

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, November 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 Ms. Peirce. 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-Harbison) 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 noted that Ms. Peirce was unable to attend the meeting due to a business obligation.

Special Report

Mr. Gillies announced that Hurricane Sandy required a great deal of attention from all of the Township offices and volunteer emergency management organizations prior to and during the week of October 29, 2012. The hurricane produced 2.38" of rain in Springfield Township, but the extreme high winds caused approximately 80% of the Township to be without power for a protracted period of time. Mr. Gillies reviewed the number of roads that were blocked due to downed limbs and trees. Mr. Gillies commented on the response from PECO, the operating departments of the Township, and the volunteer emergency organizations. The actions taken in preparation for the hurricane were discussed as well as information provided to the community. During the most recent workshop meeting of the Board, the Board discussed means by which information related to the storm might be better communicated to the community.

Faye McNulty, 7813 Beech Lane, addressed the Board of Commissioners on the proposed construction of restrooms at the Laurel Beech Park. Ms. McNulty indicated that the park is well maintained and, at one time, she was in favor of the construction of restrooms at this location. She is no longer in favor of the restrooms given discussions by the Board of Commissioners regarding increasing real estate taxes and flooding issues throughout the Township.

Genie McClintock, 17 Brookside Road, inquired whether Brookside Road was still the number one priority for flood issues within the Township. Mr. Gillies indicated that it was, however, there are several priorities in the Township that the Board of Commissioners is reviewing.

Anna and Michael Nero, 616 Haws Lane, addressed the Board of Commissioners with regard to creek erosion adjacent to their residence. The Neros indicated that they are aware of two stream bank stabilization projects in Oreland. The one project is directly across Haws Lane from their home. The Neros would like to receive the same attention as provided the other residence receiving streambank stabilization, and discussed the proximity of the creek to their home and existing trees. Mr. Gillies acknowledged receipt of a letter from the Neros which will be discussed at next month's meeting. Mr. Gillies also clarified that the projects to which the Neros referred are receiving funding from the United States Department of Agriculture and PA Department of Environmental Resources.

Howard Supplee, 101 Orlemann Avenue, asked for a status report on the spot lights that are located on the bus depot at 50 Oreland Mill Road. Mr. Berger indicated that a citation had been issued, but he would have to follow up to determine the disposition of the citation.

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

Motion (Gillies-Schaum) carried unanimously to approve the October check reconciliation in the amount of \$1,256,427.68 and the November bill listing in the amount of \$494,473.71.

Mr. Gillies announced the schedule of meetings through the adoption of the 2013 Budget:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Budget Hearing	12/12/12	8:00 PM
Budget Adoption	12/19/12	8:00 PM

All meetings will be held in the Springfield Township Building.

Mr. Gillies presented the 2013 preliminary budget of Springfield Township. Mr. Gillies noted that the Board of Commissioners proposes a balanced operating budget for 2013 of \$16,924,133, with a real estate tax rate of 3.649 mills, and an earned income tax rate of 1.0%. As a result of the 2013 budget projections, the typical taxpayer will realize an increase in real estate taxes of \$48.94, an increase in the sanitary sewer rental of \$.49/1000 gallons of wastewater treated or an increase of \$16.33, and a decrease in the refuse service fee of \$1.10. The 2013 budget proposes an increase in the real estate millage of .279 mills, establishes a discounted sanitary sewer rental rate of \$5.31 per 1000 gallons of wastewater treated, and a refuse service fee of \$193.76 per housing unit. The proposed 2013 budget will be made available for inspection in the office of the Township Manager and the Township Library beginning 12:00 noon on November 16, 2012. The Board of Commissioners will accept questions and comments on the budget at a special public meeting held for this purpose on Wednesday, December 12, 2012, at 8:00 PM, and again on Wednesday, December 19, 2012, at 8:00 PM. Both meetings will be held in the Springfield Township Building.

Mr. Bell raised questions on various line items within the Police Department Budget. It was recommended that Mr. Bell address his specific questions to staff at his convenience. Mr. Gillies indicated his interest to create a \$1 million fund for stormwater management improvements within the capital reserve account. From his review of the current capital reserve fund, he would recommend allocating the funds differently. Mr. Dailey inquired whether the funds would be reallocated from the existing capital reserve and then encumbered differently. Mr. Harbison also asked whether the Board of Commissioners was reallocating the existing funds, or borrowing from the capital reserve for these projects. Mr. Gillies indicated that it was his thought to reallocate the funds within the capital reserve account. Mr. Schaum thought the Board of Commissioners might consider borrowing funds for this purpose at a later date following a review by the Township Engineer that would determine the specific funding requirements.

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

Motion (Schaum-Dailey) carried unanimously to appoint Cpl. Rebecca Mersky, Cpl. Lee Allan, and Officer Bruce Nisbet to the position of Police Patrol Sergeant, effective December 3, 2012. Mr. Schaum noted that all three officers did exceedingly well in the examination and review process and have a distinguished and long tenure of service with Springfield Township.

Motion (Schaum-Bell) carried unanimously to appoint Officer Shawn Hart and Officer Robert Chiarlanza to the position of Police Patrol Corporal, effective December 3, 2012. Mr. Schaum noted that these officers also did well in the examination process and have provided outstanding service to the Township in a variety of different assignments.

Motion (Schaum-Bell) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1279, a resolution confirming a Disaster Declaration issued on October 29, 2012, in association with Hurricane Sandy. Mr. Schaum explained the process by which the declaration is issued and later confirmed.

An announcement was made that a vacancy still exists in the alternate member position on the Springfield Township Police Civil Service Commission. Mr. Schaum outlined the activities of the Police Civil Service Commission. Residents were directed to submit letters or resumes to the Board of Commissioners if they are interested in volunteering for this position.

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

Mr. Standish announced that in conjunction with the Springfield Township Municipal Campus Master Planning Process, the Township will provide residents with a behind-the-scenes look at the administration, police, public works and library facilities. There are two scheduled tours. The first will be held on Saturday, November 17, and the

second tour will be held on Tuesday, November 27, 2012. It was noted that the Board of Commissioners engaged an architectural firm to perform an analysis of the Township's current infrastructure, programming needs, and recommendations for the purpose of creating a long term master plan.

Motion (Standish-Schaum) vote 5-1, Bell opposed, to participate with the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners and the Upper Dublin Township Board of Commissioners in the purchase of 34 acres of land from the Pizek family to be preserved as open space. All three entities will contribute approximately \$16,700 toward the purchase of the land. The authorization relates to the purchase of land only, and the Township has not agreed to any other obligations regarding the land or improvements to the land. It is understood, however, that easements shall be reserved in any conveyance to a land trust organization to permit the construction of those trails and other improvements which are shown on the approved plans.

Mr. Dailey wished to clarify that this was a County request and that he would prefer that the check from the Township be written to the Board of Commissioners of Montgomery County. Mr. Bell suggested his belief that the monies used to purchase the land were discretionary, and he believes that any discretionary funds of the Township should be directed to stormwater management improvements.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board would next meet on Monday evening, November 26, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Dailey summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda. Messrs. Dailey and Harbison discussed their understanding of the petition of Philmont Christian Academy to place a thrift store at 1100 E. Willow Grove Avenue, Wyndmoor.

Motion (Dailey-Harbison) carried unanimously to authorize the office of the Township Solicitor to attend the Zoning Hearing Board meetings related to the Philmont Thrift Store LLC proposed at 1100 E. Willow Grove Avenue, Wyndmoor, in order to help protect the interest of the Township.

Mr. Dailey thanked Township staff for their efforts to create the 2013 budget, but would like the Commissioners to consider reducing the budget to a zero increase in real estate taxes. Mr. Gillies noted that staff had created a zero increase budget recently and that budget has been presented to the Board of Commissioners for review.

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

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

Motion (Bell-Standish) carried unanimously authorizing the proper Township officials to execute an agreement with the Commissioners of Montgomery County in order for the Montgomery County Planning Commission to provide planning assistance to Springfield Township. Mr. Bell reviewed the activities of the Planning Commission in assisting the Township. The cost for the planning assistance is split 50/50 between Montgomery County and the Township. The 2013 annual fee is \$10,926 and will increase to \$11,286 over the next two years.

Motion (Bell-Schaum) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1280, a resolution authorizing Springfield Township to participate in a collaborative multi-municipal program led by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council to implement educational outreach and training activities as required by the Pennsylvania General Permit #13 and the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems Regulations.

Mr. Bell announced that Skip Lynch, of Wyndmoor, recently advised the Board of Commissioners of his desire to resign his position as a member of the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Bell thanked Mr. Lynch for his service to the Environmental Advisory Commission. Mr. Bell also provided direction on how residents interested in serving on the Environmental Advisory Commission could forward letters of interest to the Board for consideration.

Motion (Bell-Schaum) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1282, a resolution granting a waiver to the formal land development plan review process for Federal Realty Investment Trust, owners of the Flourtown Shopping Center, related to the construction of a Giant Food Store in the space previously intended for a Home Depot Store.

Mr. Bell announced that during the month of October, Springfield Township residents recycled 220 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 73.8%. The net cost for the month was \$6,217.40.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary