

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in a regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, April 9, 2025 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. All members of the Board were present, with the exception of Commissioner Morris. Commissioner Lee presided.

Mr. Lee asked Mr. Taylor if any remote public comments were received prior to the meeting. Mr. Taylor reported that no public comments were received.

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 acknowledged the absence of Mr. Morris.

Mr. Lee announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session as part of their April 7, 2025 workshop meeting to discuss one real estate and two litigation matters.

Mr. Lee, Chairman of Public Safety Committee, announced that on Saturday, April 26 from 10 AM to 2 PM, the Springfield Township Police Department will participate in National Drug Take Back Day by accepting and safely disposing of unwanted and expired prescription drugs at the police station, 1510 Paper Mill Road, Wyndmoor.

Mr. Lee also announced that the annual Springfield Township No Stigma/No Shame Day will be observed on Saturday, April 19, 2025. No Stigma/No Shame Day is intended to support public awareness of substance misuse, substance abuse disorder, and to promote awareness of mental health challenges. Mr. Lee invited Barbara Senst and the Springfield Township Opioid Action Committee to provide a few remarks about their efforts to continue educating the community about this important issue.

Barbara Senst, Woods Rd, was joined by Cece Daly, and Sadie Krinis to give a presentation on the importance of mental health. Cece and Sadie provided examples of stigma and shame, and the measures that can be done to erase both. They identified key areas to help reduce stigma, such as listen – help – be kind – and do not judge. Ms. Senst noted that STOAC will be participating in National Drug Takeback Day.

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment. None were received.

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

Motion (Wilson-McNamara) vote 6-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1663, a resolution granting preliminary/final land development approval to Mount Saint Joseph Academy, 120 West Wissahickon Avenue, Flourtown. The subject of the plan is the construction of 30,500 square feet of new building area to include a field house and arts wing. As part of the renovations and improvements, the existing driveway and tennis courts will be relocated and reconstructed, and 40 new off-street parking spaces will be constructed. Additional improvements include stormwater management facilities and landscaping.

Motion (Wilson-May) vote 6-0 to appoint David Sands to a new, three-year term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Building Code Board of Appeals. Mr. Sands' new term of service shall expire April 15, 2028.

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

Motion (Cobb-Wilson) vote 6-0 to approve the March check reconciliation in the amount of \$541,271.24 and the April bill listing in the amount of \$1,375,706.87.

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, April 28th and Wednesday, April 30th at 7:00 PM at the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Cobb summarized seven Zoning Hearing Board petitions and announced that copies of the applications and plans 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, acknowledged the work of the Walnut Avenue Steering Committee and architects at PORT Urbanism for their 3D modeling efforts for the future Walnut Ave Park.

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

Mr. May announced that during the month of March 2025, Springfield Township residents recycled 134.05 tons of material with a householder participation rate of 63.4%. The net cost for the month was \$19,625.54.

Mr. May announced that fresh leaf compost will be available beginning Friday, April 11 at the Township's distribution site located on West Wissahickon Avenue in Flourtown. Leaf compost can be added to soil as a soil amendment or used as a top dressing around landscape plants in place of hardwood mulch. Leaf compost will also stimulate earthworms and other helpful organisms and will retain more water and moisture than traditional hardwood mulch.

Mr. May announced the resignation of Gail Farmer from the Environmental Advisory Commission and thanked her for contributing her time and talents to the Springfield Township community.

Motion (May-McNamara) vote 6-0 to authorize the engagement of Celentano Energy Solutions to provide solar consultation services for the installation of a solar photovoltaic system at the Springfield Township municipal campus. The discounted fee for services shall be \$175 per hour for actual time billed with a total fee not to exceed \$12,000.

Ms. McNamara, Chair of Public Works and Facilities Committee, reported:

Ms. McNamara announced that on April 2, 2025, bids were received for the Township's 2025 Highway Resurfacing and Milling Program. Five bids were received ranging from a low of \$402,793.60 to a high of \$458,820.90.

Motion (McNamara-May) vote 6-0 to award a contract to Glasgow, Inc. of Glenside, PA to mill and resurface specified Township streets for their combined low bid of \$89.10 per ton for resurfacing, and \$3.08 per square yard for road milling, for a total estimated price of \$402,793.60.

Motion (McNamara-Wilson) vote 6-0 to authorize the advertisement of bids for the construction of a new storm sewer system on Avondale Road, from its intersection with Longfield Road to Glendalough Road, Erdenheim. Bid specifications and construction plans will be made available in the Office of the Township Manager upon completion by the Township Engineer.

Motion (McNamara-May) vote 6-0 to authorize the sale of five vehicles via the Municibid on-line public auction site. 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 vehicles include: (1) 2005 International Refuse Truck, (2) 2012 Chevrolet Stake Body Truck, (3) 2014 Ford Explorer SUV, (4) 2021 Ford Interceptor SUV, and (5) 2012 Chevrolet Tahoe SUV.

Ms. McNamara announced the resignation of Tom Pryzblinski from the Shade Tree Commission and recognized him for his 28 years of service to the Springfield Township community. It was noted that Mr. Pryzblinski was responsible for the Township pursuing designation as a Tree City USA community.

Motion (McNamara-Cobb) vote 6-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1664, a resolution proclaiming Saturday, April 26, 2025, as Arbor Day in Springfield Township.

Ms. McNamara 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 9 AM at the Free Library of Springfield Township, 8900 Hawthorne Lane, Wyndmoor. Residents can enter a raffle drawing to receive one of 30 free trees by registering in advance on the Township website. Winners will be selected at random beginning at 4 PM on Thursday, April 17.

Ms. McNamara concluded her report by urging all citizens to join with the Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to plant new trees.

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment. No public comment was received.

Mr. Cobb asked about the Truist Golf Championship/Tournament on May 5-11 at the Philadelphia Cricket Club in Whitemarsh Township. Mr. Taylor explained that there are designated offsite parking facilities for volunteers, players and spectators. No township roads will be closed, although police officers will be stationed at various locations to discourage those individuals without tickets from congregating near the golf course.

Ms. Ratsavong made a statement addressing the lawsuit concerning the Thin Blue Line American Flag resolution (PA State Lodge FOP, et. al. versus Township of Springfield, et. al), stating this would be her final remarks on the matter. Ms. Ratsavong summarized the legal proceedings from the adoption of the Township's original resolution limiting the use of certain symbols on public property, to the federal court ruling in favor of the plaintiffs, the subsequent appeal, and the decision not to pursue an additional appeal to the Supreme Court due to cost. While she respectfully disagrees with the court's decision, she emphasized that the Township's actions were rooted in a desire to ensure that public symbols reflect the values of the entire community, including historically marginalized groups. She made clear that the resolution was never intended to oppose or diminish the work of the police department, whose dedication and service she deeply appreciates. Though disappointed by the legal outcome, Ms. Ratsavong reaffirmed her commitment to justice, democratic representation, and restoring public trust. She concluded by expressing hope for continued dialogue, mutual respect, and a united path forward.

Motion (Ratsavong-Wilson) vote 6-0, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor
Manager/Secretary