

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, April 12, 2023, 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. All members of the Board were present.

Mr. Lee asked Mr. Taylor to summarize any comments received remotely prior to the meeting. Mr. Taylor stated there were no public comments received remotely.

Mr. Lee 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 overseas.

Mr. Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Wilson-Ratsavong) 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. Lee announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session as part of its April 10, 2023 workshop meeting to discuss two real estate matters, and that a second meeting was held immediately prior to this evening's business meeting to discuss one matter of on-going litigation.

Mr. Lee announced that earlier today Springfield Township received a Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence in Innovative Planning and Sound Land Use Practices for the Mermaid Park Stream and Habitat Restoration Project. Mr. Lee summarized the various improvements that were completed at the park in conjunction with the project in the Fall of 2022. The total cost of the project was \$384,814 of which \$328,327, or 85% was funded with federal, state, county and private grants.

Mr. Lee announced that members of Girl Scout Troop 7211 have organized a township-wide clean-up event that will include all of the township's parks. The event will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2023, in conjunction with Earth Day.

Mr. Lee invited representatives of the Springfield Township Opioid Action Committee to the front of the room, and asked Mr. Maxwell to read into the record Resolution No. 1605, a resolution declaring April 19, 2023, and the third Saturday in April of each year thereafter, as "No Stigma/No Shame Day" in Springfield Township.

Mr. Cobb praised the members of the committee for their ongoing efforts in furthering the conversation on substance use and mental health challenges.

Mr. Lee commented that the community is fortunate to have STOAC and thanked them for their important work to educate everyone on substance use and mental health disorders.

Vote on the motion to adopt Resolution No. 1605: 6-0.

Barbara Senst thanked the Board for its ongoing support in bringing awareness of substance use disorder as a medical condition. Ms. Senst outlined some of the events that will take place as part of No Stigma-No Shame Day.

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment.

Mary Ellen Reeves, Station Avenue, asked when interviews would be conducted with individuals who expressed interest in filling the vacancy as commissioner for ward 7. Ms. Reeves was informed that interviews would take place on Tuesday, April 25. Ms. Reeves indicated she was not available that evening. Mr. Lee informed Ms. Reeves that the Board would accommodate her schedule.

Alice Lesnik, Erdenheim, addressed the Board about the need for community policing. Ms. Lesnik expressed her appreciation for the “coffee with a cop” program, but opined that a need exists for scheduled community meetings between the police officers and residents to discuss issues surrounding “equitable policing”. Ms. Lesnik inquired about the ongoing litigation between the Board of Commissioners and the Police Benevolent Association. Mr. Lee responded that the Board will not be commenting on the litigation but that nothing about the litigation prevents the police from doing their job.

Ms. Ratsavong referred to a discussion the Board had at their workshop meeting on April 10 regarding regular community conversations between the police department and community members.

Mr. Cobb wished to note that the two most recent “coffee with a cop” events were organized by the officers themselves as a means of community outreach. He also noted that other events are being planned by the officers.

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

Mr. Lee stated that every five years, Montgomery County, on behalf of the County and all of the municipalities of the County, is required to update the Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan enables county and local governments to access federal disaster grants and loans following an emergency. In summary, the Plan reviews the profiles of natural and man-made hazards that may threaten lives or properties throughout Montgomery County, as well as a strategy for mitigating those hazards.

Motion (Lee-Standish) vote 6-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1600, a resolution adopting the Montgomery County 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan as the official Hazard Mitigation Plan of Springfield Township.

Mr. Lee explained that police department accreditation is a self-initiated process of adopting and maintaining state and/or nationally recognized law enforcement standards, policies and procedures. The Springfield Township Police Department is in the process of becoming an accredited law enforcement agency as defined by the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, or PLEAC. PLEAC recently informed the Township that even though the Springfield Township Police Department has lawfully existed since 1903, it is necessary for the Board of Commissioners to take formal action to establish the police department via the adoption of a codified ordinance.

Motion (Lee-Maxwell) vote 6-0 to authorize the advertisement of an ordinance amending the Code of the Township of Springfield, Chapter 69, Police Department, by rewriting the chapter in its entirety. The amendment will eliminate a residency requirement that is no longer observed and will establish the Springfield Township Police Department.

Mr. Cobb commented on the work that goes into the accreditation process and wished to specifically commend Lt. Rebecca Mersky for her work in the process.

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

Motion (Standish-Cobb) vote 6-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1601, a resolution granting preliminary/final land development approval for the redevelopment of the properties located at 1108-1110 Willow Grove Avenue, Wyndmoor. The project includes the demolition and removal of all existing buildings and site improvements, together with the construction of twelve townhomes that are to be sold in fee simple transactions.

Mr. Standish reported for the Cultural Resources Committee:

Motion (Standish-Wilson) vote 6-0 to authorize the Township Manager to execute Settlement Participation Forms in conjunction with five new National Opioid Settlements with Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens and Wal Mart for their roles in the National Opioid Crisis. The settlements require the two manufacturers and three pharmacies to resolve litigation previously brought by states, other political subdivisions and special districts. The settlements total over \$20 billion and will be distributed via a formula that is to be determined, in part, by the number of participating subdivisions in each state.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of March 2023, Springfield Township residents recycled 1,174.8 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 62.5%. The net cost for the month was \$26,001.00.

Mr. Wilson reminded residents that recyclables should be free of food waste before placing the materials out for collection. Bottles and cans should be gently rinsed to remove residual food waste, and cardboard containers must be free of food and grease. Pizza boxes that are contaminated with grease should not be recycled and should be placed out for collection with your regular trash.

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

Motion (Maxwell-Wilson) vote 6-0 to authorize the advertisement of Public Bids for the Township's 2023 Highway Resurfacing Program. A total of 14 streets are proposed to be milled and resurfaced in 2023 at an estimated cost to the Township of \$377,386.00.

Mr. Maxwell stated that Section 1501.2 of the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code sets forth the regulations for the sale of Township personal property via electronic auction. The Springfield Township Fleet Supervisor has requested permission to sell four used vehicles via electronic auction.

Motion (Maxwell-Ratsavong) vote 6-0 to authorize the sale of the following vehicles via the Municibid on-line public auction site: (1) 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe, (2) 2012 Chevrolet Tahoe, (3) 2016 Ford Explorer, and (4) 2019 Ford Explorer.

Motion (Maxwell-Cobb) vote 6-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1602 authorizing an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development Flood Mitigation Grant Program for the Integrity Avenue Flood Mitigation Project. The grant request is in the amount of \$402,769 and includes the purchase of up to four stormwater easements and the construction of a stormwater detention basin in the 300 block of Integrity Avenue, Oreland.

Motion (Maxwell-Wilson) vote 6-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1603, a resolution proclaiming Saturday, April 29, 2023 as Arbor Day in Springfield Township.

Mr. Maxwell announced that as part of the Township's annual Arbor Day celebration, the Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission will be conducting an Arbor Day ceremony and tree giveaway beginning at 10 AM at the Springfield Township Municipal Campus. Residents were encouraged to enter a drawing to receive a free tree. The Board of Commissioners urges all citizens to join with the Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to plant new trees.

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

Motion (Cobb-Ratsavong) vote 6-0 to approve the March check reconciliation in the amount of \$817,266.64, and the April bill listing in the amount of \$813,791.28.

Mr. Cobb announced that on March 6, 2023, the Board of Commissioners received an e-mail from Eddie T. Graham, announcing that he has resigned his position as Ward 7 Commissioner, effective immediately. In accordance with Section 530 of the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code, a vacancy shall not be created until the date that a resignation is formally accepted by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board of Commissioners at a public meeting. The Board of Commissioners must accept the resignation no later than 45 days after it has been tendered. Once accepted by a majority vote, the Board has 30 days to fill the vacancy.

Motion (Cobb-Maxwell) vote 6-0 that, in accordance with Section 530 of the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code, the Board of Commissioners accept the resignation of Eddie T. Graham received on March 6, 2023.

Mr. Wilson stated that Mr. Graham made many contributions to the community during his years of service. Mr. Wilson thanked Mr. Graham for his service.

Ms. Ratsavong expressed her sadness in accepting Mr. Graham's resignation. Ms. Ratsavong stated that working with Mr. Graham as a colleague and leader has been a privilege. She further stated that Mr. Graham was an exemplary community leader, and she wished him well.

Mr. Lee stated that Mr. Graham was always a fierce advocate for his constituents on all matters, and he respected Mr. Graham for that advocacy. Mr. Lee thanked Mr. Graham for his service to the community.

Mr. Cobb announced that the Board of Commissioners will conduct a special meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 6 PM at the Springfield Township Building to interview four individuals who have expressed their interest to serve as the interim Commissioner for Ward 7. It is the intention of the Board to appoint a replacement at the May 10, 2023 meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Motion (Cobb-Ratsavong) vote 6-0 to authorize the appropriate Township officials to execute a Letter of Engagement with Fox-Rothschild, LLP, and specifically Aaron S. Mapes, Esquire, to provide environmental counseling with respect to the former Tank Car Corporation of America site in Oreland. Mr. Mapes has served as environmental counsel in this matter for several years and recently informed the Township that he has resigned from Post & Schell, PC to join Fox-Rothschild, LLP. In authorizing the engagement of Mr. Mapes and Fox-Rothschild, LLP, the Board of Commissioners waives two potential conflicts of interest identified by Fox-Rothschild in a letter dated March 24, 2023, provided that Mr. Mapes does not represent either client in any matters involving Springfield Township.

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, April 24, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Cobb summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda, and announced that copies of the applications are on file in the Code Enforcement Office and may be viewed during normal business hours.

Ms. Ratsavong, Chair of Parks and Recreational Resources Committee, reported:

Motion (Ratsavong-Cobb) vote 6-0 to authorize the advertisement of bids for the Bysher Fields ADA Accessibility Improvements project. The subject project includes the construction of a 20' wide emergency vehicle access driveway, and an 8' wide pedestrian walking path at the Bysher Fields baseball complex on Bysher Avenue.

Motion (Ratsavong-Cobb) vote 6-0 to adopt Resolution No 1604, a resolution authorizing an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Greenways, Trails and Recreation program for the redevelopment of the former Tank Car property located at 1725 Walnut Avenue, Orelan for a public park. The grant request is in the amount of \$56,085 that will be leveraged with \$1,037,800 that has already been secured for the redevelopment of the former industrial Brownfields site.

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment.

Alice Lesnik, Erdenheim, readdressed the Board and thanked those who spoke in recognition and appreciation for Eddie Graham's service to the community. Ms. Lesnik asked the community to consider why Mr. Graham may have felt the need to resign.

Motion (Wilson-Ratsavong) vote 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor
Township Manager