

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, January 13, 2021, 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. All members of the Board were present. 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 (Wilson-Graham), 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.

Announcements

Mr. Standish made an announcement that the Board of Commissioners met in executive session on Jan 11, 2021 and again just prior to the business meeting on January 13, 2021, to discuss two personnel issues and 3 matters of litigation.

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 within the last several months of 2020, the Board of Commissioners became aware of an investigation being conducted by the Office of the Pennsylvania Attorney General regarding the Township's former engineering firm, Boucher and James, Inc., and particularly the invoices billed to the township for engineering services. The Board severed its relationship with Boucher & James in September 2020. The Board will be working with the Office of the Attorney General with regard to the ongoing investigation. In the interim, the Attorney General's office has arranged for a portion of the monies allegedly overbilled to the Township to be reimbursed through a fund paid by Boucher & James. The Township has also taken steps to minimize the possibility of future fraud by its consultants, and will be considering policy changes to avoid being a victim of a similar billing scheme in the future.

With regard to the violent attack on Capitol Hill on January 6, 2021, on behalf of the entire Board of Commissioners, Mr. Standish read into the record the following statement:

“When your Township commissioners took their oaths of office, they stood in front of the flag of the United States of America and swore to uphold the Constitution, not a king or a president or a party or a specific ideology or philosophy, but a living document that forms the back bone and heart and soul of what America is and what we are as Americans. Recently a group of protesters crossed the Rubicon by storming the United States Capitol Building in an attempt to physically disrupt and terminate an important congressional proceeding. Some were lawmakers themselves, freely elected to represent all of their constituents to, if nothing else, protect their constituents’ rights under the Constitution. And yet, a number of them put their own personal interests ahead of their duty to protect our Constitutional rights and, instead, made an attempt to subvert and block the process of free elections, a process that placed each one of them in office in the first place, and a process that is an inviolate component of what has made our democratic republic function for the past two hundred and thirty one years.

The assault also not only laid bare the prevalence and danger of the white supremacy element that exists far too much within in our country, it highlighted again how many in our society and law enforcement view protesting by marginalized people of color in contrast to a crowd rife with white nationalists proudly celebrating violence and criminal acts. The Board has been recently undertaking important work to ensure equity in all forms within our township, and events like these only reinforce the significance of those efforts.

As your elected public officials, we hereby reaffirm our obligation to our Constitution and to the trust that you, our constituents, have placed in us to protect the equal rights of each and every one of you, to provide necessary police protection to ensure safekeeping and freedom from undue harm, to guard against transgressions of basic human rights, and to help make our community the best it can be by supporting the health, education and livelihoods of one and all. We also stand behind our brothers and sisters who have put themselves in harm’s way defending our country overseas, defending the rights of our citizens on our streets, and, most recently, defending our exercise of free elections against a self-interested and violent horde.

Last but not least, we are privileged and thank our constituents for allowing us the opportunity to serve as your elected officials and, particularly in these trying times, to help make our community a better place to live and prosper.”

Mr. Standish announced that the Board was 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. No public comment was received.

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

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

Motion (Harbison-Wilson) carried unanimously to approve the December check reconciliation in the amount of \$550,740.25, and the January bill listing in the amount of \$560,547.81.

Motion (Harbison-Lee) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1517, a resolution authorizing the issuance of interim check payments for specified expenditures in order to meet the immediate financial obligations of the Township. Examples of specified expenditures include payroll taxes and other employee deductions, pension contributions, health insurance premiums, debt service payments, departmental refunds, utility payments, postage, payments required by the Commonwealth of PA, and emergency disbursements necessary to respond to a disaster declaration.

Motion (Harbison-Graham) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1518, a resolution appointing the Township Manager and Finance Director as the Township's designated contacts to receive confidential tax information from Berkheimer, Inc., the Township's designated Earned Income and Local Services Tax Collector. The Township recently hired a new Finance Director and it is necessary to adopt a new resolution in this regard.

Motion (Harbison-Wilson) carried unanimously to authorize the execution of an agreement between Springfield Township and Tri State Financial Group for the collection of Business Privilege and Mercantile Taxes. Tri State Financial Group currently collects the two aforementioned business taxes but recently agreed to adjust the tiered compensation rate for the collection of taxes that will yield a cost savings for the Township over the present agreement.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of December 2020, Springfield Township residents recycled 280.7 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 77.2%. The net cost for the month was \$31,876.92. For the year ending December 31, 2020, residents recycled a total of 2,482.2 tons of single stream recyclables, which was 110% of the projected tonnage. The weekly householder participation rate was 80.6%, and the average pounds per stop was 16.2.

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

Motion (Graham-Wilson) carried unanimously to enact Ordinance No. 968, an Ordinance amending the Code of the Township of Springfield to repeal and replace chapter 59, Parks and Recreation, by amending the rules and regulations governing the use of parks and other recreation areas, and recreation programming in the Township.

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

On July 8, 2020, the Board of Commissioners appointed Glenn Schaum to a new term of service as a member of the police civil service commission expiring on July 16, 2026. Mr.

Schaum's appointment was to fill a vacancy created by an existing member of the commission who chose not to be reappointed. However, it was recently brought to the attention of the Board of Commissioners that the alternate member of the commission is traditionally appointed to fill such a vacancy. Under cover letter of January 12, 2021, Mr. Schaum requested that the Board of Commissioners designate his position as an alternate member of the police civil service commission, and that the current alternate, Aimee Samtmann, be appointed as a full member.

Motion (Maxwell-Lee) carried unanimously to designate Aimee Samtmann as a full member, and Glenn A. Schaum as an alternate member of the Police Civil Service Commission. The terms of service for Mrs. Samtmann and Mr. Schaum shall expire July 16, 2025, and July 16, 2026, respectively.

Motion (Maxwell-Wilson) carried unanimously to authorize the advertisement of an ordinance amending Chapter 49, Insurance, of the Code of the Township of Springfield, to repeal and replace Article I (Fire Insurance Claims) to update the procedures for the issuance of a certificate prior to payment of fire loss insurance claims for properties located in the Township. The proposed ordinance also increases the escrow provisions required for each claim, and addresses the use of funds to guarantee the removal or repair of fire damaged structures. Copies of the proposed ordinance are available for review during normal business hours in the Office of the Township Manager, the Free Library of Springfield Township, and on the Township's website.

Mr. Cobb, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will not meet during the month of January 2021 as no new petitions have been received. The next meeting of the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board is scheduled for Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be conducted via the Zoom virtual meeting platform.

Mr. Lee, Chairman of Public Works and Facilities Committee, had no report.

Mr. Standish announced that the Board was once again open to receiving public comment. No public comment was received.

Mr. Cobb announced that registration is now open for Montgomery County residents age 65 and older to sign up to receive the Covid-19 vaccine. Residents were directed to visit [www.montcopa.org](http://www.montcopa.org) for further information.

Motion (Graham-Wilson) carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor  
Manager/Secretary