

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, January 11, 2012 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. Gillies presided.

Mr. Gillies 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. Gillies led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Schaum-Peirce) 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.

Special Announcement

The Board of Commissioners would like to acknowledge the passing of former Township Commissioner Joseph Gerber, of Wyndmoor. Mr. Gerber served as a member of the Township Board of Commissioners for six years, and served as Board President. He also served on the Springfield Township Planning Commission from 1993 until the present, as well as the Township Police Civil Service Commission from 1999 until the present. Joe was a gentle man with a fine sense of humor and will be missed by the community and the Township family. The Board of Commissioners wished his wife, Rita, his son and daughter all the best during these difficult times.

Katie Smith, 42 Brookside Road, addressed the Board of Commissioners and thanked the Board for their work to date with regard to reducing flooding on Brookside Road. Ms. Smith did suggest, however, that she was concerned with the placement of too much stormwater into the Paper Mill Run and the adverse affects that might have on her neighborhood. Ms. Peirce acknowledged Ms. Smith's comment and suggested that the management of the stormwater would be a coordinated effort.

Mr. Gillies, Chairman of Internal Affairs Committee, reported:

Motion (Gillies-Peirce) carried unanimously to approve the December check reconciliation in the amount of \$1,239,506.81 and the January bill listing in the amount of \$581,191.24.

Mr. Gillies made an announcement with regard to the Committee assignments for the Board of Commissioners as well as liaison assignments to the various Township advisory groups. The assignments are as follows:

Committee Assignments

Chairman, Internal Affairs Committee – Robert E. Gillies
Chairman, Public Works and Public Safety Committees – Glenn A. Schaum
Chairman, Human Resources Committee – Baird M. Standish
Chairman, Cultural Resources Committee – Jeffrey T. Harbison
Chairwoman, Library Committee – Alison M. Peirce
Chairman, Community Development Committee – James E. Dailey
Chairman, Zoning Committee – Thomas G. Bell

Liaison Assignments

Zoning Hearing Board – Thomas Bell
Planning Commission – James Dailey
Parks & Recreation Committee – Baird Standish
Library Committee – Alison Peirce
Emergency Services Board – Glenn Schaum
Shade Tree Commission – Jeffrey Harbison
Open Space Planning Committee – Jeffrey Harbison
Black Horse Inn Committee – Jeffrey Harbison
Environmental Advisory Commission – Thomas Bell
Website Enhancement Committee – James Dailey
Municipal Campus Advisory Committee – Robert Gillies and Baird Standish

Mr. Schaum, Chairman of Public Works and Public Safety Committees, reported:

Prior to his report, Mr. Schaum congratulated Mr. Gillies on being elected as President of the Board of Commissioners and wished him well.

Motion (Schaum-Dailey) carried unanimously to amend the Workers Compensation Policy for volunteer firefighters and EMS responders by clarifying the responsibilities of both the volunteers and their respective emergency response organizations to manage workers compensation claims. The thrust of the policy is that of communications between the volunteers, their emergency response organizations and the Township.

Motion (Schaum-Bell) carried unanimously to transfer Robert McGrory, the current alternate member on the Police Civil Service Commission, to that of a full member on the Police Civil Service Commission. Mr. McGrory's term of service shall expire July 16, 2016.

Mr. Schaum reminded Township residents that it is illegal to discharge any stormwater, ground water or roof runoff into the sanitary sewer system. Sump pumps utilized for the discharge of surface or groundwater must be connected so that the discharge is to the outside of the building and not into laundry tubs, floor drains or in any other way connected to the sanitary sewer system. Mr. Schaum noted that improper discharge of stormwater results in higher sanitary sewer treatment fees and can result in sanitary wastes backing up into private residences. Mr. Schaum also encouraged residents to install a backflow prevention device to prevent sanitary waste from entering the home at the lowest point of entry. Residents were also encouraged to install sanitary sewer lateral caps over their existing sanitary sewer vents. This too will help preclude rain water from entering the sanitary sewer system. Commissioner Bell noted that he has the lateral caps at his disposal.

Mr. Standish, Chairman of Human Resources Committee, reported:

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. He noted that the Human Relations Commission was established to help mediate claims of discriminatory practices within the Township and to provide adjudication of cases in the Court of Common Pleas. Mr. Standish provided direction on how residents might direct their information to the Township.

Motion (Standish-Peirce) carried unanimously to appoint David Morris, of Flourtown, to fill an unexpired term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Park and Recreation Advisory Committee. Mr. Morris' term of service shall expire May 12, 2012.

Ms. Peirce, Chairwoman of Library Committee, reported:

Motion (Peirce-Standish) carried unanimously to reappoint Janet Waxman to a new three year term of service as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Free Library of Springfield Township, and to reappoint Jean Brodey to a new three year term of service as the alternate member on the Library Advisory Committee. The new terms of service shall expire December 31, 2014.

Ms. Peirce also announced that there is currently a vacancy on the Library Advisory Committee. Directions were provided on how residents might forward their information to the Township.

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

Motion (Dailey-Peirce) carried unanimously to transfer Sean Ross from the alternate position on the Website Enhancement Committee to a full member position on the Website Enhancement Committee. Mr. Ross' term of service shall expire February 8, 2014.

Motion (Dailey-Schaum) 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 installation of a temporary office trailer to the rear of 150 Roesch Avenue for use by Jamison Masonry Restoration, as well as 5 off-street parking spaces associated with the use of the trailer. The waiver was conditioned upon the property owner installing the improvements as shown on the plan entitled "Jamison Masonry Restoration Proposed Additions and Alterations" prepared by Brian J. Billings Architects, dated January 15, 2007, as well as the following specific points: (1) the property owner will utilize the added office space, this space will not be rented to a third party, (2) the owner will utilize the trailer on a temporary basis not to exceed 5 years, (3) the owner will plant three street trees and three shrubs along the Calwell Avenue side of the property, and (4) the owner shall apply for all necessary permits and related approvals.

Mr. Dailey announced that there is currently a vacancy on the Springfield Township Planning Commission. Residents interested in serving on the Planning Commission were provided direction on how to forward their information to the Township.

An announcement was made that the Commissioners would like to provide an opportunity to all of the Township volunteer civic groups to re-introduce their missions to the Township residents. The Board plans to provide time at each business meeting for the various civic groups to address the community on their current goals and activities, and to provide information on membership in order that the volunteer civic groups maintain their strong and vital places in the Springfield community. Mr. Dailey provided information on how the organizations might contact the Township.

Mr. Harbison, Chairman of Cultural Resources Committee, had no report.

Mr. Bell, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Bell announced that the Zoning Hearing Board will next meet on Monday, January 23, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Bell summarized the Zoning Hearing Board agenda. It was also noted that beginning in January 2012, the Zoning Hearing Board will begin conducting their business on the 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 PM, which is a scheduling change from previous years.

Motion (Bell-Dailey) carried unanimously to reappoint Daniel Clifford as a member of the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Clifford's term of service shall expire December 31, 2012.

Motion (Bell-Schaum) carried unanimously to reappoint Megan McDonough to a new three year term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board. Ms. McDonough's new term of service shall expire December 31, 2014.

An announcement was made that during the month of December, Springfield Township residents recycled 220.3 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 68.9%. The net cost for the month was \$3,850.73. For the year 2011, Township residents recycled 2,674.3 tons of materials with a weekly household participation rate of 74%. Mr. Bell summarized the income, cost savings and net cost of the recycling program for the year 2011.

Mr. Harbison summarized that there was currently one vacancy on the Library Advisory Committee, one vacancy on the Planning Commission and four vacancies on the Human Relations Commission.

Genie McClintock, 17 Brookside Road, reviewed the status of several flood mitigation efforts to the benefit of the Brookside Road neighborhood. Those projects include the design of a swale on the Mount Saint Joseph Academy property, PennDOT opening the stormwater inlet mouths along Bethlehem Pike, and a visit by the Army Corps of Engineers. Ms. McClintock asked that the Commissioners consider, as a part of their comprehensive review of the neighborhood, the inclusion of swales in the rear yards of the Brookside Road properties as well as an effort to help reduce the standing water on the Mt. Saint Joseph Academy property to the rear of Brookside Road properties.

Joseph Stoutzenberger, 34 Brookside Road, also thanked the Board of Commissioners for considering the inclusion of stormwater swales in the rear yards of Brookside Road properties as a part of their ongoing discussions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary

