

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, November 11, 2020, at 7:30 PM for the purpose of transacting the general business of the Township. Due to social distancing guidelines in effect at the time of the meeting, the meeting was conducted utilizing the Zoom video conferencing platform. Mr. Standish noted that today was Veterans Day, a day to honor current and former members of the United States Armed Forces. All members of the Board were present with the exception of Commissioner Graham. Mr. Standish presided.

Mr. Standish requested 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. Standish led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Maxwell-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. Standish announced that Commissioner Graham was unable to attend the meeting due to a personal matter.

Announcements

Mr. Standish announced that the Board of Commissioners met in executive session on October 29, 2020 to discuss one personnel matter, and on November 9 and 11, 2020 to discuss one personnel matter and one litigation matter.

Mr. Standish made an announcement that as a result of the pandemic and social distancing guidelines, all public meetings of the Board of Commissioners and its advisory boards will continue to be conducted via the Zoom virtual meeting platform until further notice. Individuals interested in participating in the meetings were directed to the Township website for instructions to join the meeting.

Mr. Standish announced that the Board was now open to receiving public comment as part of the current meeting, and that the Board drew particular attention to those items listed on the agenda.

Genie McClintock, Brookside Road, addressed the Board on the dangerous traffic conditions on Bethlehem Pike in the vicinity of Gordon Road. Ms. McClintock suggested that changes be made to improve the safety of motorists and pedestrians.

Steve Kline, a local contractor, addressed the Board on behalf of the owners of 8408 Widener Road who have filed an application with the Zoning Hearing Board for zoning relief in order to construct a pool house. Mr. Garrity suggested that, in the interest of time, Mr. Kline defer his

comments until such time as Mr. Cobb provides his committee report later in the evening. Mr. Kline accepted the solicitor's suggestion.

Jane Markey, Gordon Road, addressed the Board of Commissioners related to the speeding of vehicles on Bethlehem Pike in the vicinity of Gordon Road. Ms. Markey noted that she is disabled and the speeding vehicles create an unsafe situation for disabled individuals.

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

Motion (Standish-Lee) vote 6-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1510, a resolution granting preliminary/final land development approval for the 3-lot residential land development plan of 225 Northwestern, LLC. The property is currently improved with a single-family dwelling on lot number 3 of a previously-approved subdivision plan, and the developer intends to construct new, single-family detached dwellings on the 3 remaining lots, together with sanitary and stormwater management facilities, landscaping and other required public improvements.

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

Motion (Harbison-Wilson) vote 6-0, to approve the October check reconciliation in the amount of \$1,404,162.89 and the November bill listing in the amount of \$401,263.15.

Mr. Harbison announced the following budget schedule through the adoption of the 2021 budget:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Budget Presentation	This evening	
Budget Hearing	Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020	7:30 PM
Budget Adoption	Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020	7:30 PM

All meetings will be held via the Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform.

2021 Budget Presentation

Mr. Harbison read into the record the 2021 Budget Statement, wherein the Board of Commissioners proposes a balanced operating budget for 2021 of \$17,223,096 with a real estate tax rate of 4.516 mills and an earned income tax rate of 1.0%. As a result of the 2021 budget projections, taxpayers will realize an increase of \$13.15 to their 2021 real estate tax, and an increase of \$8.62 associated with the refuse service fee. Mr. Harbison noted that the 2020 real estate tax was the same as in 2019, and the 2020 refuse service fee was \$9.10 more than the 2019 refuse service fee. The "typical" household in Springfield Township with a \$175,400 property assessment will pay \$792.10 in real estate taxes in 2021, which is an increase of \$13.15, or 1.7% more than in 2020. The increase to the real estate tax is necessary due to contractual increases to employee wages and benefits, contributions to the volunteer fire companies, and a decrease in revenues associated with interest and rental income. These costs are offset to some extent by reductions in capital project expenses, debt service payments and health insurance premiums. The 2021 refuse service fee is being increased due to increased disposal fees at the resource recovery plant of \$1.19 per ton, and a projected increase of

over \$40 per ton to process and market single stream recyclables. The amount of household refuse and recyclables collected by the Township has remained about the same as in prior years, and the Township has reduced its operating and capital costs for 2021 to absorb some of the costs associated with the recycling program. In 2019 a local services tax was enacted whereby individuals employed within Springfield Township now pay \$1 per week or \$52 annually through a payroll deduction. Those who do not earn more than \$12,000 annually are exempt from the tax. The 2021 preliminary budget will be made available for inspection in the office of the Township Manager, 1510 Paper Mill Road, Wyndmoor, and in the Township Library, 8900 Hawthorne Lane, Wyndmoor, beginning 5:00 PM on November 13, 2020. The 2021 preliminary budget will also be posted to the Township website on or before the above date. The Board of Commissioners will accept questions and comments on the Budget at their workshop meeting on December 7, 2020 at 7:00 PM and again as a part of a budget hearing and budget adoption on December 9, 2020 at 7:30 PM.

Mr. Harbison announced that under cover letter of November 11, 2020, Mark W. Eisold, Township Engineer, announced that it would be necessary for him to resign his position as the appointed Township Engineer for personal reasons. Mr. Harbison remarked that Mr. Eisold has served as the appointed Township Engineer since January 2012, and is responsible for the completion of a number of important infrastructure projects. With the resignation of Mr. Eisold, the Township is in need of an interim appointment to fulfill the duties of the Township Engineer.

Motion (Harbison-Maxwell) vote 6-0, to appoint Timothy P. Woodrow, P.E., of Woodrow & Associates, Inc. as an interim Township Engineer. Mr. Woodrow is the President of the firm bearing his name and presently serves as Township Engineer for Lower Moreland Township, Plymouth Township, Skippack Township and Lower Providence Township.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of October 2020, Springfield Township residents recycled 189.6 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 83.6%. The net cost for the month was \$26,125.17.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that on Monday, November 9, 2020, the Board of Commissioners interviewed five candidates for a vacancy on the Springfield Township Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee. Mr. Wilson remarked that the Board was impressed with all candidates interviewed, but at this time only one individual can be appointed.

Motion (Wilson-Lee) vote 6-0, to appoint Sara Zia Ebrahimi Hughes, of Wyndmoor, to fill an unexpired term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee. Ms. Hughes' term of service shall expire on May 12, 2022.

Mr. Lee remarked how heartening it is to see so many talented and enthusiastic people interested in volunteering on the various board and committees. Mr. Standish agreed with Mr. Lee's comments and encouraged individuals to continue to check the Township website where vacancies on the various committees are announced.

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

Motion (Maxwell-Lee) vote 5-1, Wilson opposed, to accept the August 31, 2020 proposal of McMahon Associates, Traffic Engineers & Planners, to conduct a Speed Limit Evaluation Study of Paper Mill Road, between Church Road and Golf Road in Oreland. The purpose of the study is to determine if the roadway meets the warrants to reduce the posted speed limit from 35 to 25 miles per hour. The study will perform traffic counts at three separate locations over a seven day period to determine the volume, classification and prevailing 85th percentile speeds in both directions of travel, as well as an analysis of reportable crash history over the most recent five-year period, and sight distance evaluations at five intersections. The total not-to-exceed cost of the study is \$3,700.

Mr. Cobb, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Cobb announced that the Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, November 23, 2020 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be conducted via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Mr. Cobb summarized the Zoning Hearing Board agenda. Mr. Cobb announced that copies of the applications and plans are on file with the Code Enforcement Office and may be viewed during normal business hours.

Mr. Cobb requested Mr. Garrity to explain the Board's position with respect to the petition for 8408 Widener Road involving the construction of a two-story pool house. Mr. Garrity explained that it was the Board's intention to oppose the petition due to the proposed height and size of the building, however, in discussions with counsel for the applicants, Mr. Garrity conveyed to counsel that the Board would agree to not oppose the petition if the applicants agreed to the following conditions:

1. No stove or oven shall be installed in the pool house,
2. A deed restriction shall be added to the property prohibiting the use of the pool house as a second dwelling unit, and
3. The building permit for the pool house shall include a note that a Use and Occupancy Certificate shall not be issued for the pool house until such time as the swimming pool is built.

Mr. Kline, contractor for the applicants, confirmed that his clients are willing to accept the 3 aforementioned conditions in exchange for the Board of Commissioners withdrawing their opposition.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Garrity to confirm that the Board's decision to withdraw its opposition does not guarantee approval of any requested relief. Mr. Garrity provided such confirmation.

Mr. Kline indicated that he and his client understand that there are no implied approvals.

Motion (Cobb-Maxwell) vote 5-1, Wilson opposed, to not take a position in opposition to the petition of 8408 Widener Road, subject to the three conditions outlined by the Township solicitor, and that if those conditions are not agreed to by the applicants, the Zoning Hearing

Board shall grant a continuance in order to allow the Township Solicitor to appear at a future meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board to oppose the petition.

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

Motion (Lee-Cobb) vote 6-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1511, a resolution accepting a Deed of Dedication from the Sandy Run Country Club, for a 15,915 square foot, variable width right-of-way along a portion of Walnut Avenue, Oreland, as described in accordance with a plan titled, "Right-Of-Way Acquisition Plan", sheet 1 of 1, prepared by Boucher & James, Inc., dated June 9, 2020.

Motion (Lee-Cobb) vote 6-0, to authorize the execution of an Agreement with Sandy Run Country Club for the construction of a public walking path along Walnut Avenue, from Oreland Mill Road to Sandy Run Park. The Agreement sets forth the rights, responsibilities and obligations of the Township and Sandy Run Country Club with regard to the dedication of right of way, construction of the walkway and associated improvements, a temporary construction easement, and the relocation of existing improvements within the right of way. While there are no immediate plans to begin construction of the walking path at this time, the Township is actively pursuing several grants to fund its construction and to facilitate access to the park.

Mr. Cobb noted that the walking path will be a great asset to the community, and he wished to thank the Sandy Run Country Club for their cooperation in bringing this project to fruition.

Mr. Standish announced that the Board was now open to receiving any additional public comment. No public comment was received.

Motion (Maxwell-Wilson) vote 6-0, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor
Secretary

