

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, February 8, 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 Announcements

Mr. Gillies announced that the Springfield Township family lost one of its long time members, William "Bob" Householder. Mr. Gillies reviewed Lt. Householder's service with Springfield Township and noted that upon his retirement from the police department in 1998, he served as the Springfield Township District Justice. The Board of Commissioners extended their best wishes to Mary Ann Householder, their two sons and their families during this difficult time.

An announcement was made that the Board of Commissioners will be providing an opportunity to civic organizations to introduce their missions to Township residents. The Board of Commissioners will do this by providing time at each business meeting for the civic groups to address the community on their current goals and activities and to provide information on membership in order that the organizations may maintain their strong and vital places in the community. While the Township staff will be reaching out to the civic organizations, groups that are currently prepared to address the community can schedule their presentations by contacting the office of the Township Manager.

Chris Tomlinson, 27 Haws Lane, addressed the Board of Commissioners and inquired as to the requirements to be a commissioner. Mr. Garrity indicated that he was not entirely certain, but believed the individual must be an eligible voter. Mr. Tomlinson suggested that as a part of the November 2011 election, a charge was brought that Mr. Harbison mishandled four absentee ballots and those ballots were therefore disqualified. Mr. Tomlinson stated that as a result of these actions, he was asking for Mr. Harbison to resign his position as a member of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Tomlinson left a copy of the Montgomery County verdict and transcript of the hearing. Mr. Tomlinson suggested that the matter deserved an investigation by the Board. Mr. Harbison stated

that he was not a defendant in the action, but was a witness to the transactions. He noted that he had worked with individuals completing absentee ballots and at the time was not aware that each absentee ballot was required to be submitted independently to the County. He suggested that the matter was a procedural error but there was no evidence of impropriety. Mr. Harbison stated that he believes that everyone should have the opportunity to vote and has been happy to help individuals submit their absentee ballots. In conclusion, Mr. Harbison apologized for the error.

Joan Parsons, 1203 Susan Circle, addressed the Board and inquired what nursing homes were involved in the absentee ballot matter. Mr. Harbison indicated he believed one ballot came from Chestnut Hill Healthcare and three were from the Fairview Nursing Home. Ms. Parsons suggested that a better system should be created to help assist these individuals and perhaps get their families involved.

Wendy Holcombe, 33 Brookside Road, addressed the Board of Commissioners and asked if the Board might provide an update on steps taken to reduce the flooding concerns for Brookside Road residents. Mr. Gillies indicated that the Township is in the process of creating a formal schedule of activities or projects related to the stormwater management issues, and asked the Township Manager to provide an update specific to Brookside Road. Mr. Berger provided a list of projects under consideration that would benefit Brookside Road. These projects included surface and sub-surface improvements to the stormwater system, as well as improvements to the sanitary sewer system. Ms. Holcombe thanked the Board of Commissioners for their work to date.

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

Motion (Gillies-Schaum) carried unanimously to approve the January check reconciliation in the amount of \$346,646.11 and the February bill listing in the amount of \$587,402.25.

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

Motion (Schaum-Dailey) carried unanimously that the Board of Commissioners endorse an application to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Round #2, by submitting grant applications to secure, then raze, twelve (12) properties located within the 400 and 500 blocks of Hemlock Road, or in lieu of acquisition and demolition, elevate the same twelve (12) dwellings above the 100 year flood zone. Participation by the twelve (12) property owners is on a voluntary basis only.

Motion (Schaum-Peirce) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1271, a resolution establishing Michael Taylor, Assistant Township Manager, as the designated agent for Springfield Township as it relates to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

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

An announcement was made that the Board of Commissioners created a Township Human Relations Commission to help mediate claims of discriminatory practices within the Township and to provide adjudication of cases in the Court of Common Pleas. While the Township has received letters or resumes from residents interested in serving on the Commission, the Board of Commissioners will continue to accept resumes until February 24, 2012. Mr. Standish provided instructions on how residents could forward their resume for consideration.

Motion (Standish-Peirce) carried unanimously to reappoint Gloria Thompson to serve as a member of the Springfield Township Park and Recreation Advisory Committee for a term to expire May 12, 2013, and to appoint Gretchen Slapinsky to the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee for a term to expire May 12, 2014. Mr. Standish explained that both women are members of the School Board of Directors, and that the School Board maintains two nominees on the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Ms. Peirce, Chairwoman of Library Committee, reported:

Motion (Peirce-Schaum) carried unanimously to appoint Elton Richardson to a term of service as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Free Library of Springfield Township. Mr. Richardson's term of service shall expire December 31, 2014. Ms. Peirce explained that similar to the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee, the School Board of Directors is provided an opportunity to place a representative on the Township Library Advisory Committee.

Ms. Peirce announced that there is a vacancy on the Library Advisory Committee. Residents interested in serving on the Committee should send a resume or letter of interest to the Board of Commissioners. Instructions on how to submit the resumes were provided.

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

Mr. Dailey reiterated the announced made earlier with regard to the interest of the Board to provide an opportunity for all volunteer civic groups to reintroduce their missions to the Township residents. He noted that the Board plans to provide time at each business meeting for the various groups to address the community on their current goals and activities, and to provide information on their membership. Organizations interested in participating should not hesitate to contact the Township by mail or via the Township website.

Motion (Dailey-Schaum) carried unanimously to appoint Steve Schagrin, of Oreland, to a new four year term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Planning Commission. Mr. Schagrin's term of service shall expire February 16, 2016.

Motion (Dailey-Harbison) carried unanimously to reappoint Richard Simmons to a new three year term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Website Enhancement Committee. The new term of service shall expire February 8, 2015.

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 would not meet during the month of February as the Board did not receive any applications. The next scheduled meeting for the Zoning Hearing Board will be at 7:00 PM on March 26, 2012.

An announcement was made that during the month of January, Springfield Township residents recycling 213.9 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 73.3%. The net cost for the month was \$6,681.55.

Motion (Bell-Peirce) carried unanimously to accept a letter from Deirdre Martinez dated January 25, 2012 resigning her position as a member of the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission. Ms. Martinez cited changes in her work schedule that would preclude her from regularly attending the meetings. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Bell thanked Ms. Martinez for her service.

Motion (Bell-Standish) carried unanimously to appoint Stacey Blankin of Wyndmoor to fill an unexpired term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission. The new term of service shall expire June 14, 2014.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Township Manager

