

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, October 9, 2019, at 7:30 PM in the Springfield Township Building for the purpose of transacting the general business of the Township. All members of the Board were present. Mr. Harbison presided.

Mr. Harbison asked everyone to join the Board of Commissioners in a moment of silent reflection honoring the service men and women who place themselves in harm's way in order to help preserve our safety at home and overseas.

Mr. Harbison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Schaum/Wilson) 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. Harbison announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session following the workshop meeting held on October 7, 2019 to discuss two matters of litigation.

Mr. Harbison announced that the Board was now open to receiving public comment, and drew particular attention to those items listed on the agenda.

Barbara Senst, Woods Road, addressed the Board on behalf of the Springfield Township Opioid Action Committee (STOAC). Mrs. Senst indicated that she suffered the loss of a close family member as a result of the opioid crisis, and is working to create awareness among the Springfield Township community to identify and prevent opioid abuse. STOAC is working with the local schools to provide drug education programs to students, and to help parents identify signs of drug use. Mrs. Senst acknowledged the assistance of other members of the community to help with these efforts.

Amy Samtmann, West Wissahickon Avenue, addressed the Board of Commissioners in order to thank Commissioner Graham for his assistance in helping STOAC organize meetings within the community, and to distribute information. Mrs. Samtmann also wished to encourage all of the Commissioners to engage with STOAC at community events.

Giuseppe Craney-Monticelli, of Oreland, questioned the Board about an item on the agenda to consider the appointment of a third party building inspector. Mr. Harbison explained that earlier in the month the Township's Building Inspector resigned on short notice and later tonight the Board would be considering the appointment of an outside agency to provide the necessary inspection services on at least an interim basis. Mr. Craney-Monticelli thanked Mr. Harbison for his response. He also commended the STOAC for their ongoing efforts to provide drug awareness and education to the community.

Commissioner Graham thanked the Senst family for taking a terrible family tragedy and turning it into a positive effort to engage the community on a very serious issue.

Mr. Harbison, Chairman of Internal Affairs and Library Committees, reported:

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously, to approve the September check reconciliation in the amount \$480,422.86 and the October bill listing in the amount of \$1,236,947.52.

Mr. Harbison announced the 2020 budget meeting schedule as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Budget Workshop	Oct. 16, 2019	7:00 PM
Budget Presentation	Nov. 13, 2019	7:30 PM
Budget Hearing	Dec. 11, 2019	7:30 PM
Budget Adoption	Dec. 11, 2019	7:30 PM

Mr. Harbison noted that all meetings will take place at the Springfield Township Building.

Motion (Harbison/Cobb) carried unanimously, to adopt Resolution No. 1481, a resolution distributing the annual state aid to the Springfield Township municipal pension plans in compliance with Pennsylvania Act 205 of 1984, the Municipal Pension Funding Standard and Recovery Act. Mr. Harbison noted that under the date of September 18, 2019, the Township received state pension fund aid in the amount of \$476,206.41 which will be distributed into the three Township pension plans utilizing a formula provided by the Township pension fund administrator.

Mr. Harbison explained that the Sterling Act is the enabling legislation that allows the City of Philadelphia to tax individual income at both the resident and non-resident rate. The tax is similar to an earned income tax levied by suburban municipalities, however, unlike the earned income tax, Philadelphia's wage tax allows the city to retain all of the tax revenues collected from non-residents working in the city.

Motion (Harbison/Schaum), carried unanimously, to adopt Resolution No. 1482, a resolution requesting an amendment to the Sterling Act to require up to one-percent of the Philadelphia Wage Tax paid by non-residents of Philadelphia be remitted to the municipality in which the resident resides.

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

On January 9, 2019, the Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 1469 supporting the vision for a 100% clean renewable energy future referred to as the "Ready for 100" initiative. As a first step to achieving this goal, the Township conducted an energy benchmarking study to evaluate the energy efficiency of its municipal buildings. The results of the benchmarking study show that the police/administration and library buildings are operating less efficiently than comparable buildings, and that opportunities exist to improve energy efficiency.

Motion (Schaum/Wilson), carried unanimously, to authorize the engagement of Practical Energy Solutions to conduct an energy assessment audit of the police/administration and library buildings in accordance with their proposal dated October 7, 2019. The cost of the

benchmarking study is \$5,380.00 and will focus on operational adjustments to maximize the performance of existing systems.

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

The Township is in the process of filling a vacancy created by the resignation of its Code Enforcement Officer and is in need of a temporary building inspector to carry out those functions.

Motion (Standish/Schaum), carried unanimously, to authorize the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Keystone Municipal Services, Inc. of Swarthmore, PA to perform interim Construction Inspection Services, Building Plan Review Services and Accessibility Plan Review/Inspection Services on behalf of Springfield Township. The form of agreement shall be subject to approval by the Township solicitor's office prior to execution.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of September 2019, Springfield Township residents recycled 160.88 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 79.6%. The net cost for the month was \$20,377.52.

Mr. Graham, Chairman of Parks and Recreational Resources Committee, had no report.

Mr. Maxwell, Co-Chairman of Public Safety Committee, reported:

Motion (Maxwell/Schaum), carried unanimously, to authorize the office of the Township Solicitor to conclude all the current litigation with the Springfield Ambulance Association (SAA) utilizing a Settlement Agreement with SAA containing at least the following terms: (1) the immediate occupancy of the building located at 8903 Hawthorne Lane, Wyndmoor, by the Township or its designee; (2) proof of payment, satisfactory to the Township Solicitor, of the existing illegal mortgage on the township premises where the ambulance building is located, as well as the removal or satisfaction of any other outstanding loans associated with the building or the operations of SAA; (3) immediate payment of \$60,000 by the Springfield Ambulance Association to Springfield Township; and (4) the mutual exchange of releases by the parties. Prior to the execution of the settlement agreement by the Board of Commissioners, all documentation related to the settlement should be in a form acceptable to the Board of Commissioners and the Township Solicitor's office.

Commissioner Maxwell wished to thank the other members of the Board of Commissioners for their efforts to provide direction in this difficult and often frustrating matter. Mr. Maxwell opined that the direction taken by the Board will better serve the community going forward.

Commissioner Harbison noted that the occupancy of the building that will be obtained as a result of the Board's vote should occur quickly, which will assist the Township's new ambulance provider in serving the Springfield Township community. He noted that the

ambulance service has been operating from the Township's public works facility since last April, which is not ideal.

Mr. Cobb, Chairman of the Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Cobb announced that for the last several months the Board of Commissioners and Township staff have been researching and evaluating website service providers to create and host a new Township website. The evaluation criteria included visual appeal, compatibility with third party software systems, ease of navigation, subscriber notifications, ADA compliance and security measures.

Motion (Cobb/Maxwell), carried unanimously, to engage the services of Catapult Web, of North Wales, PA, to provide municipal website services in accordance with their letter of engagement dated October 8, 2019. The annual cost of the service is \$2,400.

Commissioner Harbison acknowledged the efforts of Commissioners Cobb and Maxwell towards the creation of a new website. Commissioner Cobb noted the improvements to the Parks and Recreation portal that were recently launched, as well as the contest that the Township is currently running to secure photos from the community to populate the new website.

Mr. Cobb announced that the next meeting of the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will be held on Monday, October 28, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Cobb summarized the one zoning petition that is to be heard.

Barbara Senst readdressed the Board of Commissioners for the purpose of thanking Commissioner Graham for his initial and ongoing assistance with respect to the Springfield Township Opioid Action Committee.

Giuseppe Craney-Monticelli, of Oreland, shared a personal story of bullying and abuse suffered as a middle school student, and advocated for the creation of a police special victims unit or detective trained to detect and investigate such instances.

Commissioner Schaum wished to thank the members of the Springfield Township Community Day committee, and in particular Kerry Boccella, who helped organize the annual Community Day activities this past Sunday, October 6.

Commissioner Cobb acknowledged the efforts of Brandon Ford, Assistant to the Manager, to help select the Township's new website provider. He also acknowledged the efforts of the STOAC to bring awareness to the opioid crisis and substance abuse in general.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Michael Taylor,
Secretary

