

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, December 14, 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 Ms. Peirce and Messrs. Schaum and Heller. 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.

Mr. Harbison announced that the Board of Commissioners held an executive meeting on Monday, December 12, 2011 in order to discuss a matter of litigation and a real estate matter.

Motion (Gillies-Standish) 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 noted that Commissioner Peirce was not in attendance at the December business meeting due to a business obligation, and Messrs. Schaum and Heller were attending to personal business.

Special Report

Mr. Harbison noted that subsequent to the November meetings of the Board of Commissioners, the Board continued to make progress with regard to flood mitigation efforts Township-wide. Mr. Harbison reported on two meetings which included the Board of Commissioners as well as Sen. Vincent Hughes, State Representative Lawrence Curry, staff from Congresswoman Schwartz' office, other Township, State and Federal officials to discuss curtailing the flooding within Springfield Township. The various flood damaged locations were reviewed and likely contributing factors were discussed. The parties also discussed possible solutions and responsibilities to reduce the flooding.

Mr. Harbison also announced that as a part of the business meeting, the Board of Commissioners would be conducting a public hearing related to the 2012 budget. Questions or comments related to the 2012 proposed budget should be held until the scheduled public hearing.

Madeleine Griffin, 8911 Montgomery Avenue, presented information to the Board of Commissioners from the Small Business Administration related to flood mitigation loans for 8911 Montgomery Avenue.

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

Motion (Harbison-Gillies) carried unanimously to approve the November check reconciliation in the amount of \$662,359.71 and the December bill listing in the amount of \$1,277,283.72.

Mr. Harbison announced that during the month of November, Springfield Township residents recycled 275.2 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 68.8%. The net cost savings for the month was \$389.20.

Motion (Harbison-Standish) carried unanimously to adopt a policy compliant with PA Act 44 of 2009 which mandates disclosure of specific information by every entity which maintains a professional services contract with a Springfield Township pension fund. Mr. Harbison stated that while Springfield Township had been compliant with PA Act 44, the subject policy documents the actions taken and those expected in the future.

Mr. Harbison announced that in accordance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Law, the agencies of Springfield Township will meet for the purpose of transacting the business of the agencies in accordance with a schedule of meetings throughout the calendar year 2012. Mr. Harbison noted that the meeting schedule proposed for 2012 is exactly as it existed 2011 with the exception of the Zoning Hearing Board which, in the future, will meet on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 PM. Mr. Dailey noted that the Zoning Hearing Board also discussed the possibility of beginning their meetings as early as 6:30 PM.

Mr. Harbison announced that pursuant to Section 701 of the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code, the Board of Commissioners will organize on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. The meeting will begin with the oath of office being administered to the newly elected members of the Board of Commissioners followed by the organization of the Board.

Mr. Harbison announced that the budget adoption meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2011 at 8:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building.

2012 Budget Hearing

The Board of Commissioners conducted a budget hearing to accept public comment on the proposed 2012 budget of the Township.

Mr. Gillies reported for Mr. Schaum, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee:

Motion (Gillies-Dailey) carried unanimously to amend the Springfield Township Code, Section 107-28, Schedule V, Stop Intersections, by creating a 3-way stop intersection at the intersection of Meadow Lane and Niessen Road. Mr. Harbison noted that the

Board of Commissioners is censorious with the creation of multi-way stop intersections, and had engaged an outside engineer to review this particular intersection.

Mr. Gillies, Chairman of Library Committee, reported:

Motion (Gillies-Dailey) carried unanimously to accept a letter of resignation from Jennifer Kolodner as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Free Library of Springfield Township. Ms. Kolodner was a member of the Springfield Township School District Board of Directors and was the School Board's appointee to the Advisory Committee. Ms. Kolodner is no longer a member of the School Board and as a result has resigned her position on the Township Advisory Committee.

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

Motion (Standish-Dailey) carried unanimously to authorize the purchase of 8911 Montgomery Avenue, Wyndmoor, for the amount of \$325,000. The value offered for the purchase is consistent with the property appraisal report prepared by PJJ Realty Advisors Inc. dated November 18, 2011.

Motion (Standish-Gillies) carried unanimously to endorse eleven (11) letters of intent to participate in the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The projects are as follows:

1. Increase the capacity of the existing underground stormwater detention system in 300 block of Integrity Avenue
2. Re-establish/retrofit the existing drainage channel in the rear yards of the private properties in the 2000 blocks of Lantern and Quill Lanes
3. Elevate the dwellings in the 400 and 500 blocks of Hemlock Road
4. Acquire and demolish the selected homes in the 400 and 500 blocks of Hemlock Road
5. Construct an earthen berm in the 400 and 500 blocks of Hemlock Road.
6. Acquire land to construct a detention basin to the benefit of the 8800 block of Carlisle Road
7. Replace the existing drainage system to the benefit of the unit blocks of College, Grove and Weiss Avenues
8. Enhance the stormwater drainage system in the Erdenheim Village
9. Construct overland drainage swales in the unit block of Brookside Road
10. Enhance the concrete drainage channels in the unit block of Brookside Road
11. Construct a stormwater detention basin at 8911 Montgomery Avenue

Mr. Standish reported on behalf of Ms. Peirce, Chairwoman of Communications and Cultural Resources Committees:

Mr. Standish announced that the Board of Commissioners is soliciting resumes or letters of interest from residents or business owners who may be interested in serving on the

Springfield Township Human Relations Commission. The Commission has been established to help mediate claims of discriminatory practices within the Township and to provide adjudication of cases in the Court of Common Pleas. Instructions were provided on how to submit letters or resumes.

Mr. Standish announced that the Board of Commissioners received a letter of resignation from Greg Luce as a member of the Springfield Township Website Enhancement Committee. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Standish thanked Mr. Luce for his service as one of the original members of the website enhancement committee.

J. E. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board would next meet on December 19, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Dailey summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda. Related, Mr. Dailey noted that MC Outdoor LLC had extended the time in which the Zoning Hearing Board must hold their first hearing on the zoning validity challenge until January 23, 2012. The MC Outdoor LLC zoning validity challenge is related to the installation of billboards within the Township. The challenge proposes to place a billboard at two locations along Bethlehem Pike. Mr. Dailey noted that the Board of Commissioners previously voted to defend the challenge and the Board has continued to maintain that position.

Mr. Dailey reported on behalf of Mr. Heller, Chairman of Community Development Committee:

Motion (Dailey-Gillies) carried unanimously that in compliance with Section 512 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, the Board of Commissioners waived the formal land development review process for the construction of eight off-street parking spaces proposed at the Erden Court Apartments, 6 Haws Lane, Flourtown. The waiver was conditioned upon the property owner constructing the improvements as shown on the plan entitled "Additional Parking Spaces Plan" produced by Mark Hintenlang PE, dated 12/4/11 and the representations made to the Springfield Township Planning Commission at its meeting on December 6, 2011. The representations include the following: (1) the owner shall plant one canopy tree along the Haws Lane frontage, (2) the owner will install railroad ties or retaining wall at the corner of the parking area near the new parallel parking spaces, and (3) the owner will re-establish grass in the area where the existing walkway is being removed.

In closing, Mr. Harbison reviewed many accomplishments of the Board of Commissioners over the past 6 years during which the Board maintained a Democratic leadership. Some of the points raised by Mr. Harbison included the following: (1) the Board provided excellent service without raising taxes; in fact the real estate taxes are lower than 6 years ago, (2) the Board enacted an anti-discrimination ordinance, (3) the Black Horse Inn was renovated with much of the funding coming from government grants, (4) spent over \$1 million in stormwater management projects, (5) left the Township with only \$455,000 in total debt and a \$4.3 million capital reserve, (6) facilitated the introduction of cable TV competition by entering a franchise agreement with Verizon FIOS, (7) upgraded the Township website and

added e-mail blasts to the website capabilities, and (8) treated the citizenry with respect when they came to be heard at the public meetings. Mr. Harbison also wished to thank Sean Kilkenny, Township Solicitor, for his dedicated service and noted his only absences were when he was called up to serve his country in the US Army. It was noted that Mr. Kilkenny was a fine Solicitor, advisor and friend.

Mr. Harbison also noted that this meeting was the final meeting for Doug Heller as a Commissioner. Doug represented the Flourtown portion of Springfield Township. Mr. Heller's remarkably complete website educated the Board of Commissioners and Springfield residents on a broad range of issues, and therefore has made us a more informed community. Mr. Heller's wisdom, long range view and deep sense of social justice pushed the Board in the right direction and made Springfield Township a better place. As Mr. Heller moves on to battle a health issue, the Board will miss his steady and quiet leadership. Mr. Harbison thanked him for his efforts and wished him God speed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary