

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

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 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 Messrs. Standish and Graham. Mr. Harbison, as the senior-most member of the Board, presided.

Mr. Harbison announced that after a 14 month recess due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the meeting was being conducted in-person at the Springfield Township Administration Building. Mr. Harbison informed the audience that the meeting was being video recorded and will be made available on the Township's website the following morning. The audience was also advised that beginning next month, the Board hopes to provide a live streaming feature for both the workshop and business meetings, but that comments will not be accepted remotely, however, instructions for submitting public comment in advance will be provided as part of the posted agenda.

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.

Mr. Harbison announced that Mr. Standish had a business conflict and that Mr. Graham was recovering from a surgical procedure and doing well.

Motion (Wilson-Lee) vote 5-0, 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 announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted a special executive session meeting on June 12, 2021 as part of the regular workshop meeting to discuss one matter of litigation and one personnel matter.

Mr. Harbison announced that as part of the July 12, 2021 workshop meeting, the Board of Commissioners reviewed two potential development plans for a 36-unit townhome development at 380-402 Haws Lane. The plans will be referred to the local planning commission for additional review and comment, and to provide an opportunity to solicit public comment. That meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 7, 2021 in order to avoid the summer vacation season.

Mr. Harbison invited Mrs. Barbara Senst, of Springfield Township Opioid Action Committee, to address the Board. Mrs. Senst addressed the Board regarding the Safe Project "Take No Shame Pledge" program, which is a national movement to combat negative public perception of drug addiction. Safe Project believes there is no shame in getting help or in talking

about addiction. Mrs. Senst challenged the Board to join the national movement by “signing” the pledge. All members of the Board in attendance accepted the challenge and signed the pledge. The Board then challenged the Wyndmoor Hose Company to take the pledge.

Mr. Cobb applauded Mrs. Senst for her work to bring opioid addiction to the attention of the community, and to remove the stigma associated with drug addiction. Her work has proven that recovery is possible.

Mr. Harbison thanked Mrs. Senst and the entire STOAC group for being tireless advocates and for making the community a better place.

Mr. Wilson noted that the Police Department is equipped with Narcan kits to reverse the effects of an overdose.

Mr. Harbison then opened the meeting to public comment. No public comments were received.

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

The Springfield School District Athletic Field Land Development Plan is located at the southeast corner of Paper Mill Road and Church Road. The project includes the demolition of the former Enfield Elementary School building and many of the associated improvements in order to construct two softball fields, a multi-purpose athletic field, a recreational walking trail, and associated parking and stormwater management facilities. The School District has also agreed to construct concrete curbing and a macadam-paved walking path along the entire Church Road frontage of the property, and to provide a voluntary contribution to facilitate the construction of off-site pedestrian connections to the property.

Motion (Harbison-Wilson) vote 5-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1535 granting preliminary/final land development approval for the Springfield School District Athletic Field Project.

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

Motion (Harbison-Cobb) vote 5-0, to approve the June check reconciliation in the amount of \$551,624.70, and the July bill listing in the amount of \$1,207,008.16.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that during the month of June 2021, Springfield Township residents recycled 216.87 tons of materials with a householder participation rate of 82.7%. The net cost for the month was \$18,138.70.

Motion (Wilson-Maxwell) vote 5-0, to adopt Resolution No 1536, a resolution authorizing a six-month extension to the recycling services agreement between the Montgomery County Recycling Consortium and J.P. Mascaro & Sons, Inc. The Recycling Consortium is in the process of soliciting new bids for the processing of recyclable materials, transfer station operations and the hauling services. The six month extension is necessary to evaluate the bid responses and to allow for a proper transition.

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

Mr. Wilson announced that since 1985, America has celebrated July as the nation's official Parks & Recreation month. Each year, on the third Friday in July, the Pennsylvania Parks & Recreation Society recognizes the men and women who ensure that parks and recreation facilities and programs are available to all Commonwealth residents. Locally, the Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance that the Township's parks facilities and recreation programs provided during the COVID pandemic.

Motion (Wilson-Lee) vote 5-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1537, a resolution recognizing July 16, 2021 as Parks and Recreation Professionals Day in Springfield Township. Mr. Wilson encouraged all residents to visit a local park or recreation facility, and to thank a coordinator, counselor, lifeguard, landscaper, coach or other professional responsible for maintaining or promoting leisure and recreation activities.

Mr. Wilson stated he personally has visited 57 of the State's 121 parks, and opined that all the parks were exceptional, well maintained, free, and easily accessible. The parks served as an excellent outlet during the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Wilson encouraged everyone to take advantage of the opportunity to visit a local or state park.

Mr. Cobb also wished to also recognize and thank all of the volunteers who help to maintain and enhance the Township's parks.

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

Motion (Maxwell-Cobb) vote 5-0, to appoint Robert J. Chiarlanza as the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator, effective September 1, 2021. Mr. Maxwell explained that an Emergency Management Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that a community achieves proper levels of preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation associated with emergencies or disasters that may affect a municipality. The Township's current Emergency Management Coordinator has announced his intention to retire effective August 31, 2021. Detective Corporal Chiarlanza presently serves as the Township's Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, and possesses all of the necessary training and credentials required of the position.

Motion (Maxwell-Wilson) vote 5-0, to reappoint William Supplee, of Oreland, to a new, six year term of service as a member of the Police Civil Service Commission. Mr. Supplee's new term of service shall expire July 16, 2027.

Mr. Cobb, Chairman of Zoning Committee, reported:

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, July 26, 2021 at 7:00 PM at the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Cobb reviewed the Zoning Hearing Board agenda, and noted that the 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:

Motion (Lee-Maxwell) vote 5-0, to authorize the appropriate Township officials to execute roadway lighting and sidewalk maintenance agreements with Montgomery County for public facilities that are to be constructed as part of the Ridge Pike Reconstruction Project. The project includes roadway widening and other safety improvements along the length of Ridge Pike, from the City of Philadelphia to Norristown. In Springfield Township, the project runs from Northwestern Avenue to Manor Road, and will include the construction of an additional east-bound travel lane, along with sidewalks on both sides of the roadway. The Springfield Township portion of the project is expected to be let for bid later this year, with construction beginning in 2022.

Motion (Lee-Cobb) vote 5-0, to authorize the appropriate Township officials to execute a grant agreement with Montgomery County for a MontCo 2040 Implementation grant in the amount of \$200,000 to facilitate the construction of the Walnut Avenue Pedestrian Trail Project. The project includes the construction of a pedestrian trail on the west side of Walnut Avenue, from Oreland Mill Road to Sandy Run Park. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$292,809.

Mr. Cobb expressed his excitement about the progress made to date to bring this project to fruition and commended Brandon Ford, Assistant Township Manager, for his efforts in obtaining the funding for the project.

Mr. Wilson inquired as to the timeline for the project, and asked if it might be completed some time in 2022. Mr. Taylor responded that might be an aggressive date for completion given the local match requirements and the Township's efforts to secure that funding from other grant sources.

Motion (Lee-Wilson) to authorize the sale of the following pieces of used equipment via the Municibid on-line auction site: (1) 2003 Gravely Pro-Master 260 Zero Turn Mower, (2) 2000 Ford F350 Bucket Truck, and (3) 2003 Car Mate landscape trailer. The Gravely mower will be auctioned immediately while the remaining pieces of equipment will be auctioned at a later date.

Mr. Cobb asked if the lawn mower could be donated to the little league for use at Veterans Park. Mr. Garrity requested the opportunity to research the First Class Township Code in order to provide guidance to the Board in this regard. Mr. Garrity suggested amending the motion to exclude that particular piece of equipment if it was the Board's preference to accommodate Mr. Cobb's request.

Mr. Lee amended his motion by excluding the Gravely Pro-Master Mower, seconded by Wilson, vote 5-0.

Motion (Lee-Wilson) vote 5-0, to reappoint Jennifer Ponce, of Wyndmoor, to a new, three-year term of service as a member of the Springfield Township Shade Tree Commission. Ms. Ponce's new term of service shall expire on July 13, 2024.

Motion (Lee-Maxwell) vote 5-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1538 authorizing an application to the 2021 Montgomery County Transportation Grant Program for the project known as the Walnut Avenue Pedestrian Trail Project. The project includes the construction of a pedestrian trail on the west side of Walnut Avenue from Oreland Mill Road to Sandy Run Park. The grant request is in the amount of \$92,809. The Township has already secured a MontCo 2040 Implementation grant in the amount of \$200,000 to facilitate the construction of the trail.

Motion (Lee-Wilson) vote 5-0, to adopt Resolution No. 1539 authorizing an application to the 2021 Keystone Communities Program for the project known as the Bysher Fields ADA Accessibility Project. The project includes the construction of three (3) ADA accessible parking spaces and a 500 foot long ADA-compliant access path within the park. The grant request is in the amount of \$25,000 and anticipates no local match requirement.

Mr. Harbison noted that when he first became President of the Board 13.5 years ago, the first thing he did was read Roberts Rules of Order. He does not recommend anyone reading that as there are other ways to learn how to run a meeting. Mr. Garrity agreed.

Mr. Harbison then opened the meeting to public comment. No public comments were received.

Motion (Lee-Maxwell) vote 5-0 to adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor
Secretary