

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, June 12, 2019, at 7:30 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. Maxwell, who joined the meeting for the second public comment period. 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 announced that Commissioner Maxwell would be arriving late to the meeting as he was representing the Board of Commissioners at the Springfield Township High School graduation.

Mr. Harbison announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session following the workshop meeting held on June 10, 2019 to discuss several personnel matters and two matters of litigation.

Mr. Harbison announced that Commissioner Eddie Graham has been selected by the Cheltenham branch of the NAACP to receive a Service to Community award for his work with Carson Valley Children's Aid, the Montgomery County Youth Aid Panel, and organizing a Diversity Awareness meeting in response to hateful literature that was distributed in several communities last year. The award will be presented to Mr. Graham as part of the NAACP's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Freedom Fund Dinner to be held on Sunday, June 30, 2019 at the Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church Family Life Center.

Mr. Harbison announced, with mixed emotions, that the June business meeting will be the last meeting with Don Berger as the Secretary/Manager. Don is retiring from Springfield Township after 39 years of service to our community. Don was hired in 1980 as the Township's Health Officer, and was quickly promoted to the Code Enforcement Officer. He moved up to the Assistant to the Manager position in 1983, and eventually the Assistant Manager. He was appointed to his present position in January 1990 and is one of only two individuals to serve as Secretary/Manager since the Township organized under the council-manager form of government in 1971. Don leaves the Township in a strong position for the future, with a new municipal campus and enthusiastic group of dedicated employees who will miss his daily presence. On behalf of the entire Board of Commissioners and the entire Springfield Township community, Mr. Harbison thanked Don for a job well done.

Robert Gillies, Woods Road, addressed the Board to suggest that the recent decision by the Flourtown Country Club Lessee to sublet the banquet operations to a third party requires the approval of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Harbison agreed that any sublease must be approved by the Board of Commissioners but stated that he was not sure of the business relationship between the catering service and the lessee. Mr. Gillies also commented on a zoning petition that was previously submitted for a property located on Haws Lane by suggesting that the change from institutional to high density residential zoning constitutes a zoning change. Mr. Harbison noted that there currently exists a court-approved order to construct a 107-unit assisted living facility on the property consistent with the institutional zoning. Mr. Harbison noted that the Board was approached by the developer to consider a zoning change to allow the current residential proposal but directed the developer to the Zoning Hearing Board instead in order to provide an opportunity for public testimony. Mr. Gillies went on to suggest that the Board of Commissioners should consider sending the solicitor to the Zoning Hearing Board hearing to oppose the petition or, at the very least, to establish a record of the proceedings. Mr. Harbison responded that the Board was divided on whether to support, oppose, remain neutral, or send a representative to establish a record on this matter, but that he was open to accepting another vote on the subject.

Mr. Harbison, Chairman of Internal Affairs and Library Committees, reported:

Mr. Harbison announced that in anticipation of Mr. Berger's retirement, several months ago the Board discussed the process by which it would select his eventual replacement. As part of the discussion, the Board recalled that approximately six years ago when the Township's Assistant Manager, Mike Taylor, was offered an opportunity to serve as the Township Manager of a neighboring community, the Board encouraged Mr. Taylor to remain in Springfield Township's employ as a succession plan for the Secretary/Manager's position. As part of this process Mr. Taylor was delegated additional responsibilities at which he excelled, and has demonstrated his leadership skills to the Board of Commissioners.

Motion (Harbison/Schaum) vote 6-0, in accordance with Section 901 of the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code, and Section 55-2 of the Code of the Township of Springfield, to appoint A. Michael Taylor of the Fort Washington section of Springfield Township to serve as the Township's Secretary/Manager effective June 15, 2019.

Motion (Harbison/Schaum) vote 6-0, to approve the May check reconciliation in the amount \$640,320.31 and the June bill listing in the amount of \$715,501.35.

Motion (Harbison/Graham) vote 6-0, in accordance with Section 1502, Subsection IV of the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code, to authorize the execution of an employment agreement with A. Michael Taylor setting forth the terms and conditions of employment for the Township Manager effective June 15, 2019.

Motion (Harbison/Schaum) vote 6-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1475, a resolution appointing TD Bank, NA as an agent of financial assets of the Township, and authorizing the Township Manager/Secretary to issue instructions to enable the bank to discharge its obligations.

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

Motion (Schaum/Wilson) vote 6-0, to authorize the sale of various vehicles and pieces of used equipment through an electronic public auction.

Mr. Schaum announced that on June 5, 2019, bids were received and opened for the 2019 highway resurfacing/milling program. Invitations were sent to four contractors and the bid notice was publicly advertised. Three bids were received. The bids ranged from a low of \$313,025 to a high of \$357,850.

Motion (Schaum/Wilson) vote 6-0, to award a contract to Highway Materials, Inc. of Flourtown, PA to mill and resurface specified Township streets for their low bid price in the amount of \$313,025.

Mr. Garrity stated that his office represents Highway Materials, Inc. but that he had no prior knowledge of the bid supplied by his client, and wished the representation to be known.

Mr. Schaum announced that in February 2018, Whitpain Township, on behalf of the Montgomery County Consortium of Communities, bid a roadway micro-surface treatment contract. The low bid was received from Asphalt Paving Systems, Inc. of Hammonton, N.J. Springfield Township participated in the consortium bid. In accordance with the terms of the 2018 contract, in February of this year Whitpain Township exercised its option to extend the bid for the 2019 construction season on behalf of all of the participating communities.

Motion (Schaum/Wilson) vote 6-0, to award a contract to Asphalt Paving Systems, Inc., of Hammonton, NJ, to provide crack-seal services and a double application of type-A micro-surface roadway treatment to two specified Township streets for their bid price of \$3.75 per square yard or \$37,538 for the micro-surface treatment, and \$2,703 for the crack seal application.

Motion (Schaum/Wilson) vote 6-0, to authorize the execution of a Final Release of Claims with Skepton Construction, Inc. for landscape work at the municipal campus project.

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

The Westminster Theological Seminary is located at 2960 Church Road, Glenside, PA. The seminary has received land development approvals from Cheltenham Township to construct and expand a classroom building and dormitory on its property located at the intersection of Church Road and Willow Grove Avenue. While Springfield Township has an existing inter-municipal sewage agreement with Cheltenham Township, allowing flows from Cheltenham Township to enter the Springfield Township system, a portion of the Seminary property where the improvements are to be constructed are located outside of the mapped area covered in the inter-municipal sewage agreement. Accordingly, the seminary has requested the Township to consider amending its Pennsylvania Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan in order that it may proceed with its construction plans.

Motion (Standish/Wilson) vote 4-2, Graham and Cobb opposed, to adopt Resolution No. 1477 authorizing an amendment to the Township's Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan to accommodate the additional sewage flows associated with the land development plan of the Westminster Theological Seminary.

Mr. Graham recited earlier discussions with his constituents to enact traffic improvements within the Sandy Hill Road neighborhood as his only reason for opposing the current Resolution.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of May 2019, Springfield Township residents recycled 211.33 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 79.9%. The net cost for the month was \$19,282.76.

Motion (Wilson/Graham) vote 6-0, to reappoint Steve Heverin to a new three year term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission. The new term of service shall expire June 14, 2022.

Mr. Wilson announced that the Township received a letter from Robert Clewis resigning his position as a member of the Environmental Advisory Commission. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Wilson thanked Mr. Clewis for his service to the Springfield Township community.

Mr. Wilson announced that the Reverend Carol L. Ficken (Pastor Carol) was instilled as Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Wyndmoor in June 2002, and that Pastor Carol has announced that she will be retiring from her congregation on June 30, 2019. During her tenure, Pastor Carol has demonstrated her commitment to ensure that the church is available and engaged to support the needs of families and community organizations near and far, and conducted numerous baptisms and first communion services for children and youth, and presided over hundreds of funerals and memorial services, performed hospice support, and made visits to the sick and at their homes and in hospitals.

Motion (Wilson/Graham) vote 6-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1476, honoring a life of service of Reverend Carol L. Ficken, Grace Lutheran Church of Wyndmoor.

Mr. Harbison noted that the congregation of Grace Lutheran Church would be hosting a party in honor of Pastor Carol in a few weeks and that the Resolution would be presented to Pastor Carol as part of that celebration.

Mr. Graham, Chairman of Parks and Recreational Resources Committee, had no report.

Mr. Graham announced that Charlie Carabba, the Township's Director of Parks and Recreation, retired effective May 31, 2019 and noted the past accomplishments and dedication of Mr. Carabba to Springfield Township. Mr. Graham stated that he would miss Mr. Carabba as a friend and hoped that he would stay in touch with the Springfield Township community.

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

Motion (Schaum/Cobb) vote 6-0 to extend a conditional offer of employment to Ryan J. Brown, Hector Street, Conshohocken, as a probationary police officer with the Springfield Township Police Department. The offer of employment is conditioned upon Mr. Brown successfully completing a medical and psychological examination.

Motion (Schaum/Cobb) vote 6-0 to extend a conditional offer of employment to Brian W. Makowski, Bayberry Drive, Royersford, as a probationary police officer with the Springfield Township Police Department. The offer of employment is conditioned upon Mr. Makowski successfully completing a medical and psychological examination.

Mr. Harbison stated that the Board of Commissioners interviewed four outstanding candidates from which to select the two officers who were extended offers of employment.

Mr. Schaum announced that the Montgomery County Department of Public safety has made arrangements with several fuel contractors to secure the emergency delivery of fuel in the event that it is needed at the scene of a large-scale emergency incident. In order to take advantage of this service, Montgomery County has asked that any participating municipality enter into a Memorandum of Agreement setting forth the provisions for securing the delivery of such fuels and reimbursement of those costs.

Motion (Schaum/Standish) vote 6-0 to authorize the execution of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety for Emergency Refueling Services at large Incidents.

Motion (Schaum/Standish) vote 6-0 to amend the Springfield Township Code, Section 107-28, Schedule V, by authorizing the installation of a stop sign on Campbell Lane, Wyndmoor, in a westbound direction at its intersection with Mermaid Lane.

Mr. Schaum stated that in addition to his duties as the Township Secretary/Manager, Don Berger also serves as the Township's designated Emergency Management Coordinator. An Emergency Management Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that a community achieves proper levels of preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation associated with emergencies or disasters that might affect a municipality. While Don is the designated Coordinator, he is assisted, especially during an emergency event, by various members of staff, and can designate Assistant Emergency Management Coordinators for such purpose. With the impending retirement of Don Berger, the Township will need to designate a new Emergency Management Coordinator. Donald Sirianni, the Springfield Township Director of Public Works, currently serves as one of two Assistant Emergency Management Coordinators for Springfield Township, is the Deputy Chief of the Oreland Volunteer Fire Company, is a member of the Montgomery County Incident Support Team, and is held in high regard by state, county and local emergency management officials.

Motion (Schaum/Graham) vote 6-0, to appoint Donald G. Sirianni, Jr. as the Township's Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator effective June 15, 2019.

Mr. Cobb, Chairman of the Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Cobb announced that the Zoning Hearing Board will not meet during the month of June as there were no petitions received by the Zoning Hearing Board. The next meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board will be on Monday, July 22, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building.

Robert Gillies, Woods Road, readdressed the Board to recall a previous traffic study that recommended one-way traffic flow on Sandy Hill Road in conjunction with a left turn arrow at the intersection of Church Road and Willow Grove Avenue. Mr. Harbison acknowledged the study referenced by Mr. Gillies and the support by the Board of Commissioners to implement those

recommendations. However, Mr. Harbison explained that the traffic signal is owned by Cheltenham Township and they have refused to allow Springfield Township to perform the necessary modifications. Mr. Harbison went on to say that for the last year or so the Board of Commissioners has attempted to utilize the sewer needs of the Seminary as leverage to encourage Cheltenham Township to allow the traffic signal modifications. However, Cheltenham Township has refused to reconsider their earlier position with respect to the traffic signal and it was time to stop holding the Seminary hostage in this regard.

Mr. Gillies offered that during the years he served on the Board of Commissioners, he and Mr. Berger did not always agree, but that Mr. Berger was always respectful during their discussions and he knew that Mr. Berger had the best interests of the community in mind.

Mr. Cobb indicated that he has served the least amount of time on the Board and has known Mr. Berger for just over a year. However, during his short time on the Board, he has always found Don to be accessible and accommodating to his questions and requests.

Mr. Graham noted that he and Mr. Berger have known each other since before he served on the Board of Commissioners, and that they found common ground over a shared sense of humor. He thanked Don for his support of Mr. Graham's work with the Township's youth population and wished him success and good luck in his retirement. He concluded by offering that he considers Don a friend and that friends never say goodbye. Instead they take only an extended leave of absence.

Mr. Maxwell arrived at the meeting at which time he took the opportunity to offer his congratulations to Mr. Berger and his wife on their mutual retirement. He went on to state that it has been a privilege to serve with someone who was always professional and respectful of the residents and Commissioners. He also acknowledged the respect and admiration that Mr. Berger has among his peers. He concluded by stating that Mr. Berger leaves the Township in a good place, and thanked him for his service.

Mr. Wilson suggested that although he has been involved with the Township for over 20 years, until recently he had never paid Mr. Berger a visit in his office. He noted that Mr. Berger's office is decorated with a picture of a large, white crane that was taken by Mr. Berger along the New Jersey coast. Mr. Wilson found extraordinary similarities between the crane and Mr. Berger that he went on to describe with much humor. Mr. Wilson concluded by thanking Mr. Berger for his years of service and looks forward to seeing Mr. Berger's portrait hanging next to Mr. Fulginiti in the near future.

Mr. Standish recalled the numerous years he has served on the Board of Commissioners with Mr. Berger as Manager. As a former President of the Board Mr. Standish appreciated Don's ability to always respond with the right answer to a question. He described Mr. Berger as a Gary Cooper-like character in the movie "High Noon", who is quiet and reserved, and always does what's right for the community.

Mr. Schaum described Mr. Berger as a kind and caring man with endless patience who has contributed much to the community over the last 39 years. He noted that Mr. Berger is humble and deflected credit to others. He noted that over his 22 years of service on the Board Mr. Berger never once declined an assignment, and could even be seen feeding the public works department during a storm event. He concluded his remarks by calling Mr. Berger a friend who will be missed.

Mr. Garrity wished to make two points with respect to Mr. Berger. The first is that Mr. Berger has always allowed the Board to debate matters without influence from staff or the solicitor, which is rare and often difficult to do. The second point was that Mr. Garrity has had occasion to appear before over 100 municipalities in the Philadelphia metropolitan area and that Springfield is very fortunate to have Mr. Berger as its Township Manager for the last 39 years.

Mr. Harbison remarked that Mr. Berger has quietly led over 850 meetings of the Board of Commissioners during his tenure as Assistant Manager and Township Manager. He indicated that Mr. Berger's quiet leadership is responsible for the efficiency of our government, the quality of library services, attention to detail of snow removal, friendliness of the police department and variety of recreation programs. He noted that the Springfield Township community has benefitted from Mr. Berger's dedication and hard work, and he leaves the Township in good hands and well-positioned for the future. He concluded by thanking Mr. Berger on behalf of the past, present and future residents of Springfield Township.

Mr. Berger acknowledged the early guidance and subtle acts of encouragement offered by his parents that helped guide his career. He also thanked his family, including wife Debbie and children Chris, Ryan and Allison for their understanding of his absences from home during the many evening meetings of the Board of Commissioners. He noted the professional influence of the previous Township Manager, Jim Fulginiti, Board President Jack Seifert, and Solicitor Tom Garrity. He also thanked the past Boards for his initial appointment and continued opportunity to serve the Springfield Township community. He went on to note that the while the current Board of Commissioners comes from very diverse backgrounds, and personal and professional experiences, the Board always finds common ground to do what is right for the community. Mr. Berger offered a baseball analogy to illustrate how the Springfield Township government works: The Board of Commissioners is the front office, sets policy and provides the tools necessary to carry out services. The Manager, Assistant Manager and Department Heads manage the field operations, but the real power, energy and skills necessary to achieve the goals of the Board come from the employees and volunteers. He noted that Springfield Township is not only a Township of the First Class by law, but a first class township due to this outstanding teamwork. In conclusion he noted that he could highlight a number of special employees who he has worked with over the years but singled out the current Office Manager, Carol Taylor, for the many hats she wears, including oversight of the internal office staff, personnel management, and benefits administration. He noted that each month there are a number of last minute tasks assigned by the Board but Carol never once showed any frustration to complete them, she simply dug her heels in and got the job done.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Michael Taylor  
Secretary

