

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, April 13, 2011 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.

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 the Board of Commissioners held an executive meeting on Monday evening, April 11, 2011 in conjunction with the workshop meeting. The Board discussed a matter of potential litigation with the Township Solicitor.

Mr. Harbison also noted that the Commissioners would be conducting a public hearing to accept public comment on a draft ordinance to increase the application fees to appear before the Zoning Hearing Board to help cover municipal costs associated to conduct hearings of the Zoning Hearing Board. Any questions or comments on this topic should be held for the public hearing.

Mr. Harbison recognized representatives from the Springfield Township Rotary Club who made a presentation and presented street light banners to be installed at various locations in the Township as a part of the streetscape improvement project. Ms. Theresa Buzniak, on behalf of several Board members and general members of the Springfield Township Rotary Club, stated that they were proud to be a part of the Springfield community for over 50 years. Ms. Buzniak stated the Club has presented awards, provided financial support and made other contributions due to their pride in the community. Ms. Busniak asked that the Commissioners install the beautiful banners to show a united proud community.

James Smigiel, 115 Azalea Way, provided a written and oral presentation on a proposal to amend the Township zoning regulations regarding the boarding of horses, ponies, mules and similar animals. He noted that the presentation was made on behalf of himself, a past resident of Weiss Avenue, and the residents of 33, 35 and 41 Weiss Avenue. Mr. Smigiel summarized a specific concern for horses that are being kept at 37 Weiss Avenue and, despite the efforts of the residents to maintain the property, the odor of feces and urine is a nuisance for the surrounding residents. He also noted that

Commissioner Heller previously negotiated an agreement between the neighbors and the property owner wherein the horses would only visit on occasional weekends. It was reported that the horses have returned and have been there for close to two weeks. The presentation included photographs, sample ordinances and a recommendation that the Township create a minimum lot area for the keeping of the large animals.

Barbara Heisser, 30 Weiss Avenue, wished to speak in support of the ability to maintain animals on residential properties. Ms. Heisser discussed growing up in the area, noting animals were kept on private property years ago, and there are other residents in the area who also maintain animals on their private property. She does not believe the subject property is a boarding facility, as no direct compensation is being paid to the residents. She does not believe the change in the zoning is necessary, and she believes it is part of living in such a community to be able to maintain animals on one's property.

Jeff Williams, 33 Weiss Avenue, agreed that he would like to see the Zoning Code reviewed with regard to the keeping of large animals. He expressed concern for the nuisance of the smell of horse waste as it relates to maintaining the value of his property. He suggests that the operation is commercial even if there is no direct financial exchange as other compensation might be provided for the boarding services. In conclusion, he also suggested that the waste products do not necessarily stay within the confines of the subject property due to the effects of rain.

Ed Trainor, 35 West Mill Road, indicated he is an immediate neighbor of 37 Weiss Avenue where horses are being boarded. Mr. Trainor agreed with earlier comments with regard to the odor that comes from the property from the horses' wastes.

Mr. Heller indicated that at this time, this issue is a neighborhood dispute and was interested in getting the neighbors to discuss the issue. He believes the horses are being cared for, but does appreciate the land size and location issues discussed by the residents previously. Mr. Heller encouraged the neighbors to continue to speak through their differences.

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

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to approve the March check reconciliation in the amount of \$515,072.33 and the April bill listing in the amount of \$611,337.24.

Mr. Harbison announced that during the month of March, Springfield Township residents recycled 256.5 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 81.3%. The net cost for the month was \$1,055.

Motion (Harbison-Heller) carried unanimously to appoint Raymond "Skip" Lynch, of Spring Lane, to fill a vacancy on the Springfield Township

Environmental Advisory Commission. The term of service shall expire June 14, 2014.

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

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously to authorize Chief Randall Hummel to execute a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Springfield Township Police Department and the School District of Springfield Township. The Memorandum of Understanding documents the procedures to be followed when specified incidents occur on School District property, or at school-sponsored activities, and to foster a relationship of cooperation and mutual support between the parties when addressing an issue at a school sponsored activity.

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously to grant permission to the Wyndmoor Hose Company to utilize Veterans Park to stage a fireworks display on Saturday evening, June 11, 2011 in conjunction with their annual carnival. In addition, Section 3301.1 (12) of the Springfield Township Fire Prevention Code shall be waived related to the aforementioned fireworks display. As a condition for the use of the property and the waiver of the provisions of the Fire Prevention Code, the Wyndmoor Hose Company and their fireworks professional shall add Springfield Township as an additional insured on their certificates of insurance for the event. Furthermore, the organizations involved are asked to work closely with the Township Fire Marshal to help prevent an accident, and to create a plan of action in the event an accident does occur during the activity.

Mr. Gillies, Chairman of Library Committee, had no report, but noted that the activities at the library are plentiful and noted the very popular poetry reading that was conducted last weekend.

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

Mr. Standish noted that on Sunday, May 22, the Springfield Township Historical Society will launch their first annual Trolley Tours of Historic Springfield. Two unique tours will be offered with each visiting some of the many historic treasures in the area. Mr. Standish provided a summary of the two tours and noted where residents could secure more information on the tours.

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

Motion (Peirce-Schaum) carried unanimously to award a contract to JJD Contracting, of Aston, PA, to furnish all labor, materials and equipment necessary to place a macadam surface on the existing walking trail at Cisco Park for their low bid price of \$24,448. On March 30, 2011, the Township received a total of six bids for this project.

Motion (Peirce-Heller) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1251, a resolution recognizing the many years of service and dedication of Stephen Davis of Erdenheim to the Flourtown-Erdenheim Little League.

An announcement was made that Mr. Dailey became a father once again to a baby daughter, Caroline.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board would next meet on Monday evening, April 18, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township building. Mr. Dailey summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda.

Motion (Dailey-Gillies) carried unanimously to enact Ordinance No. 908, an ordinance amending the Springfield Township Zoning Code to provide areas for the placement of off-premises advertising signs, aka billboards, to provide regulations for such signs, to provide standards for construction of billboards, and to locate the billboards so that they are not adverse to the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Springfield Township.

Mr. Harbison explained that the Township is currently processing two applications for the placement of billboards within the Township, which is a Zoning Code validity challenge. Through the passage of Ordinance No. 908, the Commissioners will close the door on similar Zoning Code validity challenges.

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

Motion (Heller-Gillies) carried unanimously to accept a letter dated April 12, 2011 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 May 31, 2011. The extension relates to an amended final land development plan proposed by Federal Realty.

Motion (Harbison-Gillies) carried unanimously to continue the business meeting and to open a public hearing related to a draft ordinance to increase the fees for applications to appear before the Zoning Hearing Board.

The Board of Commissioners conducted the public hearing as noted above.

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to close the public hearing and reconvene the monthly business meeting.

Howard Supplee, 105 Orlemann Avenue, indicated that the property previously known as Penn Valley Plywood, which is now a busing company, recently installed

upgraded security lights and the ambient light is entering his property and is interfering with the use of his property.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary

DEB:cmt
4/27/11