

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, February 13, 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 have placed themselves in harm's way in order to help preserve our safety.

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.

Special Report

Mr. Harbison noted that several members of the Board of Commissioners recently received an anonymous letter expressing concern for renovations to an accessory building in a residential neighborhood. The use of the garage and the renovations are all within limits set by the Springfield Township Code. Unfortunately, the author of the letter did not identify himself/herself in order that this information may be conveyed to him or her directly. The letter also indicates the reason why the individual did not reveal their name is that he or she believes the owner of the property is "connected to" the Township and the writer did not want to take a chance at retribution. While in this case the property owner does not have a relationship with the Township, the Board of Commissioners will not stand for any special treatment of anyone within the Township, nor would any form of retribution be acceptable. All residents should feel free to bring their concerns to the attention of the Township Management or the Board of Commissioners at any time, in person or in written form. Complaints and matters of concern are kept confidential and, in fact, these matters are not even subject to disclosure through the Pennsylvania Right to Know Law.

Sam Friedman, Patton Road, addressed the Board with regard to a neighbor's dogs that bark for prolonged periods of time. He indicated that he attempted to broker an arrangement with the neighbor, which was not successful. He also called the police department who resolved the issue, but the resolution was only short-lived. Mr. Friedman inquired how he may address the matter in the future. Mr. Friedman was advised to continue to call the police department who will address the matter with the neighbor. Mr. Cobb also suggested that a New York Times article from several weeks prior provided humorous, but practical advice on this exact issue.

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

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) carried unanimously to approve the January check reconciliation in the amount of \$421,415.91, and the February bill listing in the amount of \$711,188.92.

Mr. Harbison stated that the bylaws of the Library Advisory Committee of the Free Library of Springfield Township state that the Advisory Committee will be comprised of 7 members, one of whom shall be a representative of the School District of Springfield Township. The School District recently found it necessary to replace John Chapman with Gretchen Slapinsky as their recommended representative from the School District.

Motion (Harbison-Cobb) carried unanimously to appoint Gretchen Slapinsky as a member of the Library Advisory Committee of the Free Library of Springfield Township to fill an unexpired term of service to expire December 31, 2020.

Mr. Schaum, Chairman of Public Works and Facilities Committee, had no report.

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

Mr. Standish stated that as a part of the redevelopment of 901 through 919 E. Willow Grove Avenue, the developer secured a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The grant is being managed through the Redevelopment Authority of Montgomery County. As a part of the grant, the host municipality must enter into a cooperation agreement with the Redevelopment Authority of Montgomery County wherein the Township is required to guarantee the repayment of any funds paid under the grant that are found to be "ineligible reimbursements". To protect the interest of the Township, the office of the Township Solicitor created an indemnity agreement between Wyndmoor Properties, the developer, and Springfield Township whereby Wyndmoor Properties agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Township.

Motion (Standish-Graham) carried unanimously to authorize execution of a Cooperation Agreement with the Redevelopment Authority of Montgomery County and an Indemnity Agreement with Wyndmoor Properties LLC in association with the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant involving the properties at 901 through 919 E. Willow Grove Avenue.

Motion (Standish-Schaum) carried unanimously to reappoint James Mascaro to a new four year term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Planning Commission. Mr. Mascaro's term of service shall expire February 16, 2023, and to appoint Michael Bruce, of Ronald Circle, Oreland, to fill an unexpired term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Planning Commission. Mr. Bruce's unexpired term of service shall expire February 16, 2020.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of January, Springfield Township residents recycled 232.6 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 76.8%. The net cost for the month was \$18,821.20.

Mr. Graham, Chairman of Parks and Recreational Resources Committee, had no committee report, but announced that he would be facilitating a town hall community meeting on Empowering, Diversity and Inclusion in Springfield Township. The meeting will be held on Monday, February 18, 2019, at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. The theme of the open forum will be “Diversity and Inclusion: The Art of Thinking Independently...Together”. Mr. Graham announced that the panel will include the following distinguished individuals: Judge Christopher Cerski, Angela Bell, Esq., Dean Beer, Esq., Rabbi Saul Grife, Jack Grey, and Dr. William Taylor.

Mr. Harbison commended Mr. Graham and stated his support for Mr. Graham’s efforts in establishing the community meeting.

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

Motion (Maxwell-Schaum) carried unanimously to appoint Jane Thomas, of Edann Road, Oreland, to represent Springfield Township on the Board of Directors of the Community Ambulance Association of Ambler. Ms. Thomas served as an EMT for the Springfield Ambulance Association for over two decades and also served on its Board of Directors.

Mr. Cobb, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Cobb announced that the Zoning Hearing Board did not receive any applications for hearings for the month of February 2019. Therefore, the Zoning Hearing Board will not meet in February. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board will be held on Monday, March 25, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.
Secretary