

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, August 12, 2020, at 7:30 PM for the purpose of transacting the general business of the Township. Due to social distancing guidelines in effect at the time of the meeting, the meeting was conducted utilizing the Zoom video conferencing platform. All members of the Board were present. Mr. Standish presided.

Mr. Standish requested 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. Standish led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Graham/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. Standish announced that the September workshop meeting of the Board of Commissioners would be conducted on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 instead of Monday, September 7 due to the Labor Day holiday.

Mr. Standish commented on the passing of former Commissioner Robert C. McGrory on July 16 at the age of 85. Mr. Standish indicated that Mr. McGrory served on the Board from 1995-2005, and was President of the Board from 2000 – 2003. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Standish announced that thoughts and prayers are with the McGrory family during this difficult time.

Mr. Standish made an announcement with regard to the COVID-19 virus and the operating hours and services presently available at the Free Library of Springfield Township, the township administration building, and police department. Mr. Standish noted that as a result of the current pandemic, the annual National Night Out and Community Day celebrations would not be conducted this year. In addition, all public meetings of the Board of Commissioners and its advisory boards will continue to be conducted via the Zoom virtual meeting platform until further notice. All residents were encouraged to visit the Township website to explore the resources and information available from operating departments.

Reading from a prepared statement, Mr. Standish commented on a recent Town Hall meeting that was organized and moderated by Commissioner Graham. Mr. Standish expressed his support for Commissioner Graham's efforts to explore difficult race relations issues, but looks forward to facilitating a more structured dialogue for such discussion in the future. Mr. Standish referred to recent meetings conducted among Township officials and the staff of Carson Valley Children's Aid as an example of the Township's efforts to improve cooperation with the long-standing educational institution. Mr. Standish expressed his support for the Chief of Police and the officers of the police department, and recited mandatory training programs completed by officers to ensure fair and equitable treatment of all individuals. Mr. Standish concluded his

remarks by acknowledging the difficult path before the community and by condemning intolerance.

Mr. Standish announced that as part of the advertising for tonight's business meeting, an effort was made to solicit public comment in advance of the meeting. Public comment was accepted via e-mail up to 5 PM prior to the meeting but there were no comments received.

Mr. Standish announced that the Board was also open to receiving public comment as part of the current meeting, and that the Board drew particular attention to those items listed on the agenda.

Kelly King, Lorraine Avenue, addressed the Board regarding a recent incident that occurred on Bethlehem Pike involving the police department and three minors. She expressed her concern with a subsequent social media post made by the police department that disclosed the home address of those minors, as well as her disappointment with the information provided by the police department in response to a Right To Know Request submitted for the same incident. Ms. King concluded her comments by encouraging the Board of Commissioners to explore the topic of race relations as an agenda topic at a future meeting, to review the police social media policy, and to improve transparency of police records.

Mr. Standish suggested that the topic of race relations likely warrants a special meeting of its own since the Board's workshop agenda typically limits discussion on any one item to no more than 20 to 30 minutes. Mr. Lee indicated that he was open to continuing the dialogue on race relations in a Town Hall format facilitated by the Township. Mr. Cobb agreed with Mr. Lee with regard to the Town Hall discussions, but suggested that a review of the social media policy and use of the township website for communication purposes could be included as an agenda item.

Lauren Camper, Bradford Road, introduced herself as a member of the Multicultural Parents Association of the School District of Springfield Township, and referred to comments made by the Chief of Police at the recent Town Hall discussion regarding the creation of a resident survey to understand the community's perception of the township's police department, and to create an online format for submitting anonymous complaints about police conduct. Ms. Camper opined that the Springfield Township community as a whole has a negative impression of Carson Valley Children's Aid, and that the recent police social media post reinforced that negative impression.

Mr. Lee suggested that the Township's police department generally enjoys an excellent reputation within the community and county, and therefore there is a responsibility to be a leader in police/community relations. Mr. Graham agreed that the police are typically held in high regard but it was his belief that the percentage of arrests of persons of color is disproportionate to the percentage of the township's population.

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

Motion (Standish/Cobb), carried unanimously, to adopt Resolution No. 1500, a resolution granting preliminary/final subdivision approval for the 501 Birch Lane and 8700 Montgomery Avenue two-lot residential subdivision/lot line change. The lot line change

will increase the size of the parcel at 8700 Montgomery Avenue to 1.63 acres, and reduce the size of the parcel at 501 Birch Lane to 0.98 acres.

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

Motion (Harbison/Lee), carried unanimously, to approve the July check reconciliation in the amount \$1,098,502.94 and the August bill listing in the amount of \$427,725.59.

Motion (Harbison/Cobb), carried unanimously, to appoint Kate McGranaghan, the current alternate member of the Library Advisory Committee, to a full member of the Library Advisory Committee. Ms. McGranaghan fills a vacancy created by the resignation of Michael Bruce last month. Ms. McGranaghan's term of service shall expire on December 31, 2020.

Mr. Harbison announced that there presently exists a vacancy on the committee as an alternate member. An alternate member attends and participates at all meetings of the committee, and may vote in the absence of a full member. Mr. Harbison encouraged anyone interested in serving on the Library Advisory Committee or any other advisory board or commission, to forward a letter of interest or resume to the attention of the Township Manager.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of July 2020, Springfield Township residents recycled 228.05 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 81.4%. The net cost for the month was \$27,293.12.

Mr. Graham, Chairman of the Parks and Recreational Resources Committee, reported:

Mr. Graham announced that the Springfield Township Opioid Action Committee is presently engaged in a community effort to equip interested businesses with NARCAN at no cost to the business. Mr. Graham explained that NARCAN can reverse the effects of an accidental overdose. Mr. Graham encouraged all interested business owners to contact the Springfield Township Opioid Action Committee for more information.

Motion (Lee/Graham), carried unanimously, to authorize the advertisement of bids for the project known as the Chiaramonte Park ADA Improvements project. The scope of work for the project includes the removal of existing mulched playground surfacing, and the installation of a rubberized playground safety surfacing and asphalt walkway. The estimated cost of the project is \$89,005.00 and the Township has received \$72,215.00 in Community Development Block Grant funding from the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Development.

Mr. Maxwell, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported:

Mr. Maxwell announced that the Montgomery County Consortium of Communities will be conducting a written examination for entry level Police Officers on Saturday, October 10, 2020. Mr. Maxwell indicated that Springfield Township is one of the participating municipalities

and encouraged any interested individual to pre-register to take the test by September 30, 2020 by visiting www.montcopolicetest.com. Mr. Maxwell encouraged women and minority candidates to consider applying.

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

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, August 24, 2020 at 7:00 PM via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Mr. Cobb summarized the one residential petition to be heard, as well as instructions for reviewing the details of the petition.

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

Motion (Lee/Wilson), carried unanimously, to authorize the execution of a grant agreement between Springfield Township and the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners for the project known as the Mermaid Park Stream and Habitat Improvement Project. The agreement provides funding in the amount of \$197,600 from the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Fund Program and requires a local match in the amount of \$49,400. The project will fund the restoration of the natural habitat and improve the water quality of the aquatic ecosystem of Mermaid Pond, and construct a passive walking trail around the perimeter of the park.

Mr. Lee announced that there presently exists one vacancy as a member of the Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Lee summarized the responsibilities of the committee, and encouraged anyone interested in serving on the shade tree commission or other advisory board or commission, to forward a letter of interest or resume to the attention of the Township Manager.

Mr. Standish announced that the Board was once again open to receiving public comment.

Betsy Wallace, Pine Road, inquired as to when the next Town Hall meeting would be conducted and was advised by Mr. Graham that it was scheduled to occur on September 16.

Kelly King, Lorraine Avenue, readdressed the Board to request assistance from the commissioners to disseminate information about the Town Hall via their individual e-mail and/or social media accounts.

Motion (Lee/Wilson), carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Michael Taylor,
Secretary