

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in a combined monthly workshop and business meeting on Wednesday evening, September 9, 2026 at 7:00 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 Ratsavong presided.

Ms. Ratsavong asked Mr. Taylor if any remote public comments were received prior to the meeting. Mr. Taylor reported that nine public comments were received in opposition to the proposed skate park location at McKelvie Park.

Ms. Ratsavong 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.

Ms. Ratsavong led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (May-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.

Ms. Ratsavong acknowledged that the Township Engineer was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict with the combined meeting.

Ms. Ratsavong announced that the format for the meeting will be a combined workshop and business meeting due to the Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 7. Public comment will be accepted as each agenda item is discussed. Public comments were requested to be brief and non-repetitive.

Ms. Ratsavong announced that the daily swimming pool passes for the Flourtown Country Club circulated 179 times over an 80-day period during the first year of availability. The swimming pool passes will be made available again next summer once the swimming pool resumes seasonal operating hours.

Ms. Ratsavong acknowledged that State Representative Napoleon Nelson will be hosting a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, October 1 at 7 PM at the Free Library of Springfield Township. The meeting will feature an update on the current projects and activities of the Jenkintown Borough, Cheltenham Township and Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commissions.

Ms. McNamara, Chairwoman of the Public Safety Committee, reported:

Ms. McNamara announced that the next Public Safety Forum will be held on Thursday, September 17 at 7 PM at the Springfield Township Building and will feature a presentation on Crimes Against the Elderly and Care-dependent Individuals, including Common Scams.

The final Public Safety Forum for 2026 is scheduled to occur on Thursday, December 17 and will include a lookback at the year in the Police Department, including major public safety incidents, crimes and activities.

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

Mr. Morris announced that the Springfield Township Community Day celebration will take place on Sunday, October 4, 2026, from 10 AM to 1 PM at Cisco Park in Erdenheim. The event will include inflatables, face painting, balloon creations and other family fun, free of charge.

Ms. Ratsavong opened the meeting to public comment.

Diane Scutti, Glenn Circle, commented on the need for deer management in Springfield Township. The deer eat the vegetation in her yard, while investments in deer resistant plants have not been effective. Ms. Scutti also addressed her concern of deer ticks and feces, and other ecological issues. She was recently involved in a minor vehicle collision with a deer. She asked for a structured Deer Management Program.

Ms. Ratsavong indicated that the Police Department is researching possible solutions to manage the deer population and that the Board anticipates a report on the subject at its October workshop meeting.

Mr. Kirk asked about the timing of the implementation of such a program. Mr. Taylor indicated that it would be most effective to have a deer management program established for the fall season, when the deer are most active.

Ms. Ratsavong opened public comment for the agenda item related to the possible engagement of Natural Lands to assist the Township with an open space referendum.

Judy Patitucci, Wissahickon Avenue, inquired about overlay districts and possible impacts on open space. Mr. Taylor responded that the two concepts were not related.

John English, Bradford Road, noted that the taxpayers would be paying for the proposal from Natural Lands. He expressed his concern that the wording of a proposed ballot referendum may be influenced by bias.

Mr. Lee noted that there are opportunities to preserve open space, but at present there are limited funds for that purpose. A dedicated funding mechanism for the conservation and improvement of open space would be beneficial.

Motion (May-Kirk) vote 7-0 to authorize the execution of an agreement with Natural Lands to assist the Board of Commissioners with the preparation of an ordinance and ballot referendum to assist the municipality with the preservation of open space. The scope of work shall include public education, facilitation of public meetings and the preparation of a conservation opportunities map. The total cost of the agreement is \$15,500 in accordance with the Natural Lands proposal dated May 18, 2026.

Mr. May added that Natural Lands does not measure success by the passage of the referendum.

Mr. Lee remarked that Natural Lands helps raise funds for preservation and/or conservation of lands.

Mr. Freimuth noted that Natural Lands tends to be the most experienced organization in this area regarding such a referendum.

Ms. Ratsavong opened public comment for the agenda item Skate Park at McKelvie Park.

Mark Bur, Plymouth Ave, commented that his family uses McKelvie Park in its current form including the grass area adjacent to the playground. He said that the loss of green space would not be an improvement for his family or to the community.

Karyn Ehram, Ulmer Ave, asked the Commissioners to consider the community voices that have expressed opposition to the skate park at McKelvie Park and to ask themselves if all questions posed by the constituency have been answered. She asked the Commissioners if they established if McKelvie is the right space for the skate park or if a feasibility study was completed. She also asked about what exactly is being voted on this evening, and if residential proximity, noise impacts, or community opposition would be a factor.

Pete Rubicam, Wyndmoor, said that while he desires green space as well, but that public green space has increased in the Township since his childhood with projects like Harston Woods, Sandy Run Park, the former Tank Car property and the park on Hemlock Road now available for public enjoyment. He noted that there will be trees and places to relax within the park, and that it would not be without green space. He said that there are multiple opportunities for children involved in team sports, but very little for children who don't participate in those activities to get off their phones.

Karyn Ehram readdressed the Board and noted that McKelvie Park is 0.8 acres, and while she is not saying green space hasn't been created in town, she is saying that it is being lost on a small park/parcel.

Adrian Archdekin, Wyndmoor, noted that he has advocated for the construction of a skate park since he was in the 6th grade. While he plays team sports and also likes to skate, he noted the limited opportunities for skating in the Township.

Diane Scutti readdressed the Board to ask how the skate park would be funded. Ms. Ratsavong explained that the Township would provide the Skate Park Association a potential location for a skate park and the association would then be able to create a design and start fundraising.

Motion (Goldberg-May) vote 7-0 to designate an area at McKelvie Park to allow the Springfield Township Skateboard Association the opportunity to design a community skate park. The designation of the area shall be conditioned upon the Association preserving the existing trees and limiting the size of the skate park to no more than that of the previous basketball court. In addition, the Association shall be required to present plans for the skate park for review and recommendation by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. The Director of Parks and Recreation shall arrange for public notice to be provided by mailing notice of the meeting to all property owners located within 500' of the park perimeter, and by posting notice of the meeting at the park property. Construction of the skate park shall not occur until permission has been granted by the Board of Commissioners at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Mr. May commented that most of the questions raised this evening will be answered as the project progresses. Tonight's motion is the beginning of this process. He also explained that the Township is adding between seven and eight acres of green space less than one mile away at the former Tank Car Corporation of America property.

Ms. Ratsavong opined that having a skate park in the Township increases value and that McKelvie Park is an appropriate location for the skate park. The Board has reviewed comments opposed to the skate park and attempted to offer responses to those inquiries.

Mr. Goldberg commented that he considers it a "pocket" skate park, making the location attractive to children but not skate professionals.

Mr. Kirk initially questioned whether McKelvie was adequate for a skate park. However, he recently observed a similar facility while vacationing with his family in Massachusetts and is now in favor of the location.

Mr. Lee explained that the goal is to provide a facility for a portion of the population that is currently underserved. He noted that there is no ideal spot in the township, but McKelvie is a good option. He acknowledged the downside of the loss of green space, but that the park is currently a vibrant place for children and youth to meet with lots of activities.

Ms. McNamara commented that the location is not ideal but is still a viable option. She remarked that there will be thoughtful consideration of how the skate park will be developed, and checks and balances will be in place along the way. This vote represents a green light for an opportunity.

Ms. Ratsavong, Chairwoman of the Community Development Committee, had no report.

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

Motion (Lee-McNamara) vote 7-0 to approve the August check reconciliation in the amount of \$1,271,544.80, and the September bill listing in the amount of \$931,208.67.

Mr. Lee announced the 2027 budget meeting schedule as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Meetings with Support Agencies <i>(fire, ambulance, planning invited)</i>	9/16/2026	7:00 PM
Budget Workshop	10/21/2026	7:00 PM
Budget Presentation	11/11/2026	7:30 PM
Budget Hearing	12/9/2026	7:30 PM
Budget Adoption	12/9/2026	7:30 PM

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

Mr. Lee noted that the Board is also scheduled to meet with candidates for the Environmental Advisory Commission beginning at 6:20 PM on September 16, 2026.

Mr. Lee explained that the Board of Commissioners has a statutory obligation to adopt a resolution setting forth the minimum municipal obligations to properly fund the Township's employee pension plans, and to incorporate the minimum municipal obligations into the succeeding year Township budget.

Motion (Lee-Morris) vote 7-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1698, a resolution establishing the 2027 pension fund minimum municipal obligations for the three defined benefit and one defined contribution pension plans.

Motion (Lee-May) vote 7-0 to authorize the 2027 hourly rate schedule for Woodrow & Associates, Municipal/Civil Engineers. The fee schedule includes a combined average hourly increase of 4.78%. The hourly dollar increase varies between \$3 and \$6 per hour, depending upon position.

Mr. Lee noted that the increased rates are still below neighboring municipalities.

Motion (Lee-May) vote 7-0 to reappoint Bee, Bergvall and Company, Certified Public Accountants, to serve as the Springfield Township Auditors to audit the Township's financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2026, consistent with the audit

engagement letter dated August 12, 2026. The cost of the engagement is \$24,200 plus an alternate in the amount of \$4,800 to compile the pension activity for the four pension funds.

Mr. Lee announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, September 28, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Springfield Township Building to receive testimony on three applications. Mr. Lee summarized the three petitions to be heard and announced that a copy of the applications and plans are on file in the Code Enforcement Office and may be viewed during normal business hours.

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

Mr. May announced that during the month of August 2026, Springfield Township residents recycled 107.18 tons of material with a householder participation rate of 51.5%. The net cost for the month was \$19,228.67.

Ms. McNamara, Chairwoman of the Public Safety Committee, reported:

Motion (McNamara-Lee) vote 7-0 to authorize the execution of an agreement between Springfield Township and LaSalle College High School for daily traffic control services provided by the Springfield Township Police Department. The term of the agreement shall be for the 2026-2027 school year and provides one hour of traffic safety control services between the hours of 7:15 and 8:15 AM on each day that the school is open. The total cost of the services is \$13,080.

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

Motion (Kirk-McNamara) vote 7-0 to authorize the execution of a Pedestrian Trail Access Agreement between the School District of Springfield Township and Springfield Township granting a temporary construction easement and permanent pedestrian trail easement for the Springfield Township High School property. The agreement permits the installation and construction of a pedestrian trail to connect the Township's Harston Woods property on Haws Lane with the High School property on Paper Mill Road.

Mr. Goldberg commented that the trail is nice but would benefit from a bench. Ms. Ratsavong added that the trail is already in place.

The Board reviewed the September 3, 2026 report of the Township Manager and discussed the following items in detail: (1) the 2027 budget schedule and meetings; (2) interviewing with candidates for various positions on the Environmental Advisory Commission prior to the September 16th budget meeting; (3) streambank erosion occurring at two properties in Flourtown on Haws Lane and Overbook Lane; (4) rodent activity on College Avenue in Flourtown and the mitigation efforts underway by the Code Enforcement Department and Montgomery County Health Department; and (5) an opportunity for employees to choose between Delta Dental or United Concordia dental providers.

Ms. Ratsavong opened the meeting to public comment. No comments were received.

Ms. Ratsavong announced that after the meeting is adjourned, the Board will meet in executive session to discuss one personnel and four litigation matters.

Motion (Lee-Morris) vote 7-0, to adjourn the business meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor
Manager/Secretary