

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in special meeting on Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at 8:00 PM for the purpose of closing the business of 2013 and adopting the 2014 budget. 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 servicemen and women who have placed themselves in harm's way in order to help preserve our safety.

Mr. Gillies led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Gillies opened the meeting to public comment.

Peter Wilson, 810 Longfield Road, addressed the Board of Commissioners and inquired if and where the Erdenheim drainage project was funded. Mr. Gillies indicated that the project was moving forward, but the project was not specifically funded in the budget. However, the Board did discuss opportunities to fund the project through the sewer reserve fund.

Motion (Gillies-Peirce) to enact Ordinance No. 926 establishing the 2014 tax levy and budget appropriation of \$17,427,956 with a real estate tax rate of 3.347 mills and an earned income tax rate of 1.0%. The average household with a real estate tax assessment of \$175,400 will realize a reduction in the real estate taxes of \$41.57. The refuse service fee shall be set at \$193.38 per household, a decrease of \$4.34, and the sanitary sewer rental shall be set at \$5.62 per 1000 gallons of wastewater treated, an increase of \$.21 per 1000 gallons of water. Mr. Gillies identified this motion as option 1.

Mr. Standish noted that the Board of Commissioners had not discussed this option in previous meetings and asked for an explanation as to the details of the proposal. Mr. Gillies suggested that the Board had previously reviewed the expenses but not the receipts, and he reviewed several areas such as the earned income tax, real estate transfer tax, business privilege tax, and cable television franchise fees that might yield additional income. Ms. Peirce noted that the receipts in those areas were higher in 2013 than in some previous years, but does not believe that the receipts are expected to be the same in 2014. Mr. Berger distributed a memorandum from staff and reviewed the details surrounding the additional receipts in the earned income tax and real estate transfer taxes in the year 2013, which did not anticipate comparable receipts in 2014. Mr. Standish suggested that in the event there was a surplus of tax receipts in 2014, the Board of Commissioners could direct those receipts to stormwater management projects, or other worthy projects for the Township. Ms. Peirce stated her belief that the Township has under-invested in its infrastructure and would prefer to be able to pay for the improvements when needed. Mr. Gillies opined that when the government has funds, it

tends to spend those funds. The government can secure needed funds when required, and any excess funds can remain with the taxpayers. Mr. Dailey suggested that all budgets are based upon projections without any true certainty of the receipts. A vote on the motion: 3 in favor, 4 opposed. Harbison, Peirce, Schaum and Standish opposed.

Motion (Gillies-Bell) to enact Ordinance No. 926 establishing the 2014 tax levy and budget appropriations of \$17,727,956 with a real estate tax rate of 3.467 mills, and an earned income tax rate of 1.0%. The average household with a real estate tax assessment of \$175,400 will realize a reduction in the real estate taxes of \$20.52. The refuse service fee shall be set at \$193.38 per household, a decrease of \$4.34, and the sanitary sewer rental shall be set at \$5.62 per 1000 gallons of wastewater treated, an increase of \$.21 per 1000 gallons of water. Mr. Berger explained that this motion assumed the same increased receipts in the real estate transfer tax, business taxes, earned income tax and cable television franchise fee, and added an expense to construct sidewalks along Haws Lane as discussed by the Board of Commissioners at previous meetings in 2013. Mr. Dailey reminded the Board that with regard to the sidewalk project, the property in question would be liened and eventually those funds would be returned to the Township. Ms. Peirce questioned the validity of the assumptions for the receipts. Mr. Dailey opined that he was comfortable with the suggested changes. Vote: 4-3; Harbison, Peirce, Schaum opposed. The motion was approved.

Motion (Schaum-Peirce) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1313, a resolution reconciling the lease rental receipts from the Flourtown Country Club and transferring the net proceeds of \$28,688.76 from the general fund to the capital reserve fund for capital expenses at the Flourtown Country Club. Mr. Schaum read into the record Resolution No. 1313.

Mr. Gillies read into the record Ordinance No. 926, an ordinance establishing the 2014 tax levy and budget appropriations of \$17,727,956 with a real estate tax rate of 3.467 mills, and an earned income tax rate of 1%. The enactment of the ordinance was approved previously in the meeting.

Motion (Bell-Schaum) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1314, a resolution transferring the net sewer rental receipts from the general fund to the sewer reserve fund. The amount of the transfer was \$351,058.99. Mr. Bell read into the record Resolution No. 1314.

Motion (Standish-Bell) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1315, a resolution amending the 2013 budget appropriations. The 2013 general fund budget amendments were reconciled within the general fund expenses without the need to utilize any excess revenues collected in 2013. Mr. Standish read into the record Resolution No. 1315.

Motion (Dailey-Peirce) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1316, a resolution setting the annual refuse service fee for the year 2014 at \$193.38 for each residential unit. Mr. Dailey read into the record Resolution No. 1316.

Motion (Peirce-Standish) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1317, a resolution establishing the sanitary sewer rental for the year 2014 at \$5.62 per 1000 gallons of water, net. Ms. Peirce read into the record Resolution No. 1317.

Motion (Harbison-Peirce) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1318, a resolution authorizing the issuance of a Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note, Series 2014, in the amount of \$500,000 to PNC Bank at a rate of 1.60%.

Mr. Gillies opened the meeting for additional public comment. No public comments were received.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.  
Secretary

DEB:cmt  
12/24/13