

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, May 13, 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, as well as the Governor of Pennsylvania's stay at home order, the meeting was conducted utilizing the Zoom video conferencing platform. All members of the Board were present. 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 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/Lee), 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 Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session meeting on May 11, 2020 as part of the regularly scheduled workshop meeting on that date to discuss one litigation matter and one personnel matter.

Mr. Standish made an announcement with regard to the COVID-19 virus and the actions being taken by the Township and its first responders to maintain services to the community during the current global pandemic. It was also noted that the Montgomery County Board of Electors recently voted to consolidate the Township's polling locations at the school district facilities for the June 2 primary election, and that all voters were encouraged to vote by mail if possible in order to reduce possible exposure to the virus.

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 were 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. No public comment was received.

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

Motion (Standish/Graham), carried unanimously, that in in compliance with section 512.1 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, the Board of Commissioners waive the formal land development review process for Sandy Run Country Club in order to permit the construction of a 1,000 square foot, golf cart storage building. The waiver is conditioned upon the dedication of additional right of way along Walnut Avenue as shown on a Right-of-Way acquisition plan dated May 6, 2020 prepared by Boucher & James, Inc., and the granting of a temporary construction easement necessary to construct

a 6-foot wide paved walkway along Walnut Avenue, from its intersection with Oreland Mill Road to a point 1,500 feet westerly thereof. Prior to issuing a use and occupancy certificate for the storage building, the Club shall be required to execute and submit to the Township all requisite right-of-way and easement documents for recording.

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

Motion (Harbison/Graham), carried unanimously, to approve the April check reconciliation in the amount \$697,073.94 and the May bill listing in the amount of \$816,813.17.

Mr. Harbison noted that Pennsylvania Act 15 of 2020 addresses many local government issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the ability to conduct public meetings remotely, and to postpone the local property tax discount period and to waive late fees and penalties. Mr. Harbison explained that many of the provisions of Act 15 were previously addressed by the Board of Commissioners when it enacted Ordinance No. 964 at a special meeting conducted on March 26, 2020, however, Act 15 requires that any such action by the Board be taken by Resolution and that a copy of such resolution shall be delivered to the Tax Collector within 30 days of the effective date of Act 15.

Motion (Harbison/Wilson), carried unanimously, to adopt Resolution No. 1493, a Resolution confirming the previous extension of time for the payment and filing of certain local taxes granted by the Board of Commissioners in Ordinance No. 964, and further waiving any fee or penalty otherwise associated with the payment of real property taxes or service fees if paid in full by July 31, 2020.

Mr. Harbison noted that as a result of Resolution No. 1493, a 2% discount may be deducted by property owners if their real estate taxes and refuse service fees are paid by May 31, and no penalty or late fee will be imposed if paid in full between June 1 and July 31.

Motion (Harbison/Wilson), carried unanimously, to adopt Resolution No. 1494, a resolution designating Brandon J. Ford, Assistant to the Manager, as the authorized agent for Springfield Township to work with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to secure financial assistance for the Township related to the COVID-19 Public Assistance program.

Motion (Harbison/Graham), carried unanimously, to authorize the advertisement of Ordinance No. 966, an ordinance amending the codified Ordinances of Springfield Township, Chapter 63, Pensions, to adjust the 12-month period used to calculate the consumer price index for the 3 defined benefit pension plans.

Mr. Harbison explained that the regulations currently contained in Chapter 63 require the Township to measure the Consumer Price Index from January to January of each year, which creates accounting and administrative issues, and that the proposed adjustment period will measure the CPI from October to October of each year.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of April 2020, Springfield Township residents recycled 251.24 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 80.8%. The net cost for the month was \$27,822.79.

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

Motion (Graham/Wilson), carried unanimously, to appoint Kerry Boccella and Jeannine DePaul-Nelson to new, three-year terms of service on the Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. The new three year terms of service shall expire on May 12, 2023.

Mr. Graham announced that the mission of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is to protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources, and to provide boating and fishing opportunities. In an effort to promote their mission and to apply uniform fishing regulations at the Township's two fishing locations, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee has recommended the adoption of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission regulations.

Motion (Graham/Lee), to adopt the regulations established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, for all fishing activities at Hillcrest Pond and Sandy Run Park.

Mr. Wilson reminded the Board that fishing activities at Hillcrest Pond have traditionally been limited to children age 15 and under, and adults age 65 and older, and that by adopting the proposed regulations, the Township would be opening the pond up to individuals aged 16 to 64, the effects of which could limit fishing opportunities for children and seniors. As a result, Mr. Wilson announced that he would not be voting for the proposed change.

Mr. Harbison asked Mr. Wilson if the Friends of Hillcrest Pond were opposed to the proposed changes to which he responded no, but they do feel as though the legacy and spirit of the pond will be changed significantly if the new fishing regulations were adopted.

Mr. Graham indicated that he had not realized the potential consequences of the proposed regulations and was in favor of tabling the motion to provide for additional discussion by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Motion (Wilson/Maxwell) carried unanimously, to table Mr. Graham's original motion and to refer the subject to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee for additional discussion.

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

Mr. Maxwell reported that on May 9, 2018, the Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 1449, a resolution requesting PennDOT to review the traffic and surrounding site conditions for the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Bethlehem Pike and Gordon Road. PennDOT's preliminary analysis indicated that a signal may be warranted, but directed the Township to complete an additional study to confirm the preliminary warrants, and to conduct a neighborhood impacts analysis. The results of that study concluded the following: (1) that a majority of the crashes at the intersection were caused by improper driving and roadway

geometry, and will not be corrected by the installation of a traffic signal, (2) while the warrants are indeed met for one of the four qualifying conditions, the overall level of service at the intersection will be reduced via the installation of a traffic signal, (3) the installation of a traffic signal will have minimal improvement on the adjacent intersections, which will operate at the same levels of service with or without a traffic signal, and (4) a potential exists for an increase in crashes due to the horizontal curve and steep downgrade on the northbound approach to the intersection.

Motion (Maxwell/Wilson), carried unanimously, to adopt Resolution No. 1495, a resolution rescinding Resolution No. 1449, and to withdraw the Township's earlier request for the installation of a traffic signal at Bethlehem Pike and Gordon Road, Erdenheim.

Mr. Maxwell commented that the study recently completed by the Township's traffic engineer was more comprehensive than the preliminary analysis conducted by PennDOT.

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

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board meeting scheduled for Monday, May 25, 2020, has been cancelled as no new petitions have been received. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board will be Monday, June 22, 2020 at 7 PM. Mr. Cobb noted that as with all other Township meetings, the meeting will be conducted via the Zoom virtual meeting platform until further notice.

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

Mr. Lee wished to acknowledge the efforts of the Department of Public Works and its Director, Don Sirianni, to continue all public services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Lee opined that the Township was fortunate to have such a dedicated group of employees.

Mr. Lee announced that on Wednesday, April 29, 2020, bids were received for the Paper Mill Road School Zone Signal project. Bids were received from five (5) contractors and ranged from a low of \$71,468 to a high of \$118,004, plus alternates. The low bidder for the base project plus alternates was Armour & Sons Electric, Inc.

Motion (Lee/Cobb), carried unanimously, to award a contract to Armour & Sons Electric, Inc. of Langhorne, PA., to supply and install school zone warning signals on Paper Mill Road for their low base bid price of \$71,468, plus alternate #1 (solar-powered signals) in the amount of \$14,000 and if required, alternate #2 (sidewalk restoration) in the amount of \$3,000, for a total contract cost of \$88,468. With the award of the solar alternate, a change order will be issued to deduct the value of the conventional electric service in the amount of \$6,400, which will result in a total net contract value of \$82,068.

Mr. Lee noted that the project is being funded via a 2019 Montgomery County Transportation grant in the amount of \$79,072.

Mr. Lee announced that on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, bids were received for the Township's 2020 Highway Resurfacing/Milling Program. Bids were received from three (3)

contractors: Glasgow, Inc., Allan Myers, LP, and James Morrissey, Inc. The bids ranged from a low of \$361,557 to a high of \$404,897.

Motion (Lee/Cobb), carried unanimously, to award a contract to Glasgow, Inc. of Glenside, PA to mill and resurface specified Township streets for a total bid price of \$361,557.

Mr. Standish announced that the Board was once again open to receiving public comment. No public comment was received.

Motion (Maxwell/Lee), carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Michael Taylor,
Secretary