

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, November 10, 2021 at 7:30 PM in the Springfield Township Building for the purpose of transacting the general business of the Township. The meeting was also offered in a live streaming feature. Mr. Standish announced that the video would be made available on the Township's website beginning Thursday, November 11, 2021. At the start of the meeting, all members of the Board were present, with the exception of Commissioner Cobb. Mr. Cobb joined the meeting at approximately 7:35 PM. Mr. Standish presided.

Mr. Standish 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 at home and abroad.

Mr. Standish led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Wilson-Maxwell) 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. Standish noted that former Commissioner James Dailey was in attendance.

Mr. Standish announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session following the workshop meeting held on November 8, 2021 to discuss one real estate matter and one matter of litigation.

Mr. Standish recognized and invited Chief Michael Pitkow and Magisterial District Justice Kate McGill to the front of the room to conduct a ceremonial swearing-in for two new police officers.

Chief Pitkow introduced Officer Yelidsa Torres to the community and summarized her educational background and previous employment with the Philadelphia Police Department. Officer Torres' husband and daughter joined her at the front of the room where Judge McGill administered the oath of office.

Chief Pitkow introduced Officer Michael Fantry to the community and summarized his education and prior employment. Officer Fantry's girlfriend joined him at the front of the room where Judge McGill administered the oath of office.

Chief Pitkow then introduced Officer Andrew Seltzer and Officer Jennifer Litwinowicz who were hired during the COVID pandemic. Chief Pitkow summarized their education and prior work experiences.

Chief Pitkow introduced Lt. Rebecca Mersky, who was promoted to the lieutenant position during the pandemic. Chief Pitkow outlined Lt. Mersky's employment with the Springfield Township Police Department, and highlighted some of the training Lt. Mersky has received. It was noted that Lt. Mersky is a hostage negotiator for the Central Montgomery County S.W.A.T. team.

Chief Pitkow introduced Sgt. Nelson Whitney, who was promoted to the sergeant position during the pandemic. Chief Pitkow summarized Sgt. Whitney's employment with the Springfield Township Police Department, and highlighted various training that Sgt. Nelson has received. Sgt. Whitney's military service was also noted by Chief Pitkow.

Chief Pitkow introduced Cpl. Chris Calhoun, who was promoted to the corporal position during the pandemic. Chief Pitkow summarized Cpl. Calhoun's employment with the Springfield Township Police Department, and highlighted some of the training Cpl. Calhoun has received. It was also noted that Cpl. Calhoun is a member of the Central Montgomery County SWAT team.

Mr. Standish opened the meeting to public comment.

Betsy Wallace, Wyndmoor, inquired why there is a projected decrease in the average monthly cost to process and market recyclables. Mr. Taylor responded that the value of recyclables has increased over the past year due to the rising cost of oil, which has resulted in a net reduction to the costs of administering the recycling program.

Jim Dailey, former commissioner from Flourtown, commended the Board for honoring and recognizing the police officers who were hired and promoted during the past year. Mr. Dailey thanked Commissioner Harbison for his many years of service to the community. Mr. Daily inquired as to the North Hills Country Club real estate tax assessment appeal. Messrs. Garrity and Taylor summarized the appeal and the subsequent settlement, including a deed restriction that will maintain the property as a golf course for the next 12 years.

Mr. Standish, Chairman of Community Development Committee, had no report.

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

Motion (Harbison-Lee) carried unanimously to approve the October check reconciliation in the amount of \$1,681,276.90, and the November bill listing in the amount of \$1,612,600.15.

Mr. Harbison announced the 2022 budget meeting schedule as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Budget Presentation	Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021	7:30 PM
Budget Hearing	Wednesday Dec. 8, 2021	7:30 PM
Budget Adoption	Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021	7:30 PM

All meetings will be held at the Springfield Township Administration Building, 1510 Paper Mill Road, Wyndmoor.

Mr. Harbison read into record the 2022 Budget Statement. In summary, the projected 2022 budget proposes a balanced operating budget for 2022 of \$18,315,318 with a real estate tax rate of 4.516 mills and an earned income tax rate of 1.0%. As a result of the 2022 budget projections, the typical taxpayer will realize no tax change to their 2022 real estate tax, and a reduction of \$6.32 in the annual refuse service fee. The typical household in Springfield Township with a \$175,400 property assessment will pay \$792.10 in real estate taxes in 2022, which is the same as in 2021.

The Township is able to maintain the same tax rate as in 2021 due to a decrease in municipal pension obligations and workers compensation insurance premiums. The 2022 discounted refuse service fee is being decreased from \$231.86 to \$225.54 due to a reduction in recycling processing and marketing costs, which are offset to some degree by increase in waste disposal fees and employee wages. In 2019 a local services tax was enacted whereby individuals employed within Springfield Township will pay \$1 per week or \$52 annually to offset the cost of municipal services. The Township anticipates the receipt of an additional \$45,000 in revenues from the local services tax in 2022. The 2022 preliminary budget will be available for inspection in the office of the Township Manager and in the Township library beginning on November 12, 2021, and will be posted on the Township website. The Board of Commissioners will consider comments on the budget during their workshop meeting on December 6, 2021, and as part of a budget hearing and budget adoption on December 8, 2021.

Motion (Harbison-Wilson) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1553, a resolution designating Brandon J. Ford, Assistant Manager, as the designated agent for the Township to work with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency for the reimbursement of costs associated with the remnants of Hurricane Ida, August 31 – September 5, 2021. Mr. Ford shall also be authorized to execute and submit any agreements and documentation necessary to facilitate the reimbursement of costs. Montgomery County is among three counties in Pennsylvania that are eligible to receive disaster declaration funding. Eligible expenses include debris removal, repairs to public facilities, and township wages for work undertaken to respond to the disaster.

Motion (Harbison-Graham) carried unanimously to authorize Baird M. Standish, President of the Board of Commissioners, to execute via electronic signature, any and all contracts with the Pennsylvania Department of Education in order to receive Library American Rescue Plan Funding in the amount of \$9,367. The Library American Rescue Plan is part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and allocates funds to designated state, county and local libraries to perform technology and programming improvements.

Motion (Harbison-Lee) carried unanimously to authorize an amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement between Springfield Township and the Delaware Valley Health Trust to provide pooled health insurance benefits for municipal employees, their dependents and retirees, by exercising a two-year renewal option. The renewal option provides a 2022 premium credit in the amount of \$67,047, as well as a cap on 2023 premiums equal to 6.5% of the 2022 rates.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of October, 2021, Springfield Township residents recycled 186.10 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 62.3%. The net cost for the month was \$12,757.95.

Mr. Wilson announced that on August 26, 2021, Jay Bailey Smith announced that it would be necessary for him to resign his position as a member of the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission. Mr. Wilson noted that Mr. Smith was a valuable member of the Environmental Advisory Commission and publically thanked him for contributing his time and talents to the community.

Mr. Wilson announced that due to the resignation of Mr. Smith, there presently exists a vacancy on the Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission. The Environmental Advisory Commission serves as an advisory agency to the Board of Commissioners to promote education about issues relating to the management, use and protection of our local environment. Projects include stormwater management and water quality initiatives, alternative energy and energy conservation, and recycling. Those interested in serving on the EAC were directed to send a letter of interest or resume to the Township Manager.

Mr. Graham, Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Committee, had no report.

Mr. Maxwell, Chairman of Public Safety Committee, had no report.

Mr. Cobb, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, November 22, 2021 at 7:00 PM at the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Cobb summarized the Zoning Hearing Board agenda, and announced that applications and plans are on file in the Code Enforcement Office and may be viewed during normal business hours.

On September 14, 2021, a petition was filed by Forman Sign Company for the Life Storage self-storage facility located at 1331 Ivy Hill Road, Philadelphia. The petition requested two variances from the Springfield Township Zoning Code in order to erect signage of 81.25 square feet and 64.80 square feet in size, where signs of no more than 40 square feet and 20 square feet are otherwise permitted. At the October 13, 2021 meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Board authorized the Office of the Township Solicitor to represent the interests of the Board to oppose both variance requests. The applicant subsequently revised their plans by reducing the size of the proposed secondary sign so that it is in compliance with the zoning regulations.

Motion (Cobb-Maxwell) carried unanimously to rescind the Board's authorization to oppose the petition filed by Forman Sign Company for the property located at 1331 Ivy Hill Road, subject to the following conditions: (1) that the petition shall be amended by the applicant to reflect the revised sign package dated November 1, 2021, and to include a variance request for the proposed height of both signs, (2) that the illumination of the signs must be turned off at 11 PM or the close of business, whichever is earlier, and (3) the signs shall be constructed of a material that does not cause glare or nuisance to adjacent residential dwellings.

Mr. Graham asked if notices were sent to Philadelphia City Councilperson Parker and State Senator Haywood. Mr. Taylor informed Mr. Graham that notices were hand delivered earlier in the day.

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

Mr. Lee thanked the Public Works Department for their efforts in response to the severe weather events experienced over the summer.

Mr. Standish once again opened the meeting to public comment.

Bernard Kling, Flourtown, commented on the fiction section in the library and suggested that the section needs improvement.

Jim Dailey, Flourtown, asked about the application before the Zoning Hearing Board for a variance request related to doggie day care on Poplar Road. Mr. Dailey opined that the business is well run, and the property is immaculate. Mr. Dailey supports the applicant. Mr. Harbison informed Mr. Dailey that the Board has not taken a position on the application, but that the zoning officer has received complaints about the operation of a business from the residence.

Joan Parsons, Oreland, asked if the Board had a policy on allowing pornographic or light pornographic books in the library. Mr. Harbison encouraged Ms. Parsons to contact the Library Director with her questions.

Michael Parsons, Oreland, asked if the Environmental Advisory Commission also advises the School Board on environmental issues. He was told the EAC does not advise the School Board. Mr. Parsons asked about the responsibilities of the EAC. Messrs. Harbison and Standish explained that their mission is principally educating the public on how to be environmentally conscious. Mr. Parsons asked about the PECO property on Roesch Avenue and suggested it might be used for a park. Mr. Taylor informed him the property is still owned by PECO and is being utilized as a natural gas distribution facility.

Mary Ellen Reeves, Glenside (Springfield Township), addressed the Board regarding the constant flooding of Paper Mill Road and the synthetic turf playing fields at the high school. Since Paper Mill Road is a state road, Ms. Reeves was encouraged to contact her State Representative for further assistance.

Mr. Graham thanked the Board for sponsoring two library employees to attend the NAACP and H.O.P.E. Alliance historical dinner. Kevin Douglass Greene, the great, great, grandson of Frederick Douglass, was in attendance and presented two signed copies of "The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass", to the library.

Motion (Lee-Graham) carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor,  
Manager/Secretary