

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in a regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, November 12, 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. Commissioner Lee presided.

Mr. Lee asked Mr. Taylor if any remote public comments were received prior to the meeting. Mr. Taylor reported that two public comments were received, and two emails. The first public comment was from an Oreland resident inquiring about the recycling, leaf waste, and refuse collection methods practiced by the Township. The second public comment was also from an Oreland resident, posing questions about leaf waste collection methods. The first email was received from an Oreland resident who commented on a proposed group home for individuals with disabilities on Cromwell Road in Wyndmoor. The second email was received from a Flourtown resident who submitted a resume and expressed interest in serving as a member of the Township's Zoning Hearing Board.

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-Morris) vote 7-0 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 November 10th workshop meeting to discuss two litigation matters. The Board also met prior to its business meeting on November 12th to consult with the Township Solicitor.

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment.

Margaret Mary Burke, Oreland, commented that it is difficult to hear the officials on the workshop meeting video when viewing remotely, and asked if they could speak more clearly into the microphones. Ms. Burke also commented that the real estate tax increase is a burden on residents, particularly those with fixed incomes. She noted that salaries are not keeping up with the cost of living and asked the Board to explore other options rather than a tax increase.

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

Motion (Lee-McNamara) vote 7-0 to amend the Springfield Township Code Section 107-32.D Schedule IX (Parking Prohibited) by creating a parking prohibited zone on the south side of Mermaid Lane from a point 127 feet from the Southeast corner of Elm Avenue to a point 187 feet Easterly thereof, and starting again from a point 222 feet from the Southeast corner of Elm Avenue to a point 292 feet thereof. The amended regulations are intended to eliminate a sight obstruction that has been identified by the Traffic Safety Officer.

Mr. Taylor explained that the intent of the parking regulations is to eliminate a sight obstruction for motorists exiting the adjacent business while preserving two on-street parking spaces between the two driveways serving the business.

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

Motion (Cobb-McNamara) vote 7-0 to approve the October check reconciliation in the amount of \$803,783.52 and the November bill listing in the amount of \$635,912.08.

Mr. Cobb announced the 2026 budget meeting schedule as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Budget Presentation	11/12/2025	7:30 PM
Budget Hearing	12/10/2025	7:30 PM
Budget Adoption	12/10/2025	7:30 PM

All meetings will be held at the Springfield Township Building, 1510 Paper Mill Road, Wyndmoor, PA 19038.

Mr. Cobb read into record the 2026 Budget Statement of the Board of Commissioners. As discussed at the November 10, 2025 workshop meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the projected 2026 budget proposes a balanced operating budget of \$21,173,124 with a real estate tax rate of 5.008 mills and an earned income tax rate of 1.0%. As a result of the 2026 budget projections, the typical taxpayer will realize an increase of \$62.79 to their 2026 real estate tax, and a \$8.24 increase to the annual refuse service fee. The typical household in Springfield Township with a \$175,400 property assessment will pay \$878.40 in real estate taxes in 2026. Mr. Cobb announced that the 2026 preliminary budget will be available for inspection in the office of the Township Manager and the Township library beginning on November 14, 2025. It will also and will be posted on the Township website in advance. The Board of Commissioners will consider comments on the budget during their workshop meeting on December 8, 2025, and as part of a budget hearing and budget adoption on December 10, 2025.

Mr. Taylor presented the 2026 Budget utilizing a PowerPoint presentation that showed major revenues and expenditures, and impacts on the real estate tax and refuse service fee. Mr. Lee explained that the Township's assessed property value increased by only 0.12% while expenses for employee wages, utilities, insurances and other benefits increased at a higher rate.

Mr. May added that the Township tax rate is not keeping up with inflation. Mr. Cobb noted that the Township has a limited commercial tax base compared to other municipalities.

Ms. Ratsavong commented that the proposed tax increase was trimmed from the initial presentation to the Board, focusing on maintaining existing services without adding additional costs to taxpayers. Ms. Ratsavong also commended the efforts of the Township Manager and Assistant Township Manager for their efforts to reduce the tax increase.

Mr. Cobb noted that increases in revenue from the Laverock, Atria, and Squires Ridge developments assisted with avoiding tax increases in previous years by adding the assessed valuation and real estate transfer taxes. Mr. Lee added that American Rescue Plan Act funding allowed for some projects to be completed without raising taxes. Mr. Cobb also mentioned that the municipal solar project is an expenditure that will pay for itself as electricity costs continue to increase over time.

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, November 24, 2025 at 7:00 PM at the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Cobb summarized the agenda and announced that copies of the applications and plans are on file in the Community Development Office.

Mr. Cobb announced the anticipated retirement of Ed Fox from the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Fox has been a valued member of the Zoning Hearing Board since 2001 and served as its Chair for over a decade. The Board of Commissioners thanked Mr. Fox for contributing his time and talents to the Springfield Township community.

As a result of Mr. Fox's anticipated retirement, Mr. Cobb announced that a vacancy will be created as an alternate member of the Zoning Hearing Board. Springfield Township residents who are interested in serving as a member of the Zoning Hearing Board are encouraged to submit a letter of interest and/or resume to the attention of Michael Taylor, Township Manager, 1510 Paper Mill Road, Wyndmoor, or mtaylor@springfieldmontco.org no later than December 5, 2025.

Mr. Wilson asked if the Board of Commissioners are planning to take a position on the Zoning Hearing Board Application that is to be heard this month. Messrs. Cobb and Lee, as well as Ms. Ratsavong suggested that the Zoning Hearing Board is capable of deciding the case without intervention.

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

Motion (Ratsavong-May) vote 7-0 to authorize the engagement of Boyle Construction Management, Center Valley, PA to conduct preconstruction public project management services for the Springfield Township Recreation Center project, 1200 Willow Grove Avenue, Wyndmoor. The engagement shall be consistent with the Boyle proposal dated October 15, 2025 and shall include land development assistance, grants management, meeting and project coordination, cost estimating, scheduling, design review, bidding and procurement. The final terms of the engagement shall be reflected in an agreement that is to be in a form acceptable to the Township Solicitor. The fee for the approved scope of work shall not exceed \$142,780.

Motion (Ratsavong-May) vote 7-0 to authorize the purchase of an environmental liability insurance policy for third party bodily injury and property damage claims for the property located at 1725 Walnut Avenue, Oreland. The terms of the policy are as quoted by Distinguished Programs Insurance Brokerage on October 30, 2025, last amended October 31, 2025. The term of the policy is five years and provides coverage in the amount of \$5 million per incident and \$5 million aggregate. The cost is \$48,253.

Ms. Ratsavong announced that a public presentation will be conducted on Monday, December 8, 2025 at approximately 7:30 PM to present the results of the Walnut Avenue Master Plan to the community. The plan is the result of nearly two years of regular meetings by a steering committee formed by the Board of Commissioners to guide the planning process for the conversion of the former industrial site to a public park. Representatives from PORT Architecture and Urbanism will be present to celebrate the conclusion of the planning process.

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

Mr. May announced that during the month of October 2025, Springfield Township residents recycled 155.37 tons of material with a householder participation rate of 66.7%. The net cost for the month was \$23,992.10.

Mr. May also reminded residents to remove all packing materials from cardboard boxes prior to placing them out for collection. Packing materials such as plastic bags, bubble wrap and polystyrene (Styrofoam) packaging are not recyclable and are treated as residue. Cardboard that is contaminated with packaging materials costs the Township \$70 per ton to dispose as residue while “clean” corrugated cardboard presently has a sales value of \$65 per ton. He also asked residents to flatten all cardboard containers so that they take up less room in the Township’s collection vehicles and require fewer trips to the processing facility. Fewer trips equate to less fuel being consumed, reduced exhaust emissions and less wear and tear on equipment.

Mr. May also encouraged any residents with a particular interest in the preservation or conservation of open space to consider attending a meeting of the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission. The commission meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7 PM at the Free Library of Springfield Township and has created a subcommittee to inventory remaining open space and to discuss ways that it may be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

Mr. Morris, Chairman of the Cultural Resources Committee, reported:

Mr. Morris announced the resignation of Katie Klemm from the Library Advisory Committee. The Board of Commissioners thanked Ms. Klemm for contributing her time and talents to the Springfield Township community.

As a result of Ms. Klemm's resignation, Mr. Morris announced that a vacancy will be created as a member of the Library Advisory Committee. Springfield Township residents who are interested in serving as a member of the Library Advisory Committee are encouraged to submit a letter of interest and/or resume to the attention of Michael Taylor, Township Manager, 1510 Paper Mill Road, Wyndmoor, or mtaylor@springfieldmontco.org no later than December 5, 2025.

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment.

Margaret Mary Burke, Orelan, asked if gift bows and gift wrap were recyclable. Mr. May and Mr. Taylor responded that in general, the bows and gift wraps are not recyclable and should be deposited with household waste.

Ms. McNamara announced that the Shade Tree Commission will not be meeting on their regularly scheduled meeting day this month because it falls on Thanksgiving Day. Instead, the meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 19th.

Ms. Ratsavong acknowledged Emily Baiada, Director of Parks and Recreation, for her contributions to Springfield Township. Emily's last day at Springfield was November 12th, as she is leaving to pursue another professional opportunity.

Mr. Cobb commended Ms. Ratsavong for spearheading the Pop-Up Food Pantry that occurred on Thursday, November 6th and Saturday, November 8th. Ms. Ratsavong credited the overwhelming community support in the form of donations and volunteers.

Motion (Wilson-McNamara) vote 7-0, to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor
Manager/Secretary