

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, June 13, 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 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 also asked that during this time those present reflect on the life and contributions of past Commissioner Doug Heller, who passed away on May 25, 2012.

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 Reports

Mr. Gillies acknowledged the loss of former Commissioner Doug Heller who passed away on May 25, 2012. Mr. Heller established a legacy as a communicator with a keen interest for the community to understand the details behind the public deliberations of the Township officials. Additionally, his enjoyment and skills in creating electronic communications helped the Township immensely by providing more complete information in a more user-friendly format. Doug's passion for US history was noted through his development of the website [www.ushistory.org](http://www.ushistory.org), as well as his local efforts to preserve history within Springfield Township and, in particular, the Black Horse Inn structure. While interested in the past, Mr. Heller was very much interested in moving forward and helped champion recent streetscape improvements along Bethlehem Pike and introduced legislation that was enacted by the Board of Commissioners creating a Springfield Township Human Relations Commission. On behalf of the entire Board of Commissioners, Mr. Gillies wished his wife, Nancy, and Doug's friends and family all the best during this difficult time.

Following these comments from the Board of Commissioners, each member of the Board took a few moments to reflect on Doug as a gentleman, a father, as someone with a keen intellect and sharp wit, a compassionate man and a very strong individual especially during the illness that eventually took his life.

Nancy Parsons-Heller, 25 West Mill Road, addressed the Board of Commissioners and thanked the Board and the individual members of the Board for their kind words for Doug. She noted that when Doug first indicated he was interested in running for elected office, she was thrilled for not only him, but also for the community as he had a great deal to offer the community. As noted by the Board, Doug was very interested in sharing any information he had on any topic, and would do so on his personal website and any other means available.

Mrs. Heller noted that among Doug's most proud moments is when the Board of Commissioners enacted the Human Relations Commission ordinance for Springfield Township. In conclusion, Mrs. Heller stated that Doug enjoyed working with the Township staff, Township Planning Commission, and the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Gillies announced that the Board of Commissioners would be conducting a public hearing later in the evening on the creation of an age-targeted residential zoning district and the rezoning of the Boorse tract, 10 Camp Hill Road, Fort Washington. Those interested in making comments with regard to that issue were asked to hold their questions or comments until the public hearing is conducted.

Roseanne Nyiri, President of the Rotary Club of Springfield Township, addressed the Board of Commissioners on the background and current activities of the Rotary Club. Mrs. Nyiri noted that the Rotary Club is celebrating its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary. All rotary clubs maintain a four way test as to how they conduct business: (1) is it the truth, (2) is it fair to all concerned, (3) will it build good will and better friendships, and (4) will it be beneficial to all concerned. Some of the local community activities of the Rotary Club include supporting the DARE program, which has been converted to a COPS program, supporting the Interact Service Club in the Springfield Township High School, providing annual scholarships for all the high schools in Springfield Township, sponsoring Camp Neidig, which is a leadership camp, and sponsoring many activities related to various holidays throughout the year. Regionally and internationally, the Rotary Club is supportive of Philabundance and has also built a water tower in Tanzania. Seven additional Rotary Club members were present at the meeting and were all introduced. The Rotary Club meets every Tuesday, at 12:15 at the Sandy Run Country Club.

Rita Ford, 24 Glenn Circle, addressed the Board of Commissioners and requested an update on the flood mitigation projects planned to benefit her neighborhood. Mr. Berger reviewed the status of the drainage swale at the Mount Saint Joseph Academy, and a meeting with PA DEP and the Army Corps of Engineers during which four projects were discussed. Those projects include creating more stormwater storage capacity at Hillcrest Pond, the creation of a detention basin at 8911 Montgomery Avenue, the creation of additional storage along the Paper Mill Run at Stenton Avenue, and the creation of swale improvements in the rear yards of Quill Lane and Lantern Lane (not in the Brookside Road neighborhood). The status of the Terminal Avenue storm drainage improvement project, which is the subject of a grant application, has not changed. Ms. Ford was informed that the County normally provides feedback on the applications in late summer or early fall, and the Board will act accordingly. In the event the grant is not approved, the Board of Commissioners will have time to consider the project as a part of the 2013 budget.

Laurel Sample, Burton Road, Marybeth Criniti, Filbert Road, and Pat McGurkin, Filbert Road, addressed the Board of Commissioners on their concern for the residents at 510 Filbert Road feeding feral cats. Their concerns were both health and nuisance related. It was noted that they had contacted the Montgomery County Health Department, which does not provide any assistance in this regard, and the local SPCA will accept the cats but will not capture them. The Board of Commissioners indicated that they would review the situation and to the extent they can provide assistance, they will consider same.

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

Motion (Gillies-Peirce) carried unanimously to approve the May check reconciliation in the amount of \$536,988.75 and the June bill listing in the amount of \$866,336.03.

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

Motion (Schaum-Standish) carried unanimously to waive the provisions of Section 3301.1(12) of the Springfield Township Fire Prevention Code in order that the Rotary Club of Springfield Township may conduct a fireworks display on Saturday evening, June 30, 2012 at the Springfield Township High School in conjunction with their annual carnival. The waiver is conditioned upon the Rotary Club of Springfield Township and their fireworks professional adding Springfield Township as an additional insured on their Certificates of Insurance for the event, the Rotary Club shall provide written permission from the School District of Springfield Township to utilize the School District property for the fireworks display, and finally, the organizations involved shall 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 during the activity.

Motion (Schaum-Bell) carried unanimously to authorize the sale of a retired police vehicle, a 2003 Chevrolet Impala, to Telford Borough, Montgomery County, for the price of \$4,000.

Motion (Schaum-Peirce) carried unanimously to extend a conditional offer of employment as a probationary police officer to Matthew S. Reppert, of Red Ridge Road, in Levittown. The conditions of the appointment include successfully passing a medical examination, as well as a psychological examination. Mr. Reppert's employment date will be scheduled in conjunction with the noted examinations.

Mr. Schaum noted that the Board of Commissioners was presented with three candidates to fill the one position currently open in the Police Department. All the candidates passed a written examination, a physical agility test, participated in an oral review examination, and a polygraph examination. The Commissioners were pleased with the quality of the candidates interviewed.

Motion (Schaum-Harbison) carried unanimously to award a contract to Joseph E. Sucher & Sons, of Eddystone, PA, for their low bid price of \$251,328 to perform specified work associated with the 2012 street resurfacing and milling program. On June 5, 2012, the Board of Commissioners received four bids for this project. The bids ranged from the low bid price provided by Joseph E. Sucher to a high of \$276,018.75.

Mr. Standish, Chairman of Human Resources Committee, had no report.

Ms. Peirce, Chairwoman of Library Committee, had no report.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Community Development Committee, had no report.

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 next meet on Monday evening, June 25, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Bell summarized the Zoning Hearing Board agenda.

Mr. Bell announced that during the month of May, Springfield Township residents recycled 244 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 76.7%. The net cost for the month was \$4,363.88.

Motion (Bell-Peirce) carried unanimously to reappoint Seth Wilson, Vivianne Callahan, and Mara Baird to new three year terms of service as members of the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission. The new three year terms of service shall expire June 14, 2015.

Motion (Bell-Standish) carried unanimously to accept a letter dated May 3, 2012 from Pietro Bosca, owner of 27 Byshe Avenue, extending the 90 day subdivision plan review period without regard to time.

Rob Ryan, 6 Franklin Avenue, asked for an update as to the billboard zoning challenge before the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Garrity indicated that over the past several months negotiations have taken place with the applicant with regard to finding a more suitable location for a possible billboard. One possible location is along route 309 expressway. The Board is discussing such things as location, size and buffering around the sign. The Zoning Hearing Board proceedings have been stayed and to the extent any settlement agreement is presented to the Board of Commissioners, the Board will discuss same at a public meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.  
Secretary