

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, November 13, 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. 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 place themselves in harm's way in order to help preserve our safety at home and overseas.

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 remarked that there were no special announcements.

Mr. Harbison announced that the Board was now open to receiving public comment, and that the Board drew particular attention to those items listed on the agenda.

Peter Lantos, Fox Hound Drive, addressed the Board regarding traffic congestion arising as a result of the Stenton Avenue and West Valley Green Road Bridge closures in Whitemarsh Township, and suggested that such closures should be better coordinated among municipalities. Mr. Harbison responded that both projects were outside of the control of Springfield Township as they involve a state highway and a county bridge. Mr. Harbison noted that the Township was able to secure a left turn arrow for the Germantown Pike and Northwestern Avenue intersection to assist with traffic flow, and continues to monitor the timing of the light to improve efficiencies. Mr. Lantos concluded his comments by requesting a traffic signal at the intersection of Thomas Road and Germantown Pike. Mr. Harbison noted that the intersection was previously studied by the Township for that purpose but that the traffic volume on Thomas Road did not meet the warrants for installation of a signal.

Elena McCrossin, Oreland Mill Road, addressed the Board regarding traffic issues on Oreland Mill Road between Meadow Lane and Paper Mill Road. Mrs. McCrossin requested the installation of a stop sign at the intersection of Oreland Mill Road and Barclay Road to slow traffic. Mr. Harbison explained that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation does not permit the use of stop signs for speed control, but that the Township would consider other efforts, including speed education and the installation of portable radar signs to curtail speeding. Mrs. McCrossin inquired about the possibility of speed bumps and Mr. Harbison explained the multiple challenges associated with the installation of such devices.

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

Motion (Harbison/Wilson) carried unanimously, to approve the October check reconciliation in the amount \$1,105,188.29 and the November bill listing in the amount of \$550,332.58.

Mr. Harbison announced the 2020 budget meeting schedule as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Budget Presentation	This Evening	
Budget Hearing	Dec. 11, 2019	7:30 PM
Budget Adoption	Dec. 11, 2019	7:30 PM

Mr. Harbison noted that all meetings will take place in the Springfield Township Building.

Mr. Harbison read into record the 2020 Budget Statement, wherein the Board of Commissioners proposes a balanced operating budget for 2020 of \$17,442,290 with a real estate tax rate of 4.441 mills and an earned income tax rate of 1.0%. As a result of the 2020 budget projections, the typical taxpayer will realize no tax change to their 2020 real estate tax, but will incur an increase of \$9.10 associated with the refuse service fee. A summary of real estate tax rates from 2006 to the present was presented. The typical household in Springfield Township with a \$175,400 property assessment will pay \$778.95 in real estate taxes in 2020, which is the same as in 2019. The Township is able to maintain the same tax rate as in 2019 due to a modest reduction in administrative salaries and pension obligations, as well as the satisfaction of a 2010 general obligation loan utilized for stormwater improvements. These savings are offset by anticipated increases to employee wages and benefits, capital projects, and municipal building utility and maintenance expenses. The 2020 refuse service fee is being increased due to increased disposal fees at the waste to energy plant of \$1.17 per ton, and a projected increase of \$19.29 per ton to process and market single stream recyclables. In 2019 a local services tax was enacted whereby individuals employed within Springfield Township will pay \$1 per week or \$52 annually to offset the cost of municipal services. Those individuals who earn less than \$12,000 annually are exempt from the tax. The 2020 preliminary budget will be available for inspection in the office of the Township Manager and in the Township library beginning on November 15, 2019, and will be posted on the Township website. The Board of Commissioners will consider comments on the budget during their workshop meeting on December 9, 2019, and as part of a budget hearing and budget adoption on December 11, 2019.

Mr. Harbison announced that under cover letter dated October 29, 2019, the Township's consulting engineer, Boucher & James, Inc., submitted their 2020 rate schedule for professional services. The rates reflect an average increase of \$3.54 per hour across all positions for the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. It was further noted that the Township Engineer's rate schedule was unchanged from 2006 – 2017, and last increased in 2018.

Motion (Harbison/Schaum) carried unanimously, to approve the 2020 rate schedule for professional services as proposed by Boucher & James, Inc. effective January 1, 2020.

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

Mr. Schaum announced that in 2018 the Township applied for and received a Community Development Block Grant from Montgomery County to perform ADA-compliant accessibility improvements to the gymnasium building located at the Township's Recreation Center located on Willow Grove Avenue in Wyndmoor. The grant is in the amount of \$172,500 and requires no local match. He added that Section 1805 of the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code requires the preparation of separate bids for plumbing, heating, ventilating and electrical work when the entire cost of such work exceeds \$18,500. On Wednesday, November 6, 2019, the Township received multiple bids from general contractors, mechanical contractors, electrical contractors and plumbing contractors for the project. Mr. Schaum noted that the results of the public bidding process are too numerous to recite but are available through the Office of the Township Manager upon request.

Motion (Schaum/Graham) carried unanimously, to award the general construction contract to F.W. Houder, Inc. of Malvern, PA for their low bid price of \$87,512, plus alternate #1 in the amount of \$15,812, for a total contract price of \$103,324; to award the plumbing contract to Hirschberg Mechanical of Fort Washington, PA, for their low bid price of \$31,348; to award the mechanical contract to Hirschberg Mechanical of Fort Washington, PA, for their low bid price of \$11,615; and to CMSE, Inc. of Cochranville, PA, for their low bid price of \$15,349. Mr. Schaum noted that the combined total value of all of the awarded contracts is \$161,636.

Mr. Schaum announced that in 2015 Springfield Township acquired the former Tank Car Corporation of America property located at 1725 Walnut Avenue, Oreland, in order to redevelop the site as an active recreation area and, since 2017 the Township's environmental consultants have been working with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to complete the Act 2 site clean-up protocol to ensure that the Township does not face additional environmental obligations in the future. DEP recently approved the Township's Act 2 Work Plan for that purpose, and it is the Township's intentions to secure grant funding to perform the work required by DEP.

Motion (Schaum/Cobb) carried unanimously, to authorize a Letter of Intent to be sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development notifying the Department that it is the Township's intent to submit an application for Industrial Site Reuse funds. The funds will be utilized to perform Site Assessment Activities valued at \$136,600. If the grant is approved as submitted, the Township will be required to provide a local match in the amount of \$34,150 that will be paid from capital funds earmarked for that purpose.

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

Motion (Standish/Maxwell) carried unanimously, to authorize the advertisement of a public hearing that will be held on December 11, 2019 to receive testimony regarding a proposed ordinance to create the Historic Resources Overlay District and Historic Resource Commission. Mr. Standish summarized the contents of the proposed ordinance and announced that the ordinance would be available for review on the Township's website, and hard copies would be available for review in the Office of the Township Manager and the Free Library of Springfield Township. Mr. Standish remarked that the ordinance represents a two-year planning effort undertaken by the local and county

planning commissions, with assistance from the local and state historical commissions. He further added that property owners may choose to decide whether or not they wish to be subject to the provisions of the ordinance via a voluntary opt-in process.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of October 2019, Springfield Township residents recycled 204.63 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 82.3%. The net cost for the month was \$19,428.15. Mr. Wilson noted that members of the Township's Environmental Advisory Commission recently toured the sorting facility where all of the Township's recyclables are processed. He noted that the Township hopes to post a video to its website to illustrate the process by which recyclables are sorted, and encouraged all residents to thoroughly rinse their recyclables before placing them out for collection.

Motion (Wilson/Graham) carried unanimously, to adopt Resolution No. 1484, a resolution authorizing participation in the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification Program.

Mr. Wilson noted that the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification program is a voluntary performance recognition program to help municipalities achieve their sustainability goals.

Motion (Wilson/Schaum) carried unanimously, to accept a letter from Victoria Candido of Wyndmoor, resigning her position as a member of the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission. Mr. Wilson wished to thank Ms. Candido for her service to the Springfield Township community.

Mr. Graham, Chairman of Parks and Recreational Resources Committee, reported:

Commissioner Graham announced that the Director of Parks and Recreation, in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and Township Solicitor's office, recently updated the Township's recreation facility permit forms to clarify the rules and regulations for the use of the Township's facilities, and to institute hold harmless provisions and insurance requirements. The Township also updated its proposed fee schedule for use of its recreation facilities to reflect the rates charged by neighboring municipalities such as Upper Dublin and Whitemarsh Townships.

Motion (Graham/Maxwell) carried unanimously, to approve the use of revised permit facility forms and fee schedules as recommended for approval by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee at its October 2, 2019 meeting.

Commissioner Harbison noted that in addition to generating modest revenues to improve the maintenance of recreation facilities, the permit fees are intended to avoid the monopolization of fields by a single organization.

Commissioner Graham also wished to note the on-going efforts of the Township's new Parks and Recreation Director to enhance the department.

Motion (Graham/Wilson) to adopt Resolution No. 1483, a resolution authorizing application to the PECO Green Region Grant program to provide funding for the Mermaid Park Habitat Improvement Project in Wyndmoor.

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

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

Mr. Cobb announced that the next meeting of the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will be held on Monday, November 25, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Cobb summarized the one zoning petition that is to be heard.

Commissioner Cobb thanked Mr. Lantos for attending this evening's meeting and for bringing his concerns to the attention of the Board of Commissioners.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Michael Taylor,
Secretary