

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 7:30 PM in the Springfield Middle School for the purpose of transacting the general business of the Township. All members of the Board were present. Mr. Harbison presided.

Mr. Harbison asked all 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. Harbison 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. Harbison announced that the Board of Commissioners held brief executive sessions on April 11, 2016 and again on April 13, 2016 to discussed personnel issues.

An announcement was made that it was the intention of the Board of Commissioners to enact a new floodplain management ordinance consistent with the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program as a part of the May 11, 2016 meeting. During the month, the Township was informed that the Township was temporarily suspended from the National Flood Insurance Program until such time as the Township updated its existing floodplain management ordinance. The Township anticipates that it shall be removed from the temporary suspension list on or about May 16, 2016. Mr. Dailey commented that Township staff and the Planning Commissions have been working on the ordinance but FEMA recently updated their maps and therefore the draft ordinance needed to be amended as well.

Mr. Harbison noted that over the past several weeks, Springfield Township residents may have received several monthly invoices from the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority, the new owners of the Springfield Township sanitary sewer system. Due to data conversion complications, the first bill was sent later than anticipated. The January bill was due on April 8, 2016. Due to the delay in beginning the billing, BCWSA is attempting to catch up with their billing cycles. The current bill for service through February 22 is due April 29. All late fees for the first two billing cycles have been waived. The March invoice is scheduled to be mailed April 15 and the invoice for April service will go out on schedule in May. The Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority apologizes for the delays. Mr. Harbison provided the customer service number for BCWSA.

Megan and Chris Hunsberger, 115 Paper Mill Road, addressed the Board of Commissioners and indicated that they have been residents for a little over one year and to date they have collected approximately 270 golf balls from both their front and rear yards. They previously contacted North Hills Country Club where the balls originate and the Country Club has done nothing to arrest the condition. Several neighbors were present to corroborate the condition. Mr. Graham indicated that the Hunsbergers had contacted him and he was unaware that Mr. Schaum was their Commissioner. Mr. Schaum recounted the effort put forth last year with the North Hills Country Club and recalled that counsel for the North Hills Country Club indicated that if they made any changes they may become more liable. It was the consensus of the Board of Commissioners that the Township Solicitor would contact counsel for North Hills Country Club to better understand the situation.

Robert Albert, 411 Meadow Lane, provided an overview of the construction project of the Oreland Mill Road bridge. He indicated that the old bridge maintained a railing at the top of the bridge that would permit flood waters to pass through. The new bridge has a solid jersey barrier which he believes will block the water and redirect the floodwaters onto adjoining properties. He understands that the bridge was designed and inspected by PennDOT but asked for assistance from the Township. The Township Engineer will be asked to contact PennDOT and discuss the design and concerns.

William Hoffman, 401 Meadow Lane, agreed with the conditions as outlined by Mr. Albert and also expressed his concern for floodwaters being blocked.

Dan McGlinchey, 415 Oreland Mill Road, agreed with the previous comments with regard to the Oreland Mill Road bridge and suggested his understanding that the floodwaters cannot be raised through a construction project.

Mrs. Unger, 406 Meadow Lane, indicated that on several occasions she has had as much as 5 inches of floodwaters in her basement.

Scott Vincent, 420 Oreland Mill Road, asked that the hydrologic studies be reviewed. Mr. Berger indicated that that would be a part of the Township Engineer's review of the conditions.

Joseph Reed, 409 Meadow Lane, spoke to ongoing erosion within the creek bed.

John Sablich, 500 Meadow Lane, spoke to his concern for stormwater in his basement and possible loss of appliances that are located in his basement.

Ed McGovern, 410 Meadow Lane, noted that in the past he has had 18" of stormwater in his basement.

Joan Parsons, 37 Hawkswell Circle, opined that the foot bridge along the recreational trail within her development appears low to the elevation of the creek and she is concerned with damage to the bridge and flooding that may occur. Mr. Berger indicated that the Township is aware of the concern and met with the developer. The developer indicated that the bridge has been built according to the approved plans and the State permit. However, the developer stated he is open to adjusting the height of the bridge but must find funds within this project to do so. Ms. Parsons also asked why the foot path was built of macadam. She believes that flooding will damage the path and be costly to repair. Mr. Berger indicated that the Township was more interested in a natural surface, but other entities were interested in a macadam path and it was approved as a macadam path. She asked whether the Township was considering the on-street parking concerns for Oreland Mill Road. Mr. Harbison indicated that the Township has discussed limiting the parking to one side and was waiting for additional feedback from staff. She suggested that the Township should not be in a rush to accept dedication of the development as there may be a benefit for the improvements to prove over time that they have been properly installed. Ms. Parsons thanked the Board of Commissioners for attending to the security lighting issues that emanated from the Cheltenham Transportation property. She also suggested that the bus depot will be overcrowded with buses if all permitted buses are brought onto the site.

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

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to approve the March check reconciliation in the amount of \$777,367.84 and the April bill listing in the amount of \$1,388,446.04.

Mr. Harbison announced that with the temporary closure of the Springfield Township Building as a polling place for voting district 2-1 Wyndmoor, the Board of Commissioners granted permission to relocate the polling place for voting district 2-1 to the recreational hall at 1200 Willow Grove Avenue, Wyndmoor. This is the site of the temporary township building, temporary library and existing recreational hall. This location is also the polling place for voting district 5-1 Wyndmoor. In order to accommodate the workers and voters for both polling places, the Township Library will be closed to the general public on primary election day, April 26, 2016.

Mr. Schaum, Chairman of Public Works and Facilities Committee, reported:

Motion (Schaum-Standish) to adopt Resolution No. 1375, a resolution authorizing the Township to enter into a "Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement" with Johnson Controls Inc., whereby Johnson Controls Inc. will complete an investment grade audit and will guarantee an energy savings value for participating in a regional street light procurement program managed by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Schaum noted that approximately 40 municipalities in suburban Philadelphia are participating in the program to upgrade their existing street light systems to the LED

technology utilizing the economies of scale to deliver the program in the most cost effective manner. Mr. Harbison wished to clarify that if the Township decides not to move forward with the regional program, there is a break fee of approximately \$20,000 which is the risk of approving the resolution. However, for that \$20,000 there will be a full audit of the Township's street light system and a set of full specifications created whereby the Township could still consider performing the work on its own. Mr. Wilson suggested that there are heavy costs with the project associated with the consultants and he believes that the project is a simple concept and the regional project is overkill. Mr. Maxwell suggested he looked at the costs and believes the Township could save money by doing this itself. Mr. Standish suggested that he likes the idea of a guaranteed savings that would not be available to the Township if the project was undertaken by Springfield Township alone. Vote 4-3; Graham, Maxwell and Wilson opposed.

Motion (Schaum-Wilson) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1372, a resolution designating Donald G. Sirianni, Director of Public Works for Springfield Township, as the designated agent for the Township to work with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency regarding the reimbursement of costs incurred by the Township as a result of the snow event of January 22 and 23, 2016. Montgomery County was one of 22 counties in Pennsylvania where a storm disaster was declared making federal and state aid available to municipalities. Springfield Township is seeking reimbursement of \$107,154.66.

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

Motion (Standish-Dailey) carried unanimously to accept a letter dated April 11, 2016 from Ross Weiss, Esq., counsel for the owners of the Tecce tract minor subdivision plan, Squire's Ridge amended preliminary/final subdivision and land development plan, and the Atria Senior Living preliminary/final land development plan, all located at 9303 Ridge Pike, extending the 90 day subdivision and land development plan review period without limitation as to time. This extension is being granted to permit the applicants to make adjustments or revisions to the plans as may be required to bring the plans into compliance with the Springfield Township Code. Mr. Harbison clarified that the extension of time included the subdivision plan and the two separate land development plans.

Motion (Standish-Maxwell) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1373, a resolution endorsing an application to the Montgomery County Community Development Block Grant Program for a project known as Phase II of the Brookside Road drainage improvement project. Mr. Standish summarized the components of the project. The estimated cost for the project is \$132,730. The Township's match for the grant will include administrative and engineering costs estimated at approximately \$20,000.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the next meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board is scheduled for April 25, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Middle School Library, 1901 Paper Mill Road, Oreland. Mr. Dailey summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda.

With regard to the application of MEH Investments related to 821 Bethlehem Pike, Erdenheim, Mr. Dailey outlined his concern for stormwater management for the project and suggested that perhaps the Board would authorize the Township Solicitor to attend the meeting to help create a proper record. Mr. Wilson indicated he met with the developer who described the stormwater management and offstreet parking improvements and was comfortable with same. Mr. Dailey suggested it may be appropriate for the developer to make a presentation to the Board of Commissioners in order for the Board to better understand the project. Mr. Maxwell indicated he was familiar with the project and the stormwater will be directed towards the St. Joseph's Run and will not impact the surrounding residential properties.

Motion (Dailey-Schaum) carried unanimously to authorize the office of the Township Solicitor to attend the Zoning Hearing Board meetings in the future associated with the project at 821 Bethlehem Pike, Erdenheim, to create a proper record.

Mr. Dailey wished to inform all that on the evening before, he took the opportunity to view the billboard on Route 309 expressway and by 7:40 PM the billboard was turned off in both directions. He opined that the sign could be lowered to help alleviate the lighting problems for surrounding neighborhoods. He did note that in one direction, existing brush may need to be removed. Mr. Wilson suggested that the Township engage a lighting engineer to review the lighting characteristics of the sign. It was the consensus of the Board to secure names of lighting engineers to review the sign.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of March 2016, Springfield Township residents recycled 226.2 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 80.9%. The net cost for the month was \$16,160.54. Mr. Wilson also noted that there is leaf mulch available to the general public free of charge at the police pistol range on West Wissahickon Avenue. Mr. Wilson encouraged residents to utilize the leaf mulch.

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

Motion (Graham-Maxwell) carried unanimously to grant permission to the Arthur V. Savage American Legion Post of Wyndmoor to utilize Veterans Park for a Community Day event following the annual Memorial Day Parade, and be permitted to serve beer at the park as a part of the Community Day events conditioned upon the following: (1) the American Legion Post shall secure a permit for the use of the park, (2) the American

Legion shall hire a police detail to be at the park when the beer is being served, and (3) the American Legion shall secure an insurance rider for the day's events naming Springfield Township as an additional insured.

Mr. Maxwell, Co-Chairman of Public Safety Committee, reported:

Motion (Maxwell-Schaum) carried unanimously to extend a conditional offer of employment to William P. Seiler, Jr., of Macungie, PA, as a probationary police officer with Springfield Township effective June 13, 2016. The conditions of the appointment include successfully passing a physical examination and a psychological examination.

Motion (Maxwell-Schaum) carried unanimously to appoint Sean Badalato to the position of police corporal effective May 2, 2016.

Motion (Maxwell-Schaum) carried unanimously to appoint Krista Schmalbach to the position of police corporate effective May 2, 2016.

Motion (Maxwell-Wilson) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1374, a resolution proclaiming Saturday, April 30, 2016, as Arbor Day in Springfield Township. All residents are urged to join with the Township Shade Tree Commission in celebration of Arbor Day and support efforts to plant new trees, and protect existing trees and woodlands.

Mr. Maxwell noted that in conjunction with Arbor Day, the Township Shade Tree Commission will conduct a tree planting workshop on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at Laurel Beech Park beginning at 9:00 AM. Also as a part of a month long celebration of Arbor Day, the Township Library will be conducting an evening Story Time on April 19, and a special Tree Tales program on April 25. Attendees at either of the library programs will be given an advanced opportunity to pre-register to receive one of 25 trees to be given away at the Arbor Day Celebration on April 30, 2016 at Laurel Beech Park. Mr. Harbison noted that Springfield Township is a Tree City USA municipality and as such, the Township is required to adopt an annual resolution in honor of Arbor Day and related activities.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary

DEB:cmt
4/29/16

