

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, November 12, 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. Standish. Mr. Dailey presided.

Mr. Dailey 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. Dailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Schaum-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 acknowledged that Commissioner Standish was unable to attend this evening's meeting due to a business obligation. Mr. Dailey also introduced Andrew Freimuth, Esq., representing the office of the Township Solicitor.

Genie McClintock, 17 Brookside Road, asked for a status report with regard to the Terminal Avenue drainage project. Ms. McClintock was informed that that project was in the process of being finished. She also asked for a status report on the Carlisle Road detention basin. Ms. McClintock was informed that the Township made application for two funding opportunities to help pay for the proposed project.

Adina Bernbaum, 15 West Mill Road, addressed the Board and thanked Commissioner Schaum for his calm demeanor during the workshop meeting on November 10, 2014 related to the use of the Township library. She expressed her appreciation that State Representative McCarter and the Township Tax Collector were once again able to utilize the Township library. Ms. Bernbaum summarized the recent history of Board actions associated with use of the Township library by the two aforementioned individuals. She opined that it was a sad time for Springfield Township and it appeared to her that it was politically motivated. Mr. Dailey referenced the October 6, 2014 workshop meeting notes and outlined the discussion by the Board of Commissioners that evening. Mr. Harbison discussed his objection to banning the use of the library by the State Representative and Tax Collector, and referenced an email with his objections. Mr. Gillies suggested that the State Representative and Township Tax Collector were not banned from the library but were directed to use the Township Building for their desired services. The Township Solicitor was asked whether the Board had the authority to take the action at the library. Mr. Freimuth indicated that the Board did have such authority. Ms. Bernbaum indicated that the Township Tax Collector asked Mr. Wilson whether she was restricted from utilizing the Township library and Mr. Wilson did not recall

that that decision had been made. In conclusion, Ms. Bernbaum suggested that the decision restricting the use of the Township Library was a bad decision.

Joan Parsons, 526 Ramsey Road, addressed the Board of Commissioners and suggested that the lighting for the Cheltenham Transportation bus depot is still shining into the land of the future development adjacent to the bus depot. She also inquired as to the status of creating a light industrial zoning district. Ms. Parsons was told that the Township Planning Commission held one public forum on that issue and had scheduled a second one. At the conclusion of the forums, the Planning Commission will be providing a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Parsons also noted that she previously ran for election for the position of Township Treasurer and had planned to secure a business office for her use. With regard to the collection of taxes at the library, she did not believe the library was suitable for this activity pointing to the limited amenities such as the restrooms. If the Township Building is available, it might be a good alternative to the library, or perhaps the Tax Collector should simply rent office space. Ms. Parsons suggested that if a policy is created, it appears appropriate for the Library Advisory Committee to review same. She does believe that a policy is needed.

Noah Marlier, 508 Bradford Road, opined that the democratic process was not followed with regard to the decision made to restrict the use of the Township library. He also stated that he believed the action was politically motivated. Mr. Marlier thought it was sad that stories regarding Springfield Township were appearing in the Philadelphia Inquirer. Mr. Dailey wished to clarify that the decision restricting the use of the Township Library was not done behind closed doors, but was done at a Commissioners workshop meeting which is public, and residents were at the meeting. Mr. Gillies indicated that the matter was brought to the attention of the Board of Commissioners through him based on a constituent's complaint.

Mike and Anna Nero, 616 Haws Lane, addressed the Board of Commissioners and thanked the Board and Township staff for the recently completed stream bank stabilization project adjacent to their property.

Jan Hoffman, 8616 Patton Road, suggested that the Philadelphia Inquirer story on the restricted use of the Township Library was bad press for the Township. Ms. Hoffman discussed the importance of a library in a community as well as appreciation for the current library programs. She believed that with all the varying programs ongoing at the library, there must be a policy currently in place. Ms. Hoffman briefly discussed the library bill of rights as it relates to the creation of a use policy.

Howard Supplee, Orlemann Avenue, thanked the Board of Commissioners for their efforts to date with regard to reducing the lighting that enters his dwelling from the Cheltenham Transportation bus depot. While improvements have been made, Mr. Supplee asked for additional assistance in redirecting one of the lights that faces his home.

Helen Henry, 528 Drayton Road, referenced the recent article in the Philadelphia Inquirer on the use of the Township Library. She suggested that the decision restricting the use of the library was made too fast, and more thought needed to take place in that regard.

She is amazed with all the varying activities at the library and the wonderful assistance provided by the library staff. She did suggest that more space is needed at the library to accommodate the uses. Mr. Dailey agreed with the need for more space and provided a very brief summary of the current consideration to renovate the municipal campus including the Township library. Mr. Gillies recounted the past activities at the library and the improvements to the library and its activities in recent years.

Bonny Davis, 506 West Heather Road, noted that she has served as the Township Treasurer/Tax Collector for six years. For several years, she rented office space in the Township which proved to be too costly. Initially, she maintained two jobs to help support herself, but found that the tax collector position is more of a full time obligation. Ms. Davis recounted that approximately four years ago, she spoke to both the Township Manager and Township Librarian and secured permission to provide constituent services at the library. With regard to the use of the Township Building for the collection of taxes, she suggested that during some of her hours collecting the taxes, the Township Building is not staffed. Ms. Davis reviewed the notice received with regard to liability concerns for use of the Township Library, and noted that those concerns were resolved. She also suggested that it may be advantageous for those at the workshop meeting for the Board of Commissioners to provide more specific indication as to their decisions that are not subject to a formal vote. In conclusion, Ms. Davis thanked the Board of Commissioners for the opportunity to return to the Township library and that from time to time, she makes in-kind donations to the Township library for being able to utilize space at the library.

Jason Clark, 8535 Trumbauer Drive, inquired as to the need for a use policy at the library given the fact that the practice of varying uses at the library is already in place. Mr. Dailey suggested that some members of the Board were getting information from constituents with regard to the various uses at the library.

Mr. Dailey read into the record a letter dated November 12, 2014 from M. Jane Roberts, 1106 Churchill Road. Ms. Roberts thanked Mr. Schaum who chaired the workshop meeting on November 10, 2014 for acknowledging and working to correct a poor decision made by the Board of Commissioners in October. Ms. Roberts provided some background on the action by the Board of Commissioners to limit the use of the Township library by the Tax Collector and State Representative. Ms. Roberts was pleased that she and others were able to express their concerns to the Board of Commissioners at the recent workshop meeting and that the Board of Commissioners will permit the State Representative and Township Tax Collector to utilize the library until such time as a decision is made on a use policy.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the Zoning Hearing Board would not conduct a meeting during the month of November as no petitions were received.

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

Motion (Schaum-Samtman) to engage the services of AUS Consultants, of Camp Hill, PA, to provide technical assistance to the Board of Commissioners consistent with the AUS proposal dated November 6, 2014. AUS will provide technical assistance during the review of the sale or lease of the Township sanitary sewer system for a price not to exceed \$25,000.

Mr. Schaum announced that the Board of Commissioners received a letter dated October 27, 2014 from Jane Roberts resigning her position as a member of the Police Civil Service Commission. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Schaum thanked Ms. Roberts for her eleven years of service as a member of the Springfield Township Police Civil Service Commission, and before that, 8 years as a member of the Springfield Township Board of Commissioners, and past Vice President of the Board.

Motion (Schaum-Dailey) carried unanimously to transfer James Kolea, of Flourtown, from the position of alternate member of the Police Civil Service Commission to that of a full member of the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Kolea will retain his existing term of service which shall expire July 16, 2019.

Mr. Schaum noted that on October 24, 2014 Springfield Township opened bids on behalf of 16 municipalities in eastern Montgomery County for waste management services for the year 2015 and future years. The bids were structured for one five-year contract and the option to extend the contract for an additional three years. Contractors were given an opportunity to bid on all or portions of the overall contract under four bid formats. Mr. Schaum summarized the four bid formats. It was noted that bids were received from BFI/Republic, Covanta, J.P. Mascaro and Sons, and Waste Management. Springfield Township considered the bids received under bid form #1, a direct haul, or bid form #2, the utilization of the Abington transfer station. The Board of Commissioners believes it would be most efficient and financially prudent to consider awarding a contract under bid form #1, the direct haul. Covanta submitted the lowest bid for the direct haul for Springfield Township at a rate of \$54 per ton. The other direct haul prices were: BFI, \$58 per ton, and JP Mascaro at \$86.96 per ton. Waste Management did not bid on Springfield Township business.

Motion (Schaum-Gillies) carried unanimously to award a five year contract to Covanta under the bid form #1, the direct haul option, in the amount of \$54 per ton beginning January 1, 2015, subject to the execution of a contract with Covanta in a form satisfactory to the office of the Township Solicitor. Copies of all the bid results are available for review through the office of the Township Manager.

Mr. Gillies wished to clarify that the direct haul was for the Township to transport the collected solid wastes to the Covanta plant in Plymouth Meeting. Mr. Harbison noted that the Covanta plant in Plymouth Meeting is a waste to energy plant.

Mr. Harbison reported on behalf of Mr. Standish, Chairman of Community Development Committee:

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to accept a letter dated October 29, 2014 from Samuel Blake, owner of 9425 Stenton Avenue, extending the 90 day land development review period without regard for time related to the planned development at 9425 Stenton Avenue. The extension of time will provide the owner the opportunity to bring the development plans into compliance with the Springfield Township Code. The planned development is a 13 townhouse development.

Motion (Harbison-Gillies) carried unanimously to accept a letter dated November 3, 2014 from Babette Racca, of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania, owners of the Shelly Ridge Girl Scout Camp, 330 Manor Road, extending the 90 day land development plan review period without regard for time related to the planned improvements at the Girl Scout Camp. The extension of time will provide the Girl Scouts an opportunity to bring the development plans into compliance with the Springfield Township Code. The planned development involves the construction of a lodge or dormitory building, as well as an activity center and the associated off-street parking at 330 Manor Road.

Mr. Harbison noted that on October 29, 2014 the Township opened four proposals from firms interested in providing exclusive electrical code inspection services for Springfield Township. The proposals were received from: the Bureau Veritas North America, of Broomall, PA; United Inspection Agency Inc., of Ambler, PA; Code Inspections Inc., of Horsham, PA; and Middle Atlantic Electrical Inspection, of Feasterville, PA. During the upcoming month, staff will meet with the four firms to discuss in detail their proposals, understand their services, meet the individuals who may be servicing the Springfield account, and gain greater insight as to their fee schedule structure for the services to be provided.

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

Mr. Harbison announced that during the month of October 2014, Springfield Township residents recycled 241.7 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 82.9%. The net cost for the month was \$5,762.09.

Mr. Harbison announced that there are currently two vacancies on the Township Shade Tree Commission. Residents interested in serving on the Shade Tree Commission were encouraged to send a letter of interest or resume to the Board of Commissioners at the Springfield Township mailing address, or via the Township website. Mr. Harbison summarized the activities of the Shade Tree Commission and provided information on the meeting schedule of the Shade Tree Commission.

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

Motion (Gillies-Schaum) carried unanimously to approve the October check reconciliation in the amount of \$993,604.64 and the November bill listing in the amount of \$1,299,019.94.

Mr. Gillies announced the tentative schedule through the adoption of the 2015 budget.

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Budget Presentation	This evening	-
Budget Hearing	12/10/14	8:00 PM
Budget Adoption	12/17/14	8:00 PM

All meetings will be held in the Springfield Township Building.

Mr. Gillies read into the record the 2015 Budget Statement for the existing draft of the preliminary 2015 budget. The Board of Commissioners proposes a balanced operating budget for 2015 of \$18,015,053 with a real estate tax rate of 3.853 mills and an earned income tax rate of 1.0%. As a result of the 2015 budget projections, the typical taxpayer will realize an increase in the real estate taxes, an increase to the sanitary sewer rental and an increase in the refuse service fee. The typical household in Springfield Township with a \$175,400 property assessment will pay \$675.82 in real estate taxes in 2015. This is as a result of the budget being increased by \$287,097 or 1.6% from the 2014 budget. The 2015 discounted sanitary sewer rental rate for each 1000 gallons of wastewater treated is set at \$5.79, an increase of \$.28 per 1000 gallons treated. This may increase the average invoice by \$7.64 annually. The 2014 discounted refuse service fee will be increased by \$2.02 in 2015, or \$191.53 per dwelling unit. The proposed 2015 budget will be available for inspection in the office of the Township Manager and in the Township library beginning 12:00 Noon on November 14, 2014. Summary copies of the budget are available upon request. Future meetings when the Board will discuss the budget were outlined by Mr. Gillies.

Mr. Wilson, Chairman of Library Committee, reported:

Mr. Wilson announced that there is one vacancy on the Township Environmental Advisory Commission. Residents interested in serving as a member of the Environmental Advisory Commission were encouraged to send a letter of interest or resume to the Board of Commissioners at the Springfield Township mailing address, or via the Township website. Mr. Wilson summarized the activities of the EAC, and provided information on the meeting schedule of the EAC.

Mr. Wilson thanked and congratulated the Township EAC who worked with Township staff to secure a \$42,000 Community Conservation Partnership Program Grant in order to continue the creation of a riparian corridor along the Paper Mill Run in Cisco Park.

Ms. Samtmann, Chairwoman of Human Resources Committee, reported:

Motion (Samtmann-Gillies) carried unanimously to appoint James Taylor, a member of the Board of Directors of the School District of Springfield Township, to fill an unexpired term of service as a member of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee. Mr. Taylor's term of service shall expire May 12, 2016.

Motion (Samtmann-Schaum) carried unanimously to appoint Adrienne Smythe, of Bergan Road, Orelan, to fill an unexpired term of service as a member of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee. Ms. Smythe's term of service shall expire May 12, 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary