

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, March 10, 2021, 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 at the start of the meeting, with the exception of Commissioner Cobb. 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 (Wilson-Graham), 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. Cobb joined the meeting at 7:42 PM.

Announcements

Mr. Standish made an announcement that the Board of Commissioners conducted a special executive session meeting on February 24, 2021 to discuss one matter of litigation, and again on March 8, 2021 as part of the regularly scheduled workshop meeting to discuss three personnel matters and three matters related to litigation.

Mr. Standish made an announcement that as a result of the pandemic and social distancing guidelines, 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. Individuals interested in participating in the meetings were directed to the Township website for instructions to join the meeting.

Mr. Standish announced that the Board was now 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.

David Kinnaird, Gordon Lane, addressed the Board on the topic of traffic safety issues surrounding the new Enfield Elementary School on Montgomery Avenue and Paper Mill Road. Mr. Kinnaird commented that due to the pandemic more children are walking to the new school. He inquired as to what can be done to address the dangerous traffic conditions on Bethlehem Pike, Montgomery Avenue and Paper Mill Road. Mr. Taylor reviewed for all the lengthy process of getting school zone signals installed. Mr. Kinnaird was encouraged to contact the School District in this regard as well.

Susie Ratsavong, Stenton Avenue, addressed the Board and echoed the concerns of Mr. Kinnaird regarding pedestrian safety issues in the area of the new Enfield Elementary School. Ms. Ratsavong also expressed her concerns about harassment against the Asian American community and offered a resolution in opposition to such hatred. Commissioner Standish agreed it was an important matter and suggested that the Board should discuss it as an agenda item next month. Commissioner Graham commented that Ms. Ratsavong made a powerful statement in this regard and he completely agreed with her. Commissioner Cobb agreed and commented that hateful incidents should not be tolerated. Ms. Ratsavong read into the record a prepared statement condemning acts of discrimination against the Asian American community.

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

Motion (Standish-Graham) carried unanimously, that in compliance with Section 512.1 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, the Board of Commissioners waive the formal land development review process for Sea Vic, LLC, 1101 – 1121 Ivy Hill Road, Wyndmoor, in order that the applicant may subdivide the interior of an existing warehouse building into two leasable tenant spaces. As a result of the division or lease of space, no additional square footage has been added to the building, and the applicant has successfully petitioned the local zoning hearing board to obtain relief necessary for all uses on the property. In addition, all building and fire codes have been addressed to the satisfaction of the building inspector and fire marshal.

Motion (Standish-Cobb) carried unanimously, that in compliance with Section 512.1 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, the Board of Commissioners waive the formal land development review process for Burke Brothers Landscaping Contractors, Inc., 7630 Cheltenham Avenue, Wyndmoor. The subject of the land development is the construction of a 1,916 square foot addition to the second floor of an existing warehouse located at 7630 Cheltenham Avenue. As part of the waiver, the applicant shall be required to relocate the existing concrete barriers and plant additional landscaping at the corner of Mermaid Lane and Cheltenham Avenue, and to work with the Township to secure an easement through the former Cresheim Railroad property in order to facilitate the construction of a recreational trail.

Kevin Burke, owner of Burke Brothers, addressed the Board to question the placement of the additional landscaping to be planted. He suggested that new landscaping must be planted behind the concrete barriers so as not to create a site obstruction. Commissioner Standish amended his original motion to clarify that the new vegetation will be planted behind the relocated concrete barriers, and not in front of them.

Commissioner Cobb clarified that area where the landscaping is to be planted is owned by PECO and that Burke Brothers is the lessee, and neither PECO nor Burke Brothers will be an impediment to the proposed trail. The amended motion carried unanimously.

Motion (Standish-Maxwell) carried unanimously, to adopt Resolution No 1524, a resolution granting preliminary/final land development approval for the property located at 1400 Bethlehem Pike, Flourtown. The subject of the land development is the repurposing of an existing retail paint store for use as a bank with drive-thru Automated Teller Machine (ATM). As part of the redevelopment project, several existing parking spaces located on the north side of the property will be removed and converted into a rain garden for stormwater management

purposes. In addition, new trees and landscaping will also be installed, a six foot high fence will be erected on the east side of the property to screen the adjacent residential property, and the Bethlehem Pike driveway will be reconfigured for egress-only, with pavement markings and signage added to prohibit left turns.

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

Motion (Harbison-Lee) carried unanimously, to approve the February check reconciliation in the amount of \$497,226.44, and the March bill listing in the amount of \$401,743.94.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of February 2021, Springfield Township residents recycled 172.57 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 61.6%. The net cost for the month was \$28,393.31. The participation rate was impacted by two snow events and one holiday that forced the postponement of the weekly recyclables collection on three dates.

Mr. Wilson announced that Springfield Township, along with all of the other municipalities located in the Wissahickon Creek watershed, is mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency to perform water quality improvement activities that are intended to reduce phosphorous and sediment within the Wissahickon Creek watershed. In 2018, the municipalities located in the watershed formed a coalition via an Intergovernmental Agreement to develop an alternative to the Environmental Protection Agency's Phosphorous-based Total Maximum Daily Load plan to improve water quality within the Wissahickon Creek Watershed. The current Intergovernmental Agreement expires March 31, 2021.

Motion (Wilson-Graham) carried unanimously, to adopt Resolution No. 1525, a resolution authorizing the appropriate Township officials to execute an extension to the 2018/2019 Intergovernmental Agreement with other Montgomery County and Philadelphia County municipalities, and four wastewater treatment plant operators, to complete a Water Quality Improvement Plan as an alternative to the Environmental Protection Agency's Phosphorous-based Total Maximum Daily Load Plan for the Wissahickon Creek Watershed.

Mr. Cobb asked Mr. Wilson if it might be possible to clarify the motion in laymen's terms for those who may not be as familiar with the requirements imposed upon the Township by the EPA. Mr. Wilson explained the work of the Partnership over the past 3 to 4 years, and the efforts to complete an alternative Water Quality Improvement Plan. The Partnership believes the main contaminant is sediment, while EPA/DEP believes otherwise. As a result, the Water Quality Improvement Plan put forth by the Partnership calls for a reduction in sediment instead of reduction in phosphorous. Mr. Ford stated that mandates in the future are unavoidable, and the decision this evening is whether to deal with it on our own, or to work collectively with our neighbors to ease the burden for all involved.

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

Mr. Graham announced that the Springfield Township Opioid Action Committee will be hosting a drive-thru Narcan distribution event in conjunction with State Senator Art Haywood and the Springfield Township Board of Commissioners at the Springfield Community Center on Saturday, March 27th, from 11am to 1 pm. The event is part of National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week, which runs from March 22-28. The Narcan kits will be available on a first come, first served basis. Each kit

includes a 2-pack of Narcan nasal spray as well as instructions on how to administer Narcan and to recognize the signs of opioid overdose.

Barbara Senst, Woods Rd., and organizer of the event, stated she will be forwarding social media announcements for the event to each of the Commissioners. She also thanked the Board for its support with this effort.

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

Motion (Maxwell-Graham) carried unanimously to extend a conditional offer of employment to Jennifer Lynn Litwinowicz, of Harleysville, PA, as a probationary police officer with the Springfield Township Police Department. The offer of employment is conditioned upon Ms. Litwinowicz successfully completing a medical and psychological examination, and shall become effective March 29, 2021. Mr. Maxwell noted that Ms. Litwinowicz is a 2020 graduate of the Montgomery County Police Academy.

Mr. Maxwell announced that Local Emergency Management plans are required to be updated every two years. The framework of the plan rarely needs amendment, but the resources and contact portions of the plan do require review and updating. Recently the Springfield Township Emergency Operations Plan was updated by the Township's Emergency Management staff and was reviewed and approved by Montgomery County.

Motion (Maxwell-Wilson) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 1526, a resolution adopting the January 2021 Emergency Operations Plan.

Mr. Graham suggested he was contacted by quite a few senior citizens this past winter who were in need of someone to clear snow from the end of their driveways after the township plows did their work. He suggested next year the township should put together a list of snow plowing contractors for residents to call.

J. C. Cobb, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, March 22, 2021 at 7:00 PM, via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Mr. Cobb summarized the Zoning Hearing Board Agenda and announced that applications and plans are on file with the Code Enforcement Office and may be viewed during normal business hours.

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

Mr. Lee announced that the Montgomery County Community Development Block Grant Program provides funding to local municipalities to complete projects that address the following national objectives: 1) low and moderate income benefit; 2) elimination of slum or blight; and 3) address an urgent community need. Montgomery County will be accepting municipal applications through April 9, 2021 for projects to be funded in 2022.

Motion (Lee-Graham) carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No 1527, a resolution authorizing an application to the 2021 Montgomery County Community Development Block Grant program for the project known as the 1725 Walnut Avenue Blight Remediation Project. Funding from the project will be utilized to remove the former industrial buildings located at

the former Tank Car Corporation of America property in order for the site to be redeveloped into a public park.

Mr. Lee announced that Donald G. Sirianni, Jr., Director of Public Works, has announced his intention to retire this summer. Mr. Sirianni began his career with Springfield Township in June 1972 as a part-time/seasonal employee, and was promoted to various positions within the Department, assuming the role of Director in 2013. Mr. Lee announced that the Board plans to recognize Mr. Sirianni's 49 years of service to the Springfield Township community in a formal manner in the coming months. Several of the Commissioners offered personal comments with regard to Mr. Sirianni's employment and performance with Springfield Township. The overall sentiments were that Mr. Sirianni was a great person, a fantastic Director of Public Works, a huge asset to the Township, will be sorely missed, and difficult to replace.

Mr. Lee noted that the Director of Public Works is a complex position requiring a combination of construction acumen, fiscal knowledge, public safety, project and human resource management, and logistics. Due to the specialized nature of this position, the Board of Commissioners finds it appropriate to engage the services of an organization familiar with conducting executive searches to assist with the recruitment and selection of its next Public Works Director.

Motion (Lee-Graham) vote 6-1, Maxwell opposed, to engage the services of the Lafayette College Meyner Center for State and Local Government, to assist Springfield Township with the selection and recruitment of a new Public Works Director. The cost of the services shall be \$95 per hour and shall not exceed \$5,000.

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

Motion (Graham-Lee) carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor
Secretary