they appreciate the benefits to our environment, local economy and individual households, the Board was vitally concerned that the Township recycling program would improve to such an extent that the program would eventually pay for itself. Mr. Harbison reviewed key features of a draft agreement between RecycleBank and Springfield Township.

Motion (Harbison-Gillies) to authorize the appropriate Township officials to execute a contract with RecycleBank in order that the RecycleBank rewards program is made available to Springfield Township. The agreement shall be executed after it is placed in a form satisfactory to the Township Solicitor. In 2010 the cost of the RecycleBank program will be assessed through the 2010 Township refuse service fee.

Mr. Gillies asked that any cost savings from the program be passed on to the residents in the future. Mr. Harbison agreed suggesting that placing the cost into the refuse service fee would be more fair than to assess businesses and apartments the fee through a tax since these do not have access to the program.

Mr. Heller noted that the concept behind recycling is to first reduce, then re-use, and finally recycle. He appreciates that the RecycleBank program is good for communities with low participation rates, but does not necessarily agree with rewarding households for recycling at the cost of the other two components: reducing and re-using. Mr. Heller suggested that a greater priority can be placed on education or more responsible environmental stewardship as opposed to supporting the RecycleBank program.

Mr. Gillies discussed the ways the RecycleBank program may improve the recycling effort noting experiences from other communities that have benefitted from the coupon rewards program. Mr. Harbison indicated that the RecycleBank program would not modify the Township collection process. Ms. Peirce liked the idea of providing an incentive from the entire community recycling.

Mr. Schaum differed with Mr. Heller's position that by encouraging recycling, the efforts of the residents to reduce and re-use material would be adversely affected.

Mr. Harbison indicated he was initially opposed to the program, but at a cost in 2010 of approximately \$8.00 per household for the year, he believes the Township would benefit through increased recycling. The coupon program is a benefit to the consumer as well as local merchants.

A vote on the motion was 6-1; Mr. Heller opposed.

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1215, a resolution revising the preliminary 2010 minimum municipal obligations to fund the Township pension plans as initially established through Resolution No. 1209.

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

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously to amend the Springfield Township Code, Section 107-34, Schedule XI, No Parking – Certain Hours, by establishing parking restrictions on both sides of Montgomery Avenue, Wyndmoor, from its intersection with Paper Mill Road to its intersection with Evergreen Avenue. The restrictions shall be in place from 7:00 AM until 6:30 PM, except Saturday, Sunday and holidays. Any existing parking prohibitions, such as “No Parking Here to Corner” or “No Parking Between Signs” shall take priority in those specific areas.

Mr. Harbison asked for a clarification that both sides of Montgomery Avenue would be posted with the new restrictions. Mr. Schaum indicated that was correct.

Motion (Schaum-Heller) carried unanimously to amend the Springfield Township Code Section 107-32, Schedule IX, Parking Prohibited, by rescinding the parking prohibition on the northwest side of Thomas Road from Northwestern Avenue to Germantown Avenue. The parking prohibition shall remain on the northwest side of Thomas Road between Germantown Avenue and the Springfield/Whitemarsh Township boundary line.

Mr. Gillies, Chairman of Library Committee, reported:

Motion (Gillies-Schaum) carried unanimously to reappoint Ramona Salotti and Marian Rothbart to new three year terms of service as members of the Library Advisory Committee for the Free Library of Springfield Township. The new three year terms of service shall expire December 31, 2012.

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

Ms. Peirce, Chairwoman of Communications and Cultural Resources Committee, had no report.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board would next meet on Monday, December 21, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Dailey summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda.

Motion (Dailey-Heller) carried unanimously to reappoint James Curtis to a new three year term of service as the alternate member of the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board. The new three year term of service shall expire December 31, 2012.

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

Motion (Heller-Gillies) carried unanimously to accept a letter dated December 1, 2009 from Craig Robert Lewis, legal counsel for Federal Realty Investment Trust, owners of the Flourtown Shopping Center land development plan, extending the 90 day land development plan review period without limitation as to time. The subject of the land development for the shopping center includes the renovation of several existing retail areas within the in-line building portion of the shopping center, the construction of a new 5400 sq. ft. retail building within the existing parking lot, and the renovation of a portion of the existing old K-Mart store.

Motion (Heller-Dailey) carried unanimously to appoint George Schaefer, of Patton Road, to fill an unexpired term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Planning Commission. The unexpired term of service shall expire February 16, 2013.

Mr. Heller made comment on the high quality candidates from which the Board of Commissioners had to choose and that the Board plans to retain the resumes of those not selected for future consideration.

Motion (Heller-Gillies) carried unanimously to approve the Watson subdivision, a two lot residential subdivision, located at 68 Grove Avenue. The subject of the subdivision is the relocation of a lot line between the Watsons and a neighboring property in order that the Watsons can remove and replace an existing garage for their use. The subject subdivision plan is dated May 28, 2008, last revised November 10, 2009. As a part of the plan approval, the Board waived or deferred the following Township Code

requirements: (1) the presentation of a landscape plan was waived, (2) the need to provide a 50 foot right of way and a 30 foot cartway for Grove Avenue was waived, (3) the installation of sidewalks was deferred, (4) the requirement to install 5 street trees was waived, and (5) the need to prepare a site plan that shows existing features within 200 feet of the property was waived.

Motion (Heller-Schaum) carried unanimously to enter into an agreement with Montgomery County for the County Planning Commission to provide formal planning assistance to the Township. The term of the contract is three years beginning in 2010. Mr. Heller reviewed various aspects of the contract and the specific structured planning assistance to be provided by the Montgomery County Planning Commission.

Mr. Heller made a motion to waive the formal land development review process related to the expansion of the second floor of the Erdenheim Elementary School. The subject of the land development is to provide additional classroom space of approximately 10,319 sq. ft. to accommodate additional classrooms due to the realignment of the School District elementary school system. The only expansion of the building footprint is approximately 300 sq. ft. to accommodate an additional stairwell to service the second floor addition. The plans are entitled Erdenheim Elementary School, 500 Haws Lane, Flourtown, dated August 5, 2008, last revised October 12, 2009. The motion did not receive a second and therefore no action was taken on the motion.

At this time, the Board of Commissioners conducted a budget hearing with regard to the 2010 budget.

Following the budget hearing, Roy Johnson, Director of Facilities for the Springfield Township School District, addressed the Board of Commissioners on the land development for the Erdenheim Elementary School. Mr. Johnson provided great detail on the parking being provided at the Erdenheim Elementary School as well as the Township high school, which is located directly next door. Mr. Johnson also reviewed the purpose of the building addition, and made himself available for any questions from the Board. Mr. Harbison inquired as to whether anyone was interested in making a motion to reconsider waiving the formal land development review process for the Erdenheim Elementary School. No such motion was made.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.  
Secretary