

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, March 14, 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, with the exception of Mr. Dailey. Mr. Gillies presided.

Mr. Gillies asked everyone to join the Board of Commissioners in a moment of silent reflection 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.

Mr. Gillies acknowledged that Mr. Dailey was not in attendance at the meeting.

Special Reports

Mr. Gillies stated that at the February 8, 2012 business meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Tomlinson of Haws Lane addressed the Board of Commissioners with allegations of the mishandling of absentee ballots. Mr. Tomlinson suggested individuals, including Commissioner Jeff Harbison, assisted residents at local nursing homes in completing their absentee ballots. It appears that subsequent to the completion of the ballots, Mr. Harbison took the ballots to the County for processing, and was directed to mail the ballots to the office. Mr. Harbison placed several ballots in one mailing instrument and as a result, four ballots were rejected by the County Board of Elections. As a result of the disqualification of the ballots, Mr. Tomlinson suggested that the Board of Commissioners should take action to remove Mr. Harbison from his position as a Township Commissioner.

Mr. Gillies noted that the Board of Commissioners is providing time at each business meeting for the Township 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 may maintain their strong and vital place in the Springfield Township community. Civic groups were asked to contact the Township offices in order that the presentations may be scheduled.

The Commissioners recognized and welcomed the Friends of Historic Bethlehem Pike. Rob Ryan, of the Friends of Historic Bethlehem Pike, stated that the Friends became organized in the early 2000s and with the impetus of the Black Horse Inn

development, the organization became more formalized. Initially, the Friends were interested in saving and restoring the Black Horse Inn, and while that work continues through fundraisers to the benefit of the Black Horse Inn, the Friends have expanded their mission to promote historic, cultural, and environmental features of Bethlehem Pike. They have maintained interest in specific issues related to Bethlehem Pike such as the concern for the installation of billboards. They created an ACORN award, which is awarded annually to a property owner who has made improvements to his/her property along the Pike. The Friends can be found at fhbp@googlegroups. Anyone interested in donating to the organization can do so by addressing the donations to the Friends at 112 West College Avenue, Flourtown.

Genie McClintock, 17 Brookside Road, recounted a report on stormwater management improvements provided at the March workshop meeting. Ms. McClintock expressed interest in the work to eliminate a storm drain in a local parking lot that discharges into the sanitary sewer system, and was pleased that action was taken to purchase a property on Montgomery Avenue for a detention basin. Ms. McClintock was pleased that the stormwater system in the vicinity of Terminal Avenue and Montgomery Avenue is being reviewed for improvements. Ms. McClintock thanked the Board for future posting the schedule of stormwater improvement projects on the website.

Chris Tomlinson, of Haws Lane, addressed the Board of Commissioners related to the earlier special report on election violations. Mr. Tomlinson suggested he needed to clarify a few points related to the issue: (1) he believes he asked Mr. Harbison to resign his position as a member of the Board of Commissioners, and did not specifically ask the Board of Commissioners to take any action, (2) while Mr. Harbison noted that four absentee ballots were disqualified, many more ballots were involved in the activity in question, (3) Mr. Harbison suggested that the rule change related to the handling of absentee ballots was a recent change; Mr. Tomlinson noted that, in fact, the change occurred in 2006, (4) assisting individuals with absentee ballots requires the filing of specific paperwork and candidates for positions are not to participate in the activity, (5) a newspaper article stated that Mr. Harbison found Mr. Tomlinson's behavior libelous; Mr. Tomlinson suggested that he has not put anything in written form and, in fact, there was a violation of the law and therefore, it is not Mr. Tomlinson's credibility that is in question, but that of Mr. Harbison. In conclusion, Mr. Tomlinson once again asked Mr. Harbison to resign his position.

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

Motion (Gillies-Peirce) carried unanimously authorizing the execution of an agreement of sale with the owners of 8911 Montgomery Avenue to purchase the subject property for \$325,000, contingent upon clear environmental and title reviews.

Motion (Gillies-Schaum) carried unanimously to approve the February check reconciliation in the amount of \$627,844.79 and the March bill listing in the amount of \$575,028.79.

Motion (Gillies-Schaum) carried unanimously to enact ordinance No. 917, an ordinance that deletes in its entirety the “killed in service” death benefits being paid for by the Township. Ordinance No. 917 also provides for the codification of the DROP ordinance that was previously enacted by the Board of Commissioners as required by an earlier arbitration award. Mr. Schaum also noted that the killed in service death benefits are now being paid for by the Commonwealth via Pennsylvania Act 51 of 2010.

Mr. Gillies made an announcement with regard to where to direct earned income tax returns for the year 2011, as well as where to direct payment for the local real estate taxes for the year 2012.

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

Motion (Schaum-Peirce) carried unanimously to authorize staff to commence with the formal bidding procedure to repair a 270 foot section of the existing gabion walls along the Paper Mill Run in Cisco Park. The gabion walls are to be repaired with a new structural concrete wall within the tributary to the Hillcrest Pond.

Motion (Schaum-Harbison) carried unanimously to grant permission to the Wyndmoor Hose Company to utilize Veterans Park to stage a fireworks display on Saturday evening, June 9, 2012 in conjunction with their annual carnival. In addition, Section 3301.1 (12) of the Springfield Township Fire Prevention Code was waived related to the aforementioned fireworks display. As a condition for the use of the property and the waiver of the provisions of the Fire Prevention Code, the Wyndmoor Hose Company and their fireworks professional are to add Springfield Township as an additional insured on their certificates of insurance for the event. Furthermore, the organizations involved are asked to work closely with the Township Fire Marshal to help prevent an accident and to create a plan of action in the event an accident does occur.

Motion (Schaum-Peirce) carried unanimously to authorize the purchase of a Johnston VT650 street sweeper on a 2012 International Harvester 4300 chassis for a net price of \$225,990.84. The bid quotation was provided by US Municipal Supply Company of King of Prussia through the Pennsylvania COSTARS cooperative purchasing program.

Motion (Schaum-Standish) carried unanimously to authorize the purchase of a 2012 International Harvester Workstar 7500 6 x 4 chassis for the net price of

\$97,330. The low bid was provided by Del Val International of Montgomeryville, also through the Pennsylvania COSTARS cooperative purchasing program.

Motion (Schaum-Bell) carried unanimously to authorize the submission of a letter of sponsorship for the restoration of the stream bank of the Oreland Run adjacent to 403 Meadow Lane, Oreland. The sponsorship letter is to be submitted through the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Protection Project. Mr. Schaum noted that the sponsorship letter will preserve the ability of the property owner and Township to participate in the program but at the same time, the Township will continue to evaluate the costs and benefits of the program.

Motion (Schaum-Bell) carried unanimously to authorize the following items to be sold at public auction as a part of the Montgomery County Consortium used equipment auction: 2001 International truck with a 25 yard Leach packer body, 1998 International truck (chassis only), 1999 Chevrolet K-2500 pick-up truck, 2006 Chevrolet Tahoe, 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe, 1998 Chevrolet 4 x 4 pick-up truck, and various small items such as used tires, snow plows, snow plow hitches.

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

Mr. Standish announced that the Board of Commissioners has 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 of interest or resumes from several residents who have expressed interest in serving on the Commission, the Board of Commissioners is continuing to accept additional letters or resumes. Mr. Standish provided directions on how to submit letters and resumes, and provided a deadline date of March 30, 2012.

Ms. Peirce, Chairwoman of Library Committee, reported:

Ms. Peirce made an announcement with regard to ongoing programs within the Free Library of Springfield Township. Some of the programs discussed include story times for pre-schoolers, e-reader classes for those with the new e-reader equipment, medicare counseling sessions, and healthy lifestyle programs. Additionally, financial and tax information sponsored by AARP and the Township tax collector are ongoing.

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

Motion (Peirce-Standish) carried unanimously to authorize Township staff to move forward with the formal bidding process for the Erdenheim Sidewalk

Improvement Project. The project is to construct sidewalks and handicapped accessible ramps along portions of Bethlehem Pike, Paper Mill Road, and Montgomery Avenue. It was noted that the project is being funded by two Community Development Block Grants obtained in 2009 and 2010.

Motion (Peirce-Bell) carried unanimously to reappoint Robert Gutowski, of Erdenheim, and Mary Holland, of Oreland, to new four year terms of service as members of the Springfield Township Planning Commission. The new terms of service shall expire February 16, 2016.

Motion (Peirce-Bell) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1272, a resolution endorsing and authorizing an application to the Montgomery County Community Development Block Grant program for a project known as the Lower Erdenheim Drainage Improvement Project. The project anticipates the installation of storm drainage improvements in the Montgomery Avenue and Terminal Avenue neighborhoods in order to help reduce flooding in the Brookside Road neighborhood.

Mr. Harbison, Chairman of Cultural Resources Committee, reported:

Motion (Harbison-Peirce) carried unanimously to accept a letter dated February 23, 2012 from Lee Kowalski resigning his membership as a member of the Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Harbison noted that Mr. Kowalski was one of the original Commission members when the Commission was established in 1994. Mr. Kowalski served as the first Chairperson of the Shade Tree Commission and helped establish the goals and objectives of the Commission. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Harbison thanked Mr. Kowalski for his long, dedicated service to the Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission.

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1273, a resolution proclaiming April 28, 2012 as Arbor Day in Springfield Township.

In conjunction with the Arbor Day celebration on April 28, Mr. Harbison announced the Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission will be conducting a workshop on proper tree pruning methods as presented by a certified arborist. The workshop will include the give-away of one tree to each of the first 25 attendees at the workshop. The Shade Tree Commission also plans to plant a tree in Cisco Park. Residents were encouraged to follow announcements on the Township website for the exact location of the workshop within the Cisco Park and the time of the demonstration.

Mr. Bell, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Bell announced that the Zoning Hearing Board would not meet during the month of March as the Board did not receive any applications. The next scheduled meeting for the Zoning Hearing Board will be held on Monday, April 23, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building.

Mr. Bell announced that during the month of February, Springfield Township residents recycled 227.6 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 67%. The net cost for the month was \$5,627.36.

Mr. Bell also announced that Springfield Township would be sponsoring a free electronic waste recycling event at the Springfield Township High School parking lot on Saturday, March 17, 2012. Mr. Bell outlined in great detail the items acceptable for collection at the electronic waste recycling event. He also noted that the program was not for household hazardous waste collection, but such programs are scheduled throughout the County.

Earl Markey, Springfield Township Constable, addressed the Board of Commissioners to announce that there was a vacancy as a Deputy Constable within the Township. Residents interested in serving in that capacity should contact him at 215-874-4099.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary

DEB:cmt
3/22/12