

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 8, 2010 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 for a moment of silence to honor 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 (Gillies-Pierce) 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 also recognized a loss in the community due to the passing of Joseph Timoney. Mr. Timoney was very active in local and county fire services, and was characterized as a good person and sharing with his friends and others within the community. As an example, when Mr. Timoney found that both he and Mr. Harbison worked for the Pennsalt Laboratories, he gave Mr. Harbison an HO gauge train car with the Pennsalt logo on its side for Mr. Harbison's office.

Special Reports

Mr. Harbison stated that at the November 2010 meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Ms. Seaman, of Erdenheim, expressed her concern that some of the turf at Cisco Park was being fertilized and/or having weed control applied. Mr. Harbison noted that approximately one and a half years ago, the Township staff and Environmental Advisory Commission drafted a turf treatment policy that was then reviewed by the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Harbison reviewed the different methods of turf treatment at various Township properties that are based upon the use of a particular property. While the Commissioners did not believe it was necessary to change the policy, they will ask that larger signage be created that can provide additional information on the materials being utilized when the turf is being treated.

Mr. Harbison announced that the Board of Commissioners held a brief executive session prior to the business meeting to discuss a matter of litigation.

The Board recognized Mr. Richard Brehm, of Church Road, and his two sons, Ian and Chris, who attended the meeting to simply understand how the Board of Commissioners manages the Township business. Mr. Brehm did indicate that the use of herbicides on Township properties was of particular interest to him.

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 \$884,954.17 and the December bill listing in the amount of \$1,998,160.24.

An announcement was made that the Board of Commissioners would soon conduct a budget hearing on the 2011 budget. The budget adoption meeting is scheduled for December 22, 2010 at 8:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building.

Motion (Harbison-Gillies) carried unanimously to continue the December business meeting of the Board of Commissioners and to convene a public hearing to accept public comment on the preliminary 2011 Budget for Springfield Township.

The Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing on the preliminary 2011 Budget.

Mr. Harbison reconvened the regular business meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Motion (Gillies-Dailey) to place any excess revenues in 2011 from mercantile and business privilege taxes and cable TV fees in the capital reserve account to be utilized for litigation or to off set a 2012 real estate tax increase. Vote 3-4, Harbison, Heller, Peirce, Standish opposed. The motion did not carry.

Motion (Gillies-Dailey) to suspend the payment of the merit raises to the administrative employees. Mr. Gillies hoped the action would set a marker for other employment negotiations. Mr. Berger clarified the value of the merit raises at \$10,000 distributed over 20 employees. Mr. Dailey stated that some State employees have not received a raise and believed a modest pay increase was fine, but would like to hold back on the merit increases. Mr. Heller indicated he thought the Township staff was a good staff and the motion was only symbolic. Mr. Standish did not think it was necessary to permanently eliminate merit raises, but might consider withholding them in 2011. Mr. Harbison appreciated Mr. Gillies bringing the matter to a discussion. Mr. Schaum briefly discussed the merit pay system. Mr. Dailey agreed the discussion was awkward. Ms. Peirce indicated her interest in holding pay increases. Vote 3-4, Harbison, Heller, Schaum, Standish opposed. The motion did not carry.

Motion (Gillies/Schaum) carried unanimously to utilize projected interest generated by the sanitary sewer fund and special sewer accounts receipts to help off-set a portion of the anticipated rate increase for the sanitary sewer rental in 2011. After an explanation of the sewer rental and sewer reserve by Messrs. Harbison and Gillies, the annual sanitary sewer increase to the average household was set at approximately \$52.65 down from \$66.84.

An announcement was made that during the month of November, Springfield Township residents recycled 192.9 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 71.7%. The net cost for the month was \$5,613.13.

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

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously to grant a waiver to the Springfield Township Fire Prevention Code, Section 3301.1(12) to grant permission to the Springfield Community Foundation to host a fireworks display at the Springfield Township High School on December 31, 2010. The waiver is conditioned upon the Community Foundation and the fireworks professional adding Springfield Township as an additional insured on their certificates of insurance for this particular fireworks display. Furthermore, the organizations are to work closely with the Township Fire Marshal and local fire company to help prevent an accident, and to create a plan of action in the event an accident would occur.

Mr. Gillies, Chairman of Library Committee, reported:

Motion (Gillies-Schaum) carried unanimously to reappoint Joan Parsons and Jack FitzSimmons to new three year terms of service as members of the Advisory Committee for the Free Library of Springfield Township. The new terms of service shall expire December 31, 2013.

Motion (Gillies-Peirce) carried unanimously to accept a letter of resignation from Marian Rothbart as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Free Library of Springfield Township. Ms. Rothbart was a long term member of the Advisory Committee and served as a past president. Mr. Gillies noted that Ms. Rothbart was very instrumental in converting the library from an independent organization to an operational department of the Township. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Gillies thanked Ms. Rothbart and wished her well in all her future endeavors.

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

Ms. Peirce, Chairwoman of Communications and Human Resources Committees, reported:

Ms. Peirce announced that the Springfield Community Foundation is sponsoring a "First Night Springfield 2011" to be held on December 31, 2010 between 6:00 PM and 11:00 PM. Ms. Peirce reviewed a multitude of activities that are scheduled to be held at either the Erdenheim Elementary School or the Springfield High School.

An announcement was also made that the Springfield Community Foundation is sponsoring the Third Annual Martin Luther King Day of Service to be held on January 17, 2011 at the Springfield High School. The event will include both an active and passive community project, a presentation of a community service award, and presentation of music and dance performances as well as inspirational speeches. The program will be held at the Springfield High School with the active community project at Carson Valley School.

Ms. Peirce informed residents that information on the two aforementioned events can be found in the "Springfield Sun" and the "Enterprise". Information is also available on the Township and School District websites, as well as websites for the individual events.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey reviewed the Zoning Hearing Board agenda for the meeting to be held on Monday, December 20, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building.

Motion (Dailey-Gillies) carried unanimously to authorize the office of the Township Solicitor to attend all future meetings of the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board and represent the interest of the Board as it relates to the application of MC Outdoor LLC of Malvern, PA, challenging the substantive validity of the Township Zoning Ordinance as it pertains to providing for off-premises advertisements. MC Outdoor is requesting the opportunity to install billboards at 601 and 1020 Bethlehem Pike.

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

Motion (Heller-Gillies) carried unanimously to accept a letter dated December 2, 2010 from Craig Robert Lewis, legal counsel for Federal Realty Investment Trust, owners of the Flourtown Shopping Center, extending the 90 day land development review period until January 31, 2011. The extension relates to an amended final land development plan proposed by Federal Realty which includes the renovation of several existing retail areas within the inline portion of the Shopping Center, the construction of 5,400 sq. ft. retail building within the existing parking lot and the renovation of a portion of the old K-Mart store.

Motion (Heller-Dailey) carried unanimously to approve the subdivision plan of the Oreland Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 1111 and 1119 Church Road, as prepared by Protract Engineering Inc., dated May 28, 2010, revised October 26, 2010. The subject of the subdivision is a two lot residential subdivision, which maintains both the existing church and the existing single family dwelling, but subdivides the parking lot to the rear of the dwelling on lot #1 and transfers that area to the church use on lot #2. The approval of the subdivision was subject to the following conditions: (1) that the ultimate right of way shown on lot #1 in the area between the legal right of way and ultimate right of way be offered for dedication to the Township, and the legal right of way on lot #2 at the intersection of Church Road and Paper Mill Road be adjusted to include the existing traffic signal and box located within the legal right of way, and this area offered for dedication, (2) the Township will accept the submission of an aerial photograph of the property to meet the code requirements to plot the existing vegetation on the property per Section 95-7.G(2) and (3) of the Springfield Township Code, (3) the installation of sidewalks required by Chapter 95-10.I of the Springfield Township Code is deferred at this time, (4) the land to be dedicated for park and recreation areas required by Chapter 95-11.E(2)(b) is waived, (5) the Board of Commissioners accepts the plans as presented to meet the street tree requirements in accordance with Chapter 95-11.I of the Springfield Township Code, (6) the Board of Commissioners will accept an aerial photograph to meet the requirements of the Springfield Township subdivision checklist which requires existing features within 200 feet of the site be shown on the plans, (7) a waiver is granted to the requirement that existing features of the subdivision be shown per Section D of the subdivision checklist as follows: Section D.8(f) - Existing contour lines, and D.8(g) – Datum for topography.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary

DEB:cmt
12/20/10