

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, April 10, 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 with the exception of Mr. Graham. 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) vote 6-0, 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.

Mr. Harbison acknowledged that Mr. Graham was unable to attend this evening's meeting for personal reasons.

Mr. Harbison announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session following the workshop meeting held on April 8, 2019 to discuss one matter of litigation and one personnel matter.

Mr. Harbison invited Edward Serianni, the retired Director of Operations of the Springfield Township Public Works Department, to the front of the room, and asked Commissioner Schaum to read into the record Resolution No. 1473, a resolution honoring Edward R. Serianni after 42.5 years of service to Springfield Township. Mr. Schaum read into the record Resolution No. 1473.

Motion (Schaum-Maxwell) vote 6-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1473. Mr. Serianni thanked the Board of Commissioners for the recognition and noted that while he worked hard for the Township he enjoyed his time of service. Mrs. Serianni also thanked the Board of Commissioners for recognizing her husband's service.

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

Motion (Harbison-Schaum) vote 6-0 to approve the March check reconciliation in the amount of \$336,701.01 and the April bill listing in the amount of \$477,539.07.

Mr. Harbison noted that Springfield Township and other communities of the Montgomery County Consortium of Communities have been working together with the Cohen Law Group of Pittsburgh to create the framework for a franchise renewal with Verizon for cable TV services. Similar to the renewal process for a franchise renewal agreement with Comcast,

there is a requirement to secure public comment on the past performance of Verizon in providing cable TV services.

Motion (Harbison-Standish) vote 6-0 to authorize the advertisement of a public hearing to be held on May 8, 2019 at 7:30 PM in the Springfield Township Building in order to receive public comment on the past performance of Verizon with regard to their cable TV franchise agreement with Springfield Township.

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

Mr. Standish stated that during the March workshop meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Board received a presentation on the TRAIRS GIS program which had been previously reviewed by staff and recommended for possible purchase. In addition to GIS mapping of a variety of municipal infrastructure improvements, the program also provides background data collection that can be linked directly to the mapping. The program provides various modules for use by the Township staff, and makes some Township data available to the public. The system is cloud-based so no additional hardware is necessary to be purchased. There is a one-time set up fee of between \$10,000 and \$15,000 which includes staff training, data migration, and integration from existing Township electronic files into a township-preferred format. The annual cost for the six base modules of interest to the Township is \$21,600.

Motion (Standish-Cobb) vote 6-0 to authorize the purchase of the TRAIRS GIS program from McMahan Associates for the cost of \$21,600 annually, plus a one-time set up fee of between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

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

Motion (Schaum-Wilson) vote 6-0 to authorize the sale of a 1999 International truck chassis via the Municibid electronic auction service. The truck was initially utilized as a refuse truck for the first ten years of service, then converted to a winter maintenance truck for the second ten years of service.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of March, Springfield Township residents recycled 161.9 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 83.7%. The net cost for the month was \$20,355.39.

Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of Mr. Graham, Chairman of Parks and Recreational Resources Committee:

Mr. Wilson noted that the Township recently received a Community Development Block Grant valued at \$172,500 to renovate a portion of the gymnasium building at the Township's recreation center, 1200 Willow Grove Avenue, to bring the building into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The scope of work includes modifications to the existing entrance ramp, installation of new parking lot striping and signage, and extensive renovations to

the interior restrooms. Architectural services are required in order to design the specified improvements.

Motion (Wilson-Standish) vote 6-0 to engage BAU Architecture, of Elkins Park, PA, for a price not to exceed \$18,400, to perform the scope of work in accordance with their proposal dated April 1, 2019.

Mr. Wilson also wished to advise the community that as a part of the PennDOT “Adopt a Highway” program, the southbound on-ramp and northbound off-ramp of the route 309 expressway at Paper Mill Road were adopted under the name of Mr. Graham’s parents. Mr. Graham’s father was very active in civil rights activities in the 1960s and 1970s, and was one of the original members of the Philadelphia Black Clergy. In honor of the adoption, there will be a clean up effort of the expressway ramps on May 4, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

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

Mr. Maxwell stated that at the request of the Township, PennDOT reviewed the conditions at the intersection of Bethlehem Pike at Gordon Road for the possible installation of a traffic signal at this location. In late 2018, PennDOT reported that their preliminary review indicated that the PennDOT traffic signal warrants may be met for a traffic signal at this location, but that the Township should next engage the services of a traffic engineer to perform a PennDOT warrant traffic study. The Board of Commissioners previously discussed the matter at both the February and March meetings as well as conducted a neighborhood meeting on April 4, 2019 to receive public comment on the proposal.

Motion (Maxwell-Schaum) to engage the services of McMahan Associates, traffic engineers, to perform the phase 1 traffic signal warrant analysis, and phase 2, analysis results meeting, for \$6,100 and \$800 respectively, pursuant to their proposal dated February 1, 2019.

Mr. Wilson stated that he is not a proponent of the subject traffic signal and does not believe the signal is warranted, and, therefore, does not believe the Township should spend money on a study. He attended the April 4 meeting and listened to the residents of Gordon Road who were concerned with the effects of the traffic signal on their street.

Motion (Wilson-Standish) to table the motion authorizing the engagement of McMahan Associates. Mr. Harbison commented that PennDOT requires municipalities to install the traffic signal if indeed the traffic warrant study indicates that the traffic signal is warranted. The actual traffic study is the next step. The cost of the study and meeting is approximately \$7,000. He noted that tabling or delaying a vote on the original motion does not necessarily kill the project. Mr. Cobb inquired whether there was any gray area with regard to the PennDOT mandate to install a traffic signal if the warrants are met. Mr. Garrity stated that the Township is currently proceeding according to the PennDOT procedure, but he would need to review materials in greater detail to determine if there is an alternative process.

The vote on tabling the original motion to engage McMahon Associates was 3-3. Cobb, Maxwell, Schaum, opposed. The motion did not carry.

The vote on the original motion to engage McMahon Associates to conduct a PennDOT warrant traffic study was 4-2; Wilson, Cobb opposed.

Mr. Maxwell announced that Arbor Day in Springfield Township will be celebrated on Saturday, April 27, 2019. On that date beginning at 9:00 AM, the Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission will plant a tree within one of the landscape islands adjacent to the Public Works Department facility, and will give away 30 small container trees at no cost to the first 30 pre-registered attendees for the celebration. A presentation about the spotted lantern fly will also be made by a representative from the Penn State Cooperative Extension. Also in conjunction with Arbor Day, the Shade Tree Commission will partner with the Free Library of Springfield Township to conduct a story time program on Monday, April 22, at 4:30 PM in the Township library. The participants will receive a small tree seedling that can be transplanted in their yards once they return home. For more information on the Arbor Day celebration, residents were instructed to check the Township website beginning on Friday, April 12, 2019.

Motion (Maxwell-Cobb) vote 6-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1474, a resolution proclaiming Saturday, April 27, 2019, as Arbor Day in Springfield Township. The Board urges all citizens to join with the Township Shade Tree Commission to celebrate Arbor Day and support efforts to plant to new trees and protect existing trees and woodlands.

Motion (Maxwell-Schaum) vote 6-0 to amend the Springfield Township Code Section 107-35, Schedule XII, Special Purpose Parking Zones, to repeal the on-street handicapped parking space on the south side of Grove Avenue from a point 120 feet east of its intersection with Schnell Avenue extending 22 feet easterly thereof.

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

Mr. Cobb announced that the Zoning Hearing Board will next meet on Monday, April 22, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Cobb summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda.

Joseph Craney, of Oreland, indicated that he attended the April 2, 2019 meeting of the Springfield School District Board of Directors and asked if they were going to establish a school zone adjacent to the new elementary school being built on Montgomery Avenue. He indicated that the School Board was unable to answer the question. Mr. Harbison indicated that if the School District were to move forward with a school zone, the approved land development plans require the School District to pay the expenses associated with establishing the school zone. Mr. Craney suggested that the Township seems to follow the Sunshine Law as it was intended, but he does not believe the School District is nearly as open with their business as the Township is.

Mr. Wilson announced that the School District is eliminating the five polling places in the School District buildings due to their concern for security issues for the students. At this time, the proposal is for voting precincts 7-1 and 7-2 to be located at the Springfield Township

Building, and voting precincts 4-1, 4-2, and 1-1 will be housed at the Flourtown Country Club. The Board of Commissioners thanked Brian Halligan, the lessee of the Flourtown Country Club, for making space available at the Club. Mr. Harbison described the new voting equipment and process. He also noted that Montgomery County is providing training sessions on the use of the new voting equipment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Berger, Jr.  
Secretary