

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, July 12, 2017 at 7:30 PM in the Springfield Middle School Library for the purpose of transacting the general business of the Township. All members of the Board were present with the exception of Mr. Graham. Mr. Harbison presided.

Mr. Harbison 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. Harbison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Schaum-Wilson) vote 6-0, 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 acknowledged the absence of Mr. Graham who was away on business of his church.

Mr. Harbison introduced Chief Michael Pitkow, Springfield Township Police Chief, and Kate McGill, Magisterial District Justice, to administer the oath of office to police officer Patrick S. Johnsen, Jr. Chief Pitkow introduced Officer Johnsen and noted he is married with no children and resides in Lansdale, PA. Officer Johnsen took the police officer examination in August of 2016, and enrolled in the Montgomery County Community College Municipal Police Academy, graduating in June 2017. Mr. Johnsen served in the US Army from 2010 through 2011 as a military police officer with the rank of First Lieutenant. In 2011, he transferred to the United States Army Reserve as a military police officer with the rank of Captain. Officer Johnsen graduated from Penn State University, Abington Campus, with a Bachelors Degree in business administration and is currently enrolled in an MBA program through Shippensburg University, and anticipates graduating in December 2017. Magisterial District Justice Kate McGill administered the oath of office to Police Officer Patrick S. Johnsen, Jr.

Jane Markey, Brookside Road, addressed the Board of Commissioners and read from a letter she sent to PennDOT requesting safety improvements at the intersection of Bethlehem Pike and Montgomery Avenue. Ms. Markey acknowledged that speed humps may not be appropriate for Bethlehem Pike due to emergency responses, but suggested that perhaps rumble strips approaching the intersection on Bethlehem Pike might be an improvement that PennDOT could consider. She suggested adjustments to the existing traffic signal are warranted in order to assist her in crossing Bethlehem Pike in a power wheelchair. Ms. Markey also suggested that on-street parking on Bethlehem Pike in the general vicinity should be considered to be prohibited. Mr. Harbison thanked Ms. Markey for her comments and stated that the Board of Commissioners sent a letter to PennDOT asking PennDOT to conduct a safety survey at this intersection.

Rita Forde, Glenn Circle, inquired as to discussions related to the Human Relations Commission that took place at the workshop meeting. Mr. Harbison stated that the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission requested the Springfield Township Human Relations Commission to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Harbison indicated that the Township has a Human Relations Commission that is not currently staffed, but would address either employment or accommodation issues within the community. He explained the local process including the non-binding mediation between the parties. If either party is not interested in mediation or the mediation process does not satisfy the parties, either party may proceed to the Court. Ms. Forde also asked about the discussion held on the LukOil service station. Mr. Harbison noted that the service station located on East Willow Grove Avenue is in the process of an official close-out of that facility and as a result ground water needs to be monitored and since the Township owns the neighboring property, the environmental firm asked for the opportunity to put a monitoring well on Township property. The Board of Commissioners granted such permission. Ms. Forde also inquired as to discussions related to a vacant lot on Bethlehem Pike as discussed at the workshop meeting. Mr. Harbison stated that the Township owns the subject vacant lot on Bethlehem Pike. The lot is located in Whitemarsh Township and the adjoining property owner, the Montgomery Animal Hospital, is interested in leasing a portion of the lot for off-street parking.

Joan Schick, Brookside Road, briefly reviewed the recent Zoning Hearing Board meeting related to the LukOil service station located on Bethlehem Pike at Montgomery Avenue. Ms. Schick said that area residents asked that left turns out of the facility onto Bethlehem Pike be prohibited due to possible conflicts with motorists exiting Brookside Road. The Zoning Hearing Board did not address the issue during the hearing. Mr. Harbison suggested that the Township could ask LukOil to voluntarily prohibit left turns onto Bethlehem Pike, but the renovations proposed at the LukOil service station will not require a land development plan and, therefore, the Township does not have a formal means to require the prohibition.

Elizabeth Wallace, Pine Road, thanked the Board of Commissioners for listening to their constituents at the meeting held earlier this week on concerns for gerrymandering of legislative districts within the Commonwealth. She noted that 60 other local governments in Pennsylvania as well as 9 county boards are supporting the anti-gerrymandering efforts throughout the Commonwealth. She noted that locally a petition with 170 signatures was secured and will be sent to the Fair Districts PA organization.

Mark Schaeffer, Lower Gwynedd Township, and a member of the Montgomery County Fair Districts PA organization, addressed the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Schaeffer provided citations from the Pennsylvania Constitution suggesting that democracy is threatened by gerrymandering, and stating the importance of an equal vote and equal voice. He stated that gerrymandering of congressional districts is intended to pack similar voices or interests together. He noted that Montgomery County has five congressional districts and that Pennsylvania congressional district number 7 is one of the most unusually formulated district in the United States. The use of gerrymandering does not specifically benefit voters, but does protect the interest of the legislators. Mr. Schaeffer expressed his disappointment that in the recent election, 87 of the 92 primaries for Pennsylvania legislators were unopposed. 57 of those elections were unopposed in the general election. Fair Districts PA is calling for an independent citizens

commission to study the issue of legislative and congressional districting with the members of the commission not behold to any elected official. Mr. Schaeffer explained that the process for redistricting requires two separate sessions of the Pennsylvania Legislature approving the possible redistricting and then the matter can be placed on a ballot as a referendum for the voters. Mr. Schaeffer provided sources for individuals to receive further information on Fair Districts PA.

Tom Smith, of Oreland, commended the Board of Commissioners for their conduct of an open discussion during their workshop meeting on the matter of the gerrymandering of legislative districts.

Ellen Badger, Brookside Road, suggested that she is not politically active but the gerrymandering issue is one thing she finds important to speak out on.

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

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) vote 6-0, to approve the June check reconciliation in the amount \$1,568,926.07 and the July bill listing in the amount of \$1,465,491.00.

Motion (Maxwell-Wilson) vote 6-0, to reappoint Tom Pryzblinski and Ken Ferguson to new three year terms of service as members of the Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission. The new terms of service shall expire July 13, 2020.

Motion (Harbison-Maxwell) to adopt Resolution No. 1431, a resolution in support of the Commonwealth creating a citizens commission for legislative and congressional redistricting following the 2020 census. Mr. Dailey stated that he was in favor of the resolution and wished to acknowledge that past Congresswoman Schwartz was always receptive to providing assistance to the Township. Current Congressman Meehan was recently helpful to the Township in acquiring the Tank Car Corporation property and working with the US EPA on excusing the \$4.5 million lien providing approximately 7 acres of open space for the Township. Congressman Boyle has also been receptive and helpful to the Township. He noted that the current issue relates to the federal and state legislative representation, but he also suggests his interest in the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners being increased in size from 3 to 5 or 7 individuals to provide greater representation, noting that the eastern portion of Montgomery County is heavily represented. Mr. Dailey also noted his appreciation for the election of Township commissioners by ward rather than at large which he believes provides more accountability of the elected officials to their constituents. Vote 6-0.

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

Motion (Schaum-Standish) vote 6-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1430, a resolution confirming to PA DEP that the Squire's Ridge and the Atria Senior Living facility are compliant with the Township zoning and related municipal ordinances related to a sanitary sewer planning module application to PA DEP.

Motion (Schaum-Dailey) vote 6-0, to award a contract to Asphalt Paving Solutions of Hammonton, NJ, to provide a micro-surfacing treatment to three Township streets for their bid price of \$2.99 per square yard, for the type A micro-surface double application for a price not to exceed \$37,076. Mr. Schaum summarized the streets to receive the micro-surfacing treatment. He also noted that the project was bid by Whippen Township on behalf of the Montgomery County Consortium of Communities, of which Springfield Township is a participating member.

Mr. Standish, Chairman of Community Development Committee, had no report.

Mr. Dailey, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Dailey announced that the next meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board is scheduled to be held on July 17, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Middle School Library. He noted that the subject hearing date was rescheduled from July 24, 2017. All future meetings of the Zoning Hearing Board will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00 PM. Mr. Dailey summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda.

Mr. Dailey also noted that previously the Board of Commissioners authorized the office of the Township Solicitor to represent the interest of the Board of Commissioners in opposition to the Lorenz Properties LLC application as it relates to 400 Bethlehem Pike, Erdenheim. The opposition by the Board stands for the conversion of the existing building into uses in excess of three apartment units.

Mr. Dailey reported on behalf of Mr. Graham, Chairman of Human Resources Committee:

Motion (Dailey-Schaum) vote 6-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1433, a resolution renaming Oreland Park, on Oreland Mill Road, Oreland, to "Henry R. Chiamonte Children's Park", in memory of Henry Chiamonte. Mr. Dailey read into the record Resolution No. 1433.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of June 2017, Springfield Township residents recycled 200 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 84.3%. The net cost for the month was \$17,011.49.

Motion (Wilson-Standish) vote 6-0, to appoint Michael Needleman, of Fraser Road, Erdenheim, to fill an unexpired term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission. The unexpired term of service shall expire June 14, 2018. Mr. Wilson noted that Mr. Needleman is currently serving as an associate member of the Environmental Advisory Commission.

Motion (Wilson-Dailey) vote 6-0 to appoint William Konstant, of Poplar Road, Flourtown, to serve as an associate member of the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission.

Motion (Wilson-Standish) vote 6-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1432, a resolution requesting recognition of Springfield Township as an Audubon Bird Town, and authorizing the Township staff to make application to be an Audubon Bird Town community.

Mr. Maxwell, Co-Chairman of Public Safety Committee, had no report.

Matthew Chiaramonte, Oreland Mill Road, addressed the Board of Commissioners thanking them for naming the Oreland Park in honor of his son, Henry. Mr. Chiaramonte particularly thanked Commissioner Dailey for working directly with his family in making this action occur. Mr. Chiaramonte stated that Springfield Township is a great community in which to live, and once again thanked the Board for their actions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.  
Secretary