

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, October 13, 2021 at 7:30 PM in the Springfield Township Building for the purpose of transacting the general business of the Township. The meeting was also offered in a live streaming feature. Mr. Standish announced that the video would be made available on the Township's website beginning Thursday, October 14. All members of the Board were present with the exception of Mr. Graham. Mr. Standish presided.

Mr. Standish 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 at home and abroad.

Mr. Standish led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Wilson-Lee) 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 not in attendance due to personal reasons.

Mr. Standish announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session following the workshop meeting held on October 11, 2021 to discuss one personnel matter.

Mr. Standish announced that on October 3, 2021, the Board of Commissioners received an email from Linda Hoffman, Franklin Avenue. Ms. Hoffman requested that her email be read into our minutes. Mr. Standish explained that due to the length of many e-mails received, including this one, it is the township's policy not to read letters or emails received from the public at our meetings. However, the email can be summarized as criticizing Commissioner Maxwell for comments made during the September 15, 2021 Board meeting regarding the Harston Hall care facility. The email itself will be attached to the minutes of this meeting verbatim as correspondence received from the public (see attachment #1).

Mr. Standish opened the meeting to public comment.

Joy Bergey, Flourtown, and Vice Chairperson of the Environmental Advisory Commission, thanked the Board for their support of the Renewable Springfield Program. Ms. Bergey noted that solid progress is being made toward the Township's clean energy initiative. As an example, Ms. Bergey noted the Township has recently taken possession of a hybrid police vehicle, and one more is on the way. Ms. Bergey reported that as part of the National Solar Tour conducted on October 2, six homeowners in the Township with solar panels opened their doors to all township residents to learn about solar panels.

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

On March 15, 2021, Federal Realty Investment Trust, owner of the Flourtown Shopping Center, filed an application with Springfield Township seeking land development approval for the construction of a 4,500 square foot pad site at the Flourtown Shopping Center, portions of which are located in Springfield and Whitemarsh Townships. Concurrent with the Springfield Township land development application, Federal Realty filed a land development plan with Whitemarsh Township. Both the Springfield Township and Whitemarsh Township engineers subsequently identified comments and deficiencies with the plans that must be addressed by the applicant prior to approval.

Motion (Standish-Wilson) vote 6-0 to accept a letter dated September 15, 2021 from Craig R. Lewis, counsel for Federal Realty Investment Trust, extending the 90-day subdivision/land development plan review period up to and including December 31, 2021. The extension of time will provide Federal Realty the opportunity to revise their land development plans to be in compliance with the Springfield Township Code.

Motion (Standish-Wilson) vote 6-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1550, a resolution granting preliminary/final land development approval for the property located at 1123 Ivy Hill Road, Philadelphia, PA. The subject of the land development plan is the demolition of two existing structures that previously were utilized for a now-closed dog kennel and day care facility, and the construction of 30 new parking spaces, landscaping and lighting improvements.

Motion (Standish-Lee) vote 6-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1551, a resolution granting preliminary/final subdivision and land development approval for the property located at 7602 Pine Road, Wyndmoor, PA. The subject of the plan is the subdivision of the property into two residential lots upon which two new single family dwellings will be constructed. The project also includes the demolition of an existing single family dwelling, tennis court and swimming pool, and the extension and complete resurfacing of Pine Road, south of its intersection with Jarden Road. Mr. Standish noted that the development is a result of several earlier proposals which were denied for various code deficiencies. The developer revised the plans to be in compliance with the Township Code.

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

Motion (Harbison-Cobb) vote 6-0 to approve the September check reconciliation in the amount of \$420,064.09, and the October bill listing in the amount of \$571,854.07.

Mr. Harbison announced the 2022 budget meeting schedule as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Budget Workshop	Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021	7:00 PM
Budget Presentation	Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021	7:30 PM
Budget Hearing	Wednesday Dec. 8, 2021	7:30 PM
Budget Adoption	Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021	7:30 PM

All meetings will be held at the Springfield Township Administration Building, 1510 Paper Mill Road, Wyndmoor.

Motion (Harbison-Lee) vote 6-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1552, a resolution distributing the annual state allocation to the Springfield Township municipal pension plans in compliance with Pennsylvania Act 205 of 1984, the Municipal Pension Funding Standard and Recovery Act. Under date of September 28, 2021, the township received \$474,930.97 from the Office of the Pennsylvania Auditor General which will be distributed into the Township's pension plans using a formula provided by the Township's pension actuary.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of September, 2021, Springfield Township residents recycled 204.93 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 61.3%. The net cost for the month was \$10,938.48.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership is composed of 13 municipalities and 4 wastewater treatment plant operators located within the Wissahickon Creek watershed. The Partnership is working with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to create a Water Quality Improvement Plan that will address the impaired health of the Wissahickon Creek. The Partnership requires each member community to designate a primary and alternate voting representative to serve on the management committee.

Motion (Wilson-Lee) vote 4-2 (Cobb, Maxwell against) to designate Brandon J. Ford, Assistant Manager, as the Township's alternate voting member of the management committee of the Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership.

Mr. Standish announced that there is no report for the Parks & Recreation Committee.

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

Motion (Maxwell-Cobb) vote 6-0 to extend a conditional offer of employment as a probationary police officer with the Springfield Township Police Department to Michael Fantry, Norwyck Way, Harleysville, PA, effective October 25, 2021. The condition of employment is successfully passing a physical and psychological examination. Mr. Fantry is a graduate of Kutztown University and the Temple University Police Academy.

Mr. Standish noted that Officer Fantry is the son of Donald Fantry, the former Deputy Chief and long term police officer. Mr. Harbison noted the rigorous civil service testing process that is utilized to hire police officers. Following all exams and interviews, Mr. Fantry was ranked #1 on the list of three candidates presented for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Cobb, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will next meet on Monday, October 25, 2021 at 7:00 PM at the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Cobb read into the record the agenda of the Zoning Hearing Board, and noted that copies of the applications

and plans are on file with the Code Enforcement Office and may be viewed during normal business hours.

Motion (Cobb-Maxwell) vote 6-0 to authorize the office of the Township Solicitor to represent the interests of the Board in opposition to the petition filed by Forman Sign Company, on behalf of Life Storage, 1331 Ivy Hill Road, Philadelphia, for variances to erect signage of 81.25 square feet and 64.80 square feet, where signs of no more than 40 square feet and 20 square feet are otherwise permitted.

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

Motion (Lee-Cobb) vote 6-0 to authorize the appropriate Township officials to execute Agreements with Edward and Bonita Nolen, 405 Burton Road; Nancy G. Kern, 407 Burton Road; and the Sandy Run Country Club, 200 East Valley Green Road, Oreland, in order to facilitate the construction of the Burton Road Stormwater Improvements project. The subject project includes the excavation of approximately 1,755 cubic yards of earth to enlarge an existing detention basin located at the Sandy Run Country Club, along with the relocation of an existing cart path and golf tee. The project also contemplates the construction of an earthen berm and overflow spillway in order to improve surface water drainage conditions affecting multiple properties located in the 400 block of Burton Road, Oreland. Prior to executing the agreements, they shall be in a form acceptable to the Township Solicitor's office.

Mr. Cobb noted his enthusiasm for the project and the partnership between Sandy Run Country Club and the residents to improve long-standing drainage conditions in the Burton Road neighborhood. He noted there is no guarantee that the project will eliminate flooding during extreme weather events, but it will certainly improve the situation.

Mr. Standish once again opened the meeting to public comment. No such comments were received.

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

AMT:cmt
10/12/21

Attachment #1

Email from Linda Hoffman to the Board of Commissioners Under Date of October 3, 2021

I am a constituent of Ward 1, have voted and supported Commissioner Maxwell in the past, posted signs in support of him at my home. I am writing to the entire Board to ask that some type of action be taken for Mr. Maxwell's public, recorded remarks calling Harston Hall a "deplorable facility where people go to die" (Sept 15 Commissioners meeting at approximately 1:16 in video).

I have no ties with Harston Hall whatsoever, only that as a lifelong member of the community myself, I am aware of their 110 year history as part of this community. I don't think Mr. Maxwell's remarks were in order at a meeting where zoning changes were being discussed for a property that adjoins Harston Hall. Some may say that his statement has potential liability issues coming from a sitting member of the Board of Commissioners who clearly has personal preferences on the development of an adjoining property.

I would respectfully ask that all members of the Board consider such inflammatory statements could come back to haunt taxpayers in the form of lawsuits and refrain from such remarks. If this "deplorable facility" is an issue that Mr. Maxwell would like the township to address - fine - make a platform and bring it to the Community - but - to do it in the context of changing zoning so that townhouses can be built looks like other agendas are at play rather than genuine concern that a "deplorable" business operates within the Township.

If possible, I would like my comments read into the minutes of the next Board meeting. Due to the Pandemic, age and health issues I do not place myself in crowded areas. Mr. Maxwell also mocked residents who "hide out" on Facebook to voice opinions. Well, with all due respect Mr. Maxwell, the pandemic has created this situation, it is NOT apathy as implied. Facebook can be a source of giving our opinions a voice during these unique times we are experiencing.

If the Township would have meetings on ZOOM (like others do during the pandemic) allowing residents to speak on topics at hand, perhaps we wouldn't have to take to Social Media to have our voices heard! I am formally requesting that the township place all meetings on ZOOM until the pandemic is under control so that our Commissioners can better serve Springfield Township.

With respect & thanks for all you do,

*Linda Hoffman
Flourtown, PA 19031*