

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, May 14, 2014 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. Schaum. Mr. Dailey presided.

Mr. Dailey announced that the Board of Commissioners received word the evening before that a colleague and friend, Commissioner Tom Bell, had lost his battle with cancer. Mr. Dailey reviewed some of Mr. Bell's involvement in the Township, including his election to represent ward 1, Flourtown/Erdenheim, beginning in 2012, and currently was serving as the Board Vice President and Chairman of the Community Development Committee. Tom was a real estate broker and owner of the Richard J. Bell Realtor office in Flourtown. Tom's professional skills, local knowledge and service to the United States Navy, Flourtown Fire Company, Flourtown Erdenhem Little League, and St. Genevieve's Church made him a tremendous asset to the Board of Commissioners and the Springfield Township community. On the personal side, Mr. Dailey noted there are few people as upbeat, willing and able to help family, friends and neighbors as Tom. Mr. Dailey extended the condolences of the Board and community to Mr. Bell's wife, Patsy, and their three sons. It was noted that Mr. Bell was willing to step away from the position of Township Commission as his health declined, but because he was able to stay involved in Township activities, he was encouraged not to resign his position.

Mr. Dailey asked everyone to join him in a moment of silence in honor of Tom Bell and the service men and women who have placed themselves in harm's way in order to protect our safety.

Mr. Dailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Gillies-Wilson) 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. Dailey noted that Mr. Schaum was absent from the meeting due to a business obligation.

Genie McClintock, 17 Brookside Road, expressed her sorrow for the passing of Tom Bell. She noted that he promised to keep stormwater management concerns as a priority, and he did so, and he regularly communicated with the residents via e-mail. Ms. McClintock also noted her interest in understanding the position of PA DEP with regard to the ground contamination adjacent to the Rittenhouse Lumber property where the Township plans to construct stormwater improvements. In closing, Ms. McClintock

suggested that her neighbor Mike Maxwell, of Brookside Road, should be considered for the position of Township Commissioner.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board would next meet on May 19, 2014 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Dailey summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda.

Motion (Dailey-Gillies) carried unanimously to reappoint Sean Ross, of Flourtown, to a new term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Website Enhancement Committee. The new three year term of service shall expire February 8, 2014.

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

Mr. Standish noted that in late February 2014, the Board of Commissioners sent a letter to PennDOT District 6 requesting guidance, assistance or approval to make several improvements in the vicinity of East Willow Grove Avenue and Ardmore Avenue. Those improvements included: (1) a reduction of the speed limit from 35 MPH to 25 MPH, (2) the painting of a white edge of road line four feet out from the curb in the eastbound lane of E. Willow Grove Avenue, (3) the removal of two large trees on E. Willow Grove Avenue near the intersection of Ardmore Avenue, and (4) the installation of intersection advisory signs to be placed on E. Willow Grove Avenue approaching Ardmore Avenue.

PennDOT recently responded as follows: (1) PennDOT will permit a reduction in the existing speed limit from 35 MPH to 25 MPH on E. Willow Grove Avenue between Stenton Avenue and Cheltenham Avenue, (2) PennDOT will adjust the street markings to create a 10 foot wide eastbound travel lane as well as an 8 foot wide parking lane on portions of E. Willow Grove Avenue; (3) PennDOT will not assist the Township with regard to the removal of the two trees, and (4) PennDOT will install intersection advisory signs on E. Willow Grove Avenue.

Motion (Standish- Harbison) carried unanimously to amend the Springfield Township Code, Section 107-24, Schedule I, Speed Limits, to establish a 25 MPH speed limit on E. Willow Grove Avenue from Stenton Avenue to Cheltenham Avenue.

With regard to the two trees on Willow Grove Avenue near Ardmore Avenue, the Township will monitor the conditions as a result of the remarking of the eastbound travel lane on Willow Grove Avenue.

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

I move that the Board of Commissioners reappoint Greg Luce and Gretchen Slapinsky as members of the Springfield Township Park and Recreation Advisory Committee. The new three year terms of service shall expire May 12, 2017.

Mr. Gillies reported on behalf of Mr. Schaum, Chairman of Public Safety Committee:

Mr. Gillies announced that on April 30, 2014 members of the Board of Commissioners interviewed Lt. Donald Fantry and Lt. Michael Pitkow for the position of Chief of Police. Prior to the interviews, an outside independent firm, the Pennsylvania Police Consultants, of Reading, PA, interviewed both gentlemen and provided a report indicating that both lieutenants were qualified to be considered for promotion to the rank of Chief of Police. Mr. Gillies noted that both candidates are career Springfield Township police officers who progressed through all the supervisory ranks within the department and have extensive experiences and special training which helped make both gentlemen ready for the position. In conjunction with selecting a Chief of Police, the Board of Commissioners will also create the position of Deputy Chief of Police in recognition of the skills and services necessary to maintain our high quality Police Department

Motion (Gillies-Wilson) carried unanimously to appoint Michael E. Pitkow to the position of Springfield Township Chief of Police effective July 28, 2014. In the interim, Lt. Pitkow shall be appointed "Officer in Charge" between this date and the effective date of his appointment as Chief of Police.

Motion (Gillies-Wilson) carried unanimously to appoint Donald P. Fantry to the position of Deputy Chief of Police effective July 28, 2014.

Both gentlemen were congratulated on their outstanding performance during the evaluation process, as well as their outstanding service to the Springfield Township community.

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

Motion (Gillies-Wilson) carried unanimously to approve the April check reconciliation in the amount of \$945,158.87 and the May bill listing in the amount of \$843,640.46

Motion (Gillies-Standish) carried unanimously to appoint Michael Heffernan, of College Avenue, Flourtown, to serve as a member of the Springfield Township Municipal Campus Advisory Committee.

Mr. Dailey reminded all that Dan DiCarlo, of Oreland, was scheduled to meet with the Board of Commissioners on May 12, but could not attend the meeting, and wondered if the Board would consider appointing Mr. DiCarlo to the Municipal Campus Advisory Committee. Mr. Harbison suggested that the Board typically meets with advisory committee candidates prior to appointment, and did not believe it was a good precedent to change that process. The Board agreed to meet with Mr. DiCarlo at a special meeting on May 28, 2014.

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

Mr. Harbison announced that during the month of April 2014, Springfield Township residents recycled 249.1 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 80.2%. The net cost for the month was \$5,190.59.

Mr. Harbison also announced that there were a number of special recycling events to be held throughout the County, and reviewed a lengthy list of those events, times and locations most convenient to Springfield Township residents. The types of recycling programs included household hazardous waste, paper shredding, tire collection and a rain barrel and compost bin sale.

Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Community Development Committee:

Mr. Wilson announced that the public hearing previously scheduled for this evening to consider the possible rezoning of 7.1 acres of land at 9303 Ridge Pike to Institutional zoning, and the deletion of the AAA-Age Qualified-1 Residential zoning district for the remaining 31.5 acres of the Tecce tract has been postponed. Mr. Wilson also announced that at the May 12, 2014 meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Board approved the scheduling of a public hearing to consider the possible rezoning of 7.1 acres of land on the Tecce tract adjacent to Ridge Pike to the Institutional zoning district, and to consider amendments to the dimensional requirements within the Institutional zoning district. The public hearing will also consider amendments to the AAA-Age Qualified-1 Residential zoning district to increase the required amount of open space from 50% to 60% in that zoning district. The AAA-Age Qualified-1 Residential zoning district will be maintained on the remaining approximately 31.5 acres of the Tecce tract which is located to the rear of the 7.1 acres of land being considered for possible rezoning to the Institutional zoning district.

Mr. Wilson, Chairman of Library Committee, reported:

Mr. Wilson recognized the passing of Dr. Jean Brody, a member of the Library Advisory Committee since 2008. Dr. Brody was a respected and valuable member of the Advisory Committee. She was a member of the Committee when the Township assumed direct responsibility for the library activities and helped create the current energetic atmosphere at the library. The Board extended its condolences to the Brody family.

Motion (Wilson-Gillies) carried unanimously to accept a letter from Joan Parsons, of Oreland, dated April 4, 2014, wherein Ms. Parsons tendered her resignation as a member of the Springfield Township Library Advisory Committee. Ms. Parsons stated family obligations preclude her participation on the Committee.

Mr. Wilson noted that there are now two vacancies on the Springfield Township Library Advisory Committee. Residents interested in serving on the Library Committee were directed to send a resume or letter of interest to the Board of Commissioners, at the Springfield Township Building, or via the Township website at www.springfieldmontco.org. Mr. Wilson provided background on the Library Advisory Committee with regard to the meeting schedule and duties.

Genie McClintock, Brookside Road, readdressed the Board of Commissioners to inform the Board that members of the Brookside Road neighborhood experienced sewage back-ups during the last two storms.

The monthly business meeting was recessed in order to conduct a public meeting related to a Zoning Code validity challenge filed by MC Outdoor LLC with regard to their desire to install two off-premises advertisement signs (billboards) in Springfield Township.

Mr. Dailey reconvened the business meeting.

Motion (Dailey-Gillies) to authorize the execution of a settlement agreement between MC Outdoor LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company, and Springfield Township, Montgomery County, with regard to MC Outdoor's challenge to the substantive validity of the Springfield Township Zoning Ordinance alleging a failure by the Township to permit commercial off-premises advertising billboards. The authorization was subject to clarification within the settlement agreement with regard to the additional landscaping to be placed adjacent to the proposed billboard in such a fashion to buffer the visual impact of the billboard from the residence at 1799 E. Willow Grove Avenue, and modification to the verbiage related to MC Outdoor securing a PennDOT permit,

and the fact that the Township will not have to actively support the permit application.

Mr. Gillies noted that a considerable amount of effort had been put forth by the Board of Commissioners and the Solicitor to be able to consider a reasonable settlement. He opined that a solicitor from a different firm at the time the validity challenge was filed did not recognize the threat of a zoning code validity challenge. In order to defend the validity challenge, the Township can expect to spend in the vicinity of \$250,000 and to the extent the Township were to lose the challenge, billboards would be placed as desired by the applicant without any associated conditions. At this time, he believes that the current agreement is the best solution given the situation.

Mr. Harbison wished to clarify that by the Board of Commissioners executing a settlement agreement with MC Outdoor, the Board is not indicating their desire for billboards, but indeed the settlement agreement is the least of all evils presented in this matter. He expressed his concerns for the possible decision by the Courts that the applicant may have the right to install billboards on Bethlehem Pike.

Mr. Dailey remarked that the Commissioners had been placed in a very difficult situation, and given the litigation risk, the current proposal might be the best outcome.

Vote on the motion was 5-0. The motion was approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary