

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, August 10, 2022, at 7:30 PM at 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. Graham announced that the video would be made available on the Township's website beginning Thursday, August 11, 2022. All members of the Board were present, with the exception of Commissioner Ratsavong. Mr. Graham presided.

Mr. Graham 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. Graham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Wilson-Standish) 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. Graham noted the absence of Commissioner Ratsavong who recently gave birth to a daughter. Mr. Graham congratulated Commissioner Ratsavong on the birth of her baby daughter. Mr. Graham also noted that Andrew Freimuth was in attendance representing the Township Solicitor's Office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Graham announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session as part of their August 8, 2022 workshop meeting to discuss one collective bargaining matter, and one real estate/litigation matter.

Mr. Graham announced that he will be hosting a Town Hall-style meeting to assist residents with the submission of insurance claims and home repairs associated with a hail storm that impacted portions of Springfield Township last summer. Mr. Graham noted that a date and time for the meeting will be announced on the Township website at such time that it is scheduled.

Correspondence/Remote Public Comment

Mr. Taylor stated he received two public comments remotely. One individual inquired about the installation of a private well. That individual was referred to the Montgomery County Health Department. The second individual inquired about future meetings to be conducted by the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority regarding the sale of its wastewater assets. Mr. Taylor informed that individual that the BCWSA has taken the month of August off, and it is anticipated that the next meeting will be in September. Once a meeting is scheduled, that information will be posted on the Township's website.

Mr. Graham called upon Ann Nygard and Brian Olszak, of the Montgomery County Planning Commission, to conduct a short presentation regarding the process by which the Township-wide Trail Master Plan is to be created. Ms. Nygard presented a Powerpoint presentation on the scope and timeline for the township-wide trail master plan. Comments or questions were put forth with regard to construction of the Green Ribbon Trail along Stenton Avenue, the required width of trails, general connectivity among neighborhoods, and crime concerns and statistics.

Mr. Graham thanked Ms. Nygard and Mr. Olszak for the informational presentation.

Mr. Cobb noted that a survey would be made available in the near future to obtain feedback from the community regarding present trail use, priorities, demographics and other general comments.

Mr. Graham opened the meeting to public comment. No public comments were received.

Mr. Graham, Chairman of Cultural Resources Committee, had no report.

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

Mr. Standish reported on behalf of Ms. Ratsavong, Chairwoman of Parks and Recreation Resources Committee

Mr. Standish announced that there presently exists a vacancy on the Springfield Township Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee. The parks and recreation advisory committee advises the Board of Commissioners on the goals and objectives of the Township's parks and recreation programs. The committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Springfield Township Building. Residents interested in serving on the Committee were instructed to send a letter of interest or resume to the attention of Michael Taylor, Township Manager

Mr. Standish announced that it is the intention of the Board of Commissioners to create an ad hoc steering committee to be known as the recreation center advisory committee. The purpose of the committee is to assist with the creation of a Master Plan for the future use and possible renovations to the recreation center, and to provide technical advice and recommendations on the selection of an architect. Mr. Standish provided the possible make-up of the committee. Residents interested in serving on the ad hoc committee were instructed to send a letter of interest or resume to the attention of Michael Taylor, Township Manager.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of July 2022, Springfield Township residents recycled 148.7 tons of material with a householder participation rate of 67.4%. The net cost for the month was \$18,174.57.

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

Motion (Maxwell-Lee) vote 4-0, Cobb and Wilson abstained, to adopt Resolution No. 1573, a resolution opposing the sale of the Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority wastewater assets to Aqua Pennsylvania. The Board may consider rescinding its opposition to the proposed sale if assurances are provided regarding future sewer rates, customer benefits and enhancements, and the use of the sale proceeds to benefit all existing Authority customers, regardless of geographical location.

Mr. Cobb explained his decision to abstain by suggesting that there has not been enough information provided by the Authority about the possible sale and what it might mean to township residents so he is unable to vote for or against the motion. Mr. Wilson concurred with Mr. Cobb's statements and stated that it would be premature to oppose the sale with very few details known.

Mr. Lee urged all residents to stay informed on the topic. It is his belief that if the wastewater assets are sold to a for-profit organization it is not likely to return to a non-profit organization.

Mr. Standish commented on the gentlemen who spoke so eloquently on the topic at the August 8 workshop meeting of the Board. He urged residents to visit the website www.stopthesewersale.com to remain informed.

Motion (Maxwell-Standish) vote 6-0 to reappoint Anne Breen to a new, three-year term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission. The new term of service shall expire on July 13, 2025.

Mr. Cobb, Chairman of Administrative, Fiscal Affairs and Zoning Committee, reported:

Motion (Cobb-Wilson) vote 6-0 to approve the July check reconciliation in the amount of \$1,025,682.23, and the August bill listing in the amount of \$505,132.43.

Motion (Cobb-Lee) vote 6-0, that in accordance with Section 702 of the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code, the Board of Commissioners adopt a Telecommunications Policy for meetings of the Board of Commissioners and its advisory committees. The policy sets forth the conditions under which remote participation by a board member would be permitted.

Mr. Wilson inquired of Mr. Freimuth how participating remotely might work. Mr. Freimuth briefly summarized the policy and its limitations.

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will next meet on Monday, August 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Cobb summarized the Zoning Hearing Board agenda. Mr. Cobb announced that the applications are on file in the Code Enforcement Office and may be viewed during normal business hours.

Mr. Lee, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported:

Motion (Lee-Standish) vote 6-0 to amend the Springfield Township Code Section 107-32, Schedule IX, "Parking Prohibited" to prohibit parking on the south side of Willow Grove

Avenue from a point twenty (20') feet east of the Douglas Road crosswalk, to a point eighty one (81') feet westerly thereof. The police department has recommended the implementation of the parking restrictions in order to ensure that pedestrians can safely cross Willow Grove Avenue at this location, and that access to an adjacent bus stop is provided.

Motion (Lee-Maxwell) vote 6-0 to amend the Springfield Township Code Section 107-28, Schedule V, "Stop Intersections" by authorizing the installation of a stop sign on Wyndmoor Avenue traveling in an easterly direction at its intersection with Traymore Avenue in Wyndmoor. The police department has recommended the placement of the stop sign in order to eliminate a safety hazard that is created by vehicles parked too close to the intersection.

Motion (Lee-Maxwell) vote 6-0 to extend conditional offers of employment to Michael Porrini, Jr., of Philadelphia, and Tyler Donnelly, of Philadelphia, as probationary police officers with the Springfield Township Police Department, effective September 5, 2022. The condition of employment is successfully passing a physical and psychological examination.

Mr. Maxwell commented on the quality of the interviews of the two aforementioned individuals, and that he believes these two police officers will be a great addition to the township. Mr. Graham agreed with Mr. Maxwell's comments.

Mr. Graham opened the meeting to public comment.

Gerald Quill, Wyndmoor, asked if the new police officers are taking a pay cut by coming to Springfield Township from the City of Philadelphia. Mr. Taylor commented that without knowing the current salaries of either individual, it would not be appropriate to respond.

Commissioner Cobb commented on the successful National Night Out event held on August 2, and thanked everyone involved for their hard work.

Motion (Lee-Wilson) vote 6-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor
Township Manager