

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in an emergency meeting on Thursday evening, March 26, 2020, at 7:00 PM for the purpose of considering the adoption of an emergency ordinance entitled “COVID-19 Emergency Response Ordinance”. The meeting was conducted remotely utilizing the Zoom teleconference platform, with accommodations made for those without access to a computer or Internet at the Springfield Township Building. All members of the Board were present. Mr. Standish presided.

Mr. Standish asked everyone to stand and join the Board of Commissioners for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Standish announced the actions being taken by Springfield Township to ensure the continuation of life essential services to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Standish encouraged all business owners in the community who are not considered life essential to follow the Governor of Pennsylvania’s orders to discontinue operations for the safety of their employees and customers. Mr. Standish provided instructions to individuals who are exhibiting symptoms of the COVID-19 virus to schedule an appointment to be tested at the drive-thru testing center collated at the Temple University Ambler campus in Upper Dublin Township. Mr. Standish concluded his remarks by asking all residents to remain positive and to check on their neighbors and family members.

Mr. Standish explained that as part of the Township’s advertising efforts for this evening’s meeting, efforts were made to solicit public comment via e-mail up to one hour prior to the start of the meeting. Three individuals submitted comments as follows:

David Wexler, Valley Lane, Oreland, asked if the motion that the Board was to consider should have a defined length. Mr. Standish responded that the ordinance under consideration by the Board states that the emergency declaration shall remain in effect for as long as the Board or the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania indicates otherwise. Mr. Wexler also asked how the proposed extension to the real estate tax deadline would impact the discount period. Mr. Standish indicated that the proposed ordinance extends the discount period for the payment of real estate taxes through May 31, 2020.

Mark Diantonio, Moreland Avenue, Wyndmoor, indicated that he recently submitted his real estate tax payment to the tax collector, but it does not appear to have been deposited. Mr. Diantonio asked if the Township would be holding onto payments for the period of the extension or depositing them as received. Mr. Standish indicated that the tax collector would be processing payments as they are received.

James Dailey, Penn Oak Road, Flourtown, submitted a statement endorsing the adoption of the proposed ordinance and thanked the police, fire and emergency service providers for their continued dedication and service during the current health crisis. Mr. Dailey expressed pride in the Springfield Township community as evidenced by the many residents who have offered assistance to those in need. He concluded his statement by offering any assistance that may be needed.

Motion (Standish/Graham), carried unanimously, to adopt Ordinance No. 964, an Ordinance entitled “COVID-19 Emergency Response Ordinance”, as authorized by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Service Code, and pursuant to the Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued by Governor Tom Wolf of March 6, 2020, and Governor Wolf’s subsequent Executive Orders, as well as the COVID-19 Orders and Declarations issued by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and the County of Montgomery.

Mr. Standish summarized the contents of Ordinance No. 964.

Mr. Wilson questioned whether the “face” period for the collection of local real estate taxes would be extended as a result of this Ordinance and was advised that it would not.

Mr. Standish noted that a complete copy of Ordinance 964 was made available on the Township’s website prior to the meeting, and is available for inspection in the Office of the Township Manager upon request.

Mr. Taylor indicated that an announcement with regard to the extension of the real estate, business privilege, mercantile, earned income and local services taxes would be posted to the Township website and e-mailed to subscribers on Friday, March 27.

Mr. Lee indicated that he received a message from two of his constituents, Margaret Mary Burke and Christine Hesser, who wished to convey their appreciation for the leadership that the Montgomery County Commissioners, and Chairwoman Val Arkoosh in particular, have demonstrated throughout the current pandemic.

The commissioners noted that a summary of the meeting would be available in an article that would appear in the Chestnut Hill Local. Mr. Ford noted that the meeting would also be available via the Township’s YouTube channel.

Mr. Wilson asked if it was anticipated that the April workshop and business meeting would be conducted in the same teleconference format as tonight’s meeting. Mr. Taylor responded in the affirmative. Mr. Wilson asked if the rest of the Board members were comfortable receiving the traditional agenda book or preferred electronic documents. A majority of the commissioners expressed their preference for the traditional agenda materials.

Motion (Wilson/Maxwell), carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Michael Taylor,
Secretary