

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, January 12, 2022, 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. Graham announced that the video would be made available on the Township's website beginning Thursday, January 13. All members of the Board were present. 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-Lee) carried unanimously, 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 that Mr. Denlinger of the Wisler Pearlstine law office was in attendance in the absence of Mr. Garrity.

Mr. Graham announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session as part of their January 10, 2022 workshop meeting to discuss two potential litigation matters, two personnel matters and one real estate matter.

Mr. Graham announced the 2022 Committee and Liaison assignments of the Board of Commissioners as follows:

Commissioner	Committee Assignment	Liaison Assignment
Eddie T. Graham, President	Cultural Resources	Library Advisory Committee
James M. Lee, Vice President	Public Safety	Emergency Services Board
Baird M. Standish	Community Development	Planning and Historical Commissions
Peter D. Wilson	Environmental Resources	Environmental Advisory Commission
Michael E. Maxwell	Public Works and Facilities	Shade Tree Committee
Jonathan C. Cobb	Administrative, Fiscal and Zoning Affairs	Zoning Hearing Board
Susanna O. Ratsavong	Parks & Recreational Resources	Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee

Mr. Graham invited past Commissioner and Board President Jeffrey T. Harbison to the front of the room to be joined by Commissioner Standish. Mr. Standish read into the record Resolution No. 1558, a resolution honoring Jeffrey T. Harbison for 16 years of service as a Springfield Township Commissioner.

Motion (Standish-Lee) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1558.

Mr. Graham acknowledged Montgomery County Commissioner Val Arkoosh and past township commissioners Jim Daily and Glenn Schaum in the audience.

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

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

Mr. Graham announced that on December 11, 2021 the Board received a letter from Arthur Walters resigning his position as a member of the Springfield Township Library Advisory Committee. Mr. Graham thanked Mr. Walters for his service to the community.

Mr. Graham announced that there is now a vacancy as a member of the Springfield Township Library Advisory Committee. Mr. Graham summarized the responsibilities of the Library Advisory Committee and invited all residents interested in serving on the Library Advisory Committee to send a letter of interest or resume to the attention of Michael Taylor, Township Manager.

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

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of December 2021, Springfield Township residents recycled 242.48 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 63.0%. The net cost for the month was \$13,040.90. Mr. Wilson also announced that for the year ending December 31, 2021, residents recycled a total of 2,261.4 tons of single stream recyclables, which was 99.3% of the projected tonnage. The weekly householder participation rate was 71.9%, and the average pounds per stop was 20.5.

Mr. Wilson announced that Springfield Township participates in a joint consortium of seven municipalities for the purpose of marketing and processing recyclables, as well as the operation of a materials transfer station and the transport of materials to market. On September 30, 2021, Upper Dublin Township, on behalf of the participating municipalities, received bids for the processing and marketing of materials, and on November 10, 2021, for transfer station operations and transportation.

Motion (Wilson-Ratsavong) carried unanimously to accept the recommendation of a subcommittee of municipal representatives of the Montgomery County Recycling Consortium to award a contract to Republic Services, Inc. for the processing and marketing of single stream recyclables for their low bid proposal of \$105 per ton. The term of the

award is for a period of seven years beginning April 2022, and includes three, one-year extensions that may be exercised at the discretion of the Consortium.

Motion (Wilson-Ratsavong) carried unanimously to reject all bids received for the operation of the Consortium's recycling transfer station, and the transport of materials from the consortium transfer station to its designated processing facility. The one bid received for these services was found to be non-competitive and would have resulted in an approximate 40% increase to the Township's present disposal costs.

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

Motion (Maxwell-Lee) carried unanimously to award a contract to Long Fence Company, of Phoenixville, PA, for their low bid price of \$36,391 for the installation of approximately 250 LF of galvanized finish guiderail along Bridge Street in Oreland. Mr. Maxwell noted that on January 5, 2022, the Township received two bids for the subject project.

Mr. Lee asked if there was an anticipated completion date for the installation of the guiderail. Mr. Taylor responded that it is anticipated that the project will take 60 – 90 days to complete.

Motion (Maxwell-Wilson) carried unanimously to authorize the advertisement of bids for the supply and installation of school zone warning flashers along Paper Mill Road and Montgomery Avenue, Erdenheim. The estimated cost of the warning flashers is \$154,125 and will be reimbursed by the School District of Springfield Township pursuant to the land development approvals for the construction of the new Enfield Elementary School.

Motion (Maxwell-Cobb) carried unanimously to authorize the advertisement of bids for the Mermaid Park Dredging Project and the Mermaid Park Pedestrian Trail & Streambank Stabilization Project. The dredging project includes the removal of approximately 3,000 cubic yards of material from Mermaid Pond. The trail and streambank stabilization project includes the stabilization of streambanks above the pond to prevent erosion, installation of a sediment forebay to reduce sediment entering the pond, a pedestrian footbridge, and a perimeter walking trail. The estimated cost of the project is \$256,400, for which the Township has obtained three grants totaling \$223,000 to fund the improvements.

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

Motion (Cobb-Lee) carried unanimously to approve the December check reconciliation in the amount of \$479,731.68, and the January bill listing in the amount of \$567,524.50.

Mr. Cobb announced that the Office of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has committed to joining a \$26 billion nationwide settlement with the three major drug distributors and manufacturers for their role in creating the national opioid crisis. Under the terms of the proposed settlement, all proceeds must be utilized to address the opioids crisis. The final amount awarded to the Commonwealth will depend upon the number of municipalities who ultimately choose to opt in to the settlement. As a result, any municipality that did not have their

own lawsuit pending against the pharmaceutical companies is encouraged to join the settlement. Mr. Cobb noted that Springfield Township has no such litigation pending.

Motion (Cobb-Maxwell) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1559, a resolution authorizing Springfield Township to enter into two settlement agreements with various pharmaceutical corporations, as well as the Pennsylvania Subdivision Interstate Allocation Participation form for the distribution of all settlement proceeds.

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Cobb summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda, and stated that the applications and plans are on file in the Code Enforcement Office and may be viewed during normal business hours.

Motion (Cobb-Maxwell) carried unanimously to authorize the commissioner-liaison to the Zoning Hearing Board to express the Board's concerns with the proposed operation of a firewood business from the property located at 1508 Mermaid Lane, which is also utilized as a single family residence.

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

Motion (Lee-Wilson) carried unanimously to extend a conditional offer of employment as a probationary police officer in the Springfield Township Police Department to Daniel Lopez, Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, effective January 31, 2022. The condition of employment is successfully passing a physical and psychological examination. Mr. Lopez is a 2021 graduate of the Montgomery County Police Academy, and is presently employed as a Deputy in the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Lee announced that at the request of a resident of Northwestern Avenue, a traffic study was conducted on Northwestern Avenue from December 30, 2021 through January 6, 2022. The results of the study indicate that the road will benefit from being posted with appropriate speed limit signage.

Motion (Lee-Maxwell) carried unanimously to amend the Springfield Township Code, Section 107-24, Schedule I, Speed Limits, to establish a 25 MPH speed limit on Northwestern Avenue, from Ridge Pike to the dead end.

Mr. Wilson asked what the current posted speed limit is on this section of roadway. Mr. Taylor responded that it is currently not posted, but pursuant to the state motor vehicle code the speed limit is 25 MPH.

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

At the encouragement of State Representative Napoleon Nelson, the Springfield Township Department of Parks & Recreation has been encouraged to participate in the state-wide "Young Lungs at Play" program which was created to encourage tobacco and smoke-free zones throughout municipal parks, trails and open space areas.

Motion (Ratsavong-Lee) carried unanimously to authorize participation in the Young Lungs at Play program sponsored by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Mr. Wilson asked for confirmation that all parks in the Township are currently smoke-free and tobacco-free. Mr. Taylor provided that confirmation, and stated that participating in the State program will provide free signage to reinforce the restrictions. Ms. Ratsavong further stated that participation may lead to other grant funding in the future. Mr. Cobb opined that this would benefit all individuals visiting our parks, not just children.

Mr. Graham opened the meeting to public comment.

Mary Ellen Reeves, Station Avenue, thanked the Board for addressing traffic issues on Paper Mill Road at Montgomery Avenue, as well as on Northwestern Avenue. Ms. Reeves commented on the dangerous conditions at the intersection of Church Road and Station Avenue. She asked the Board to consider the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Station Avenue and Church Road. Mr. Graham provided a summary of the Township's efforts to improve the traffic flow in the Church Road/Station Ave/Sandy Hill Road/Willow Grove Avenue corridor. Ms. Reeves was appreciative of those efforts, and asked that the efforts be revived. Mr. Graham encouraged Ms. Reeves to contact him to become involved in those efforts.

Mr. Cobb expressed his gratefulness for Commissioner Harbison's leadership and mentorship. He also recognized and thanked former Commissioners Daily and Schaum, as well as former Township Manager Don Berger, who were all in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Graham thanked his fellow commissioners for their indulgence while he presided over his first meeting as President of the Board. Mr. Graham also wished to recognize and thank former Township Manager Don Berger for his friendship and mentorship when he first became a member of the Board.

Motion (Graham-Lee) carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Michael Taylor,
Secretary