

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, May 11, 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, with the exception of Mr. Dailey. 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 acknowledged that Jane Roberts, a past Township Commissioner, was in attendance at the meeting.

Howard Supplee, 105 Orlemann Avenue, addressed the Board of Commissioners and asked that the Board review the standing water conditions at two new detention basins in Oreland. The first detention basin is located at the Tank Car Corporation, and the other detention basin is located on Pennsylvania Avenue near Camp Hill Road. Mr. Supplee expressed his concern for mosquito breeding late in the Summer.

Mr. Gillies asked if the Board of Commissioners was going to read any correspondence received by the Board over the past month or so. Mr. Gillies specifically suggested his interest in reading aloud a letter received from the Pastor of the Oreland Presbyterian Church, as well as the response from an individual School Board member, both related to the proposed Human Relations and Anti-Discrimination ordinance. Mr. Schaum asked what defines correspondence for the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Harbison suggested that the Board should discuss what correspondence received by the Board might be read at future business meetings.

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 \$663,760.71 and the May bill listing in the amount of \$603,331.36.

Mr. Harbison announced that during the month of April, Springfield Township residents recycled 199.1 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 76.7%. The net cost for the month was \$5,488.78.

Mr. Harbison stated that for the past several months, the Board of Commissioners has been discussing a draft ordinance establishing a Human Relations Commission in Springfield Township. The purpose of the ordinance is to supplement the existing Federal and State laws protecting against discriminatory practices. While not required by law, the Board of Commissioners plans to conduct a public hearing during the regular June business meeting on June 8, 2011 to receive public comment on the draft ordinance. Based upon comments received, the Board of Commissioners may consider enacting the ordinance during the July 13, 2011 meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Copies of the ordinance are available in the Township Building as well as on the Springfield Township website.

Mr. Harbison extended a special thanks to Paul Schmidt, of Erdenheim, for lending his personal and professional skills through the early development of the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission. His dedication as a member and immediate past chairperson helped the EAC accomplish objectives that provided practical application to individual households as well as establishing broad goals for the EAC and the Township government. Mr. Schmidt recently tendered his resignation as a member of the Environmental Advisory Commission, indicating that his schedule will preclude him from dedicating the time he believes is necessary to be an active member of the EAC.

Motion (Harbison-Heller) carried unanimously to appoint Vivianne Callahan, of Southampton Avenue, 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, 2012.

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

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1252, a resolution which celebrated Arbor Day in Springfield Township and urged all Township residents to join with the Shade Tree Commission in support of efforts to plant new trees, and protect existing trees and woodlands.

Mr. Schaum announced that there are currently two openings on the Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Schaum provided a summary of the activities of the Shade Tree Commission, and invited residents interested in serving on the Shade Tree Commission to send a letter of interest or resume to the office of the Township Manager.

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

Mr. Gillies reported on behalf of Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee:

Mr. Gillies noted that the Zoning Hearing Board would not meet during the month of May 2011. The pending application before the Zoning Hearing Board from MC Outdoor LLC related to off premises signs, aka billboards, was continued by counsel for MC Outdoor. Mr. Gillies announced that the next scheduled meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board is scheduled for June 20, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building.

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

Motion (Standish-Heller) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1253, a resolution authorizing the execution of a Supplemental Reimbursement Agreement with PennDOT for both construction and inspection services related to the Bethlehem Pike streetscape improvement project.

Motion (Standish-Schaum) carried unanimously to reappoint Charles Carabba and William Kratz to new three year terms of service as members of the Springfield Township Open Space Planning Committee. The new terms of service shall expire May 12, 2014.

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

Motion (Peirce-Heller) carried unanimously to reappoint Gail Inderweis to a new three year term of service as a member of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee. The new term of service shall expire May 12, 2014.

Ms. Peirce also noted that the Township recently received a letter of resignation from Cheryl Schneider, a member of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee. Ms. Schneider was a long term member of the Advisory Committee and served in a leadership capacity during her tenure as a member. Ms. Schneider plans to focus on other activities which will keep her involved in the Springfield Township community. With Ms. Schneider's resignation, Ms. Peirce suggested that residents interested in serving as a member of the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee should forward a letter of interest or resume to the Township Manager.

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

Motion (Heller-Peirce) carried unanimously to enact Ordinance No. 909, an ordinance to amend the Springfield Township Code permitting the growth of high brush and grasses in environmentally sensitive areas, conditioned that the areas left to grow do not include noxious weeds. Mr. Heller explained that the Township previously tabled discussions on a riparian corridor, but to assist with related issues, the Township Environmental Advisory Commission visited various sites throughout the Township to help educate residents on the benefits of riparian corridors. Mr. Gillies asked for clarification that the subject ordinance permits the growth of the high weeds and grasses, and does not necessarily require the growth of this vegetation. Mr. Heller agreed.

Motion (Heller-Gillies) carried unanimously to enact Ordinance No. 910, an ordinance amending the Springfield Township Code by adjusting fees in the following areas: (1) the pumping of swimming pools, (2) the issuance of a zoning and code compliance certification, and (3) to make application before the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Heller noted that all of the above adjustments were being made merely to match the costs incurred by the Township to provide these services.

Motion (Heller-Schaum) carried unanimously to accept a letter dated May 9, 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

June 30, 2011. The extension is related to an amended final land development plan proposed by Federal Realty.

Mr. Heller announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency recently published a notice of proposed modifications to the base floodplain elevations in many communities, including Springfield Township. Mr. Heller urged residents who live adjacent to a waterway to review the FEMA flood insurance rate maps to determine if the new flood elevations have any effect on their individual properties. Residents interested in appealing the new Federal flood insurance map elevations were instructed to submit the appeal to Springfield Township in written format no later than July 27, 2011, and the appeal must include scientific or technical data that contradicts the finding of FEMA. Residents can always appeal the FEMA determination through a process known as a "letter of map appeal", which is also administered by Springfield Township.

Tom Bell, of Flourtown, addressed the Board of Commissioners related to trails. Mr. Bell suggested that an earlier statement by Mr. Heller that a large percentage of Springfield Township residents would like trails in their neighborhoods may not be as universally accepted if the trail were in that individual's rear or side yard. Mr. Bell also wished to clarify that while Mr. Heller alludes to a trail adjacent to his property, the trail is actually 400 feet from his residence. In conclusion, Mr. Bell believed residents have a sincere concern for property security and privacy as it relates to trails.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary

DEB:cmt
5/23/11