

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, November 9, 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 recognized past Commissioner Jane Roberts who was in the attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Harbison also congratulated Commissioners Gillies, Schaum and Standish on their re-election to the Board of Commissioners, and Thomas Bell for being elected to a new term as a member of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioners Harbison and Schaum invited members of the Springfield Township first responders to the front of the meeting room to receive plaques from the Board of Commissioners for their service to the community on a regular basis, but also for specific efforts during three significant rain events in August and September. Representatives from the three fire companies, Springfield Ambulance Association, Springfield Police Department and the Springfield Public Works Department were all present and received plaques from the Board of Commissioners.

Representatives of the Friends of Historic Bethlehem Pike introduced themselves to those in attendance at the meeting and indicated that the Friends would like to present their fifth annual ACORN award to a property owner who helps keep Bethlehem Pike vibrant, and enhances the historic fabric of Bethlehem Pike. The award was presented to Karen and Jim Phelps, of Scarlet Begonias, 512 Bethlehem Pike. Ms. Phelps was present and accepted the award and provided a little background on her business and efforts to establish herself along Bethlehem Pike.

Jane Roberts reviewed the activities of the recent banquet and auction held on September 30 that was to benefit the Black Horse Inn. The committee was able to raise a net of \$9,066. Ms. Roberts thanked the committee members and all those who attended the banquet.

Genie McClintock, 17 Brookside Road, indicated she received notice of a land survey to be conducted by Springfield Township in her neighborhood. Mr. Harbison explained that was related to the efforts recently discussed to gain more information on the flooding situation in her neighborhood. Mr. Harbison also noted that the Township has attended several meetings since

the last time the neighbors and the Board met, and the Township is also in the process of establishing a meeting with locally elected State officials in order to help encourage the Commonwealth to take steps to help reduce the flooding conditions in certain areas of the Township.

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

Motion (Harbison-Peirce) carried unanimously to approve the October check reconciliation in the amount of \$1,544,352.57 and the November bill listing in the amount of \$643,965.79.

An announcement was made that during the month of October, Springfield Township residents recycled 201.2 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 72.7%. The net cost for the month was \$5,325.83. Mr. Harbison also noted that Montgomery County is sponsoring a program to recycle election signs. The signs can be returned to either the Whitmarsh Township Building or the Upper Dublin Township Building.

An announcement was made of the schedule through the adoption of the 2012 budget, as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Budget Hearing	12/14/11	8:00 PM
Budget Adoption	12/21/11	8:00 PM

All meetings will be held in the Springfield Township Building.

Mr. Harbison presented the 2012 Preliminary Budget of Springfield Township. Mr. Harbison noted that the Board of Commissioners proposed a balanced operating budget for 2012 of \$16,725,111, with a real estate tax rate of 3.370 mills and an earned income tax rate of 1.0%. As a result of the 2012 budget projections, the typical taxpayer will realize no net change to the real estate tax, but will experience an increase in the refuse service fee and sanitary sewer rental fee. The 2012 budget proposes to maintain the real estate tax rate of 3.370 mills identical to the tax years 2007 through 2011. The refuse service fee will increase by \$1.11 while the sanitary sewer rental will be increased an average of \$2.54 per household. The 2012 discounted sanitary sewer rental rate for each 1,000 gallons of wastewater treated will be set at \$4.92. The 2012 discounted refuse service fee will be set at \$194.86. The Board of Commissioners will accept questions and comments on the budget at a special public meeting held for this purpose on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 8:00 PM and again on Wednesday, December 21, 2011 at 8:00 PM.

Motion (Harbison-Peirce) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1263, a resolution establishing the final 2012 minimum municipal obligation for the three

Township pension plans. The Commonwealth requires municipalities to make appropriate provisions in its annual budget to fund its pension plans.

Motion (Harbison-Dailey) carried unanimously to enact Ordinance No. 915, an ordinance establishing a Deferred Retirement Option Plan for the police pension plan. The plan includes the minimum eligibility requirement of 25 years of service and 50 years of age, the elimination of pension plan contributions once enrolled in the DROP, management of a disability once in the DROP, death benefits, payments and management of the investment accounts, and distribution of the DROP funds.

Motion (Harbison-Heller) carried unanimously to appoint Steve Heverin of the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission to represent Springfield Township on the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership.

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

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously to adopt the amendments updating the Springfield Township Emergency Management Plan dated August 2, 2011. The updates are principally in the area of the resource directory and the updates have been reviewed by the Board of Commissioners, Springfield Township Emergency Management Committee and Township staff.

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

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

Motion (Standish-Schaum) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution Nos. 1264-A and 1264-B appointing Donald G. Sirianni, Jr., Assistant Director of Public Works, as the agent for Springfield Township to work with both FEMA and PEMA to secure the public flood assistance for Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

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

Ms. Peirce announced that in September of this year, the Board of Commissioners created the Springfield Township Human Relations Commission to help mediate claims of discriminatory practices within the Township and providing for adjudication of cases in the Court of Common Pleas. Ms. Peirce described membership appointments of residents or business owners in the Township and she solicited resumes or letters from those who may be interested in serving on the Commission. Details were provided on where the letters or resumes should be sent.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board would next meet on November 21, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Dailey summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda. Mr. Dailey also noted that MC Outdoor LLC had once again extended the time in which the Zoning Hearing Board must hold their first hearing on the zoning validity challenge until December 19, 2011. The MC Outdoor LLC zoning validity challenge is related to the installation of billboards within the Township. The challenge proposes to place billboards at two locations along Bethlehem Pike. The Board of Commissioners previously voted to defend the challenge and the Board will continue to maintain that position.

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

Mr. Heller announced that Springfield Township is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan. He explained that the purpose of a municipal comprehensive plan is to provide an overall future vision for the municipality, along with proposing tools to implement that vision. The Springfield Township Planning Commission, in concert with the Montgomery County Planning Commission, has created a document known as the "Emerging Trends and Critical Issues Report", which is designed to provide a summary of land planning trends and issues that have been identified by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Heller also noted that the Springfield Township Planning Commission is hosting an open house on November 15, 2011 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building to provide details on the planning project and to solicit input from residents and business owners on the Comprehensive Plan update.

Judy Patitucci, 101 E. Wissahickon Avenue, inquired whether the Township Comprehensive Plan was a new document. Mr. Heller indicated that it was not a new document, but the current effort is to update the existing Comprehensive Plan. He noted that comprehensive plans are typically updated every ten years. Mr. Heller went into some detail as to what the Comprehensive Plan is designed to accomplish.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary