

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township met in a regular monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, September 10, 2025 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. All members of the Board were present except Commissioner McNamara. Commissioner Lee presided.

Mr. Lee asked Mr. Taylor if any remote public comments were received prior to the meeting. Mr. Taylor reported that no public comments were received remotely.

Mr. Lee 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 overseas.

Mr. Lee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion (Wilson-May) 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. Lee announced that the Board of Commissioners conducted an executive session as part of its September 8th workshop meeting to discuss two litigation matters and two personnel matters.

Mr. Lee announced that the Abington Township Board of Commissioners recently honored Springfield Township Emergency Services for their dedicated response to the February 17, 2025 five-alarm fire at the SPS Technologies factory, praising firefighters, police, public works, and emergency management for their courage and professionalism in extreme conditions.

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

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

Motion (Lee-Ratsavong) vote 6-0 to amend the Springfield Township Code Section 107-32.D Schedule IX (Parking Prohibited) by extending the existing parking restrictions on the south side of Willow Grove Avenue from Flourtown Avenue to a point 151 feet easterly thereof.

Mr. Lee noted that the parking was being removed to eliminate a sight obstruction.

Mr. Cobb, Chairman of the Administrative, Fiscal Affairs and Zoning Committee, reported:

Motion (Cobb-Wilson) vote 6-0 to approve the August check reconciliation in the amount of \$947,921.78 and the September bill listing in the amount of \$950,858.53.

Mr. Cobb announced the 2026 budget meeting schedule as follows:

| <u>Purpose</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Meetings with Support Agencies <i>(fire, ambulance, planning invited)</i> | 9/17/2025 | 7:00 PM |
| Budget Workshop | 10/15/2025 | 7:00 PM |
| Budget Presentation | 11/12/2025 | 7:30 PM |
| Budget Hearing | 12/10/2025 | 7:30 PM |
| Budget Adoption | 12/10/2025 | 7:30 PM |

All meetings will be held at the Springfield Township Building, 1510 Paper Mill Road, Wyndmoor, PA 19038.

Motion (Cobb-Ratsavong) vote 6-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1673, a resolution authorizing and directing the Springfield Township pension fund actuary to utilize an assumed rate of return from investments of six percent (6.0%) for the salaried defined benefit pension plan commencing with the 2025 actuarial valuation report, and the 2026 minimum municipal obligation certifications. The current assumed rate of return is 6.25%.

Mr. Cobb explained that the Board of Commissioners has a statutory obligation to adopt a resolution setting forth the minimum municipal obligations to properly fund the Township's employee pension plans for the ensuing year.

Motion (Cobb-Wilson) vote 6-0 to adopt Resolution No. 1674, a resolution establishing the 2026 pension fund minimum municipal obligations for the three defined benefit and one defined contribution pension plans.

Motion (Cobb-May) vote 6-0 to authorize the 2026 hourly rate schedule for Woodrow & Associates, Municipal/Civil Engineers. The fee schedule includes a combined average hourly increase of 3.9% for three staff positions.

Motion (Cobb-May) vote 6-0 to reappoint Bee, Bergvall and Company, Certified Public Accountants, to serve as the Springfield Township Auditors to audit the Township's financial statements for the year ending on December 31, 2025, consistent with the audit engagement letter dated August 11, 2025. The cost of the engagement is \$22,150 plus an alternate in the amount of \$4,800 to compile the pension activity for the four pension funds.

Mr. Cobb explained that on October 19, 2020, Springfield Township was informed by the Pennsylvania Attorney General that it was a potential victim in a fraud investigation involving its consulting engineer, Boucher & James, Inc. As a result of this notice, the Township terminated the contract with Boucher & James and withheld payment pending resolution of the fraud investigation.

Boucher & James later became LVL Engineering Group, which filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy on June 10, 2024. As part of the bankruptcy case, the Township filed a claim against LVL Engineering for the amount that was allegedly overbilled as a result of the improper billing practices of Boucher & James. In turn, the bankruptcy trustee disputed the Township's claim, sought payment for unpaid invoices, and requested a share of any fraud restitution. A mediated conference on August 28, 2025, produced a tentative settlement.

Motion (Cobb-Ratsavong) vote 6-0 to approve the settlement of the Bankruptcy Trustee's objection to the Township's Proof of Claim and adversary proceeding against the Township for payment of outstanding invoices, upon the following terms:

1. The Trustee agrees to dismiss its claim against the Township for \$62,220.17 for engineering services rendered to the Township with prejudice.
2. The Trustee and the Township agree to an allowed, unsecured claim in the amount of \$37,500 in favor of the Township in the pending Chapter 7 Bankruptcy proceeding of LVL Engineering Group, Inc.
3. The Trustee and the Township agree that the Township shall keep any additional restitution paid to the Township in connection with the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General's fraud investigation involving the billing practices of Boucher and James, the former Township Engineer, without any reduction to the agreed upon, unsecured claim.
4. The Township Solicitor and the Township Manager are authorized to complete and execute all of the necessary paperwork to effectuate settlement upon these terms and conditions.

Mr. Cobb announced that the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Monday, September 29, 2025 at 7:00 PM at the Springfield Township Building. Mr. Cobb summarized the agenda and announced that copies of the applications and plans are on file in the Community Development Office. Mr. Cobb noted that the Zoning Hearing Board will be meeting one week later than usual due to the Rosh Hashanah holiday, which begins at sundown on September 22, 2025.

Ms. Ratsavong, Chairwoman of the Parks and Recreational Resources Committee, reported:

Motion (Ratsavong-Morris) vote 6-0 to appoint Grace D'Amico, Oreland, and Kedar Moore, Wyndmoor, as non-voting student-representatives to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee. Ms. D'Amico is a Junior and Mr. Moore is a Senior at Springfield Township High School.

Motion (Ratsavong-May) vote 6-0 to appoint Elliott Midha, Wyndmoor, as a non-voting student-representative to the Recreation Center Advisory Committee. Mr. Midha is a Sophomore at Springfield Township High School.

Mr. Cobb commented that all three students had very impressive interviews.

Ms. Ratsavong commented that while only one opening was advertised, the Township will benefit from the contributions of all three students and encouraged other students to continue to get involved.

Mr. May, Chairman of the Environmental Resources Committee, reported:

Mr. May announced that during the month of August 2025, Springfield Township residents recycled 141.4 tons of material with a householder participation rate of 76.6%. The net cost for the month was \$24,500.07.

Mr. May reminded residents that Household Hazardous Waste is not suitable for collection by the Township and should not be placed out with regular refuse. Household hazardous waste includes items such as oil-based paint and varnish, paint thinners, swimming pool chemicals, pesticides and weed killers, gasoline, oil and fuel additives, drain cleaners and solvents, fluorescent tubes, and CFL's.

Mr. May explained that on July 11, 2025, Springfield Township received six timely proposals for a rooftop solar project, offering either direct purchase or a power purchase agreement. After review, the Township's consultants recommended the direct purchase option due to the lower overall costs. Bids for the direct purchase option ranged from \$629,125 to \$1,014,457, and after applying a 30% federal rebate and PECO incentives, the net price is \$413,692–\$683,424 with a potential payback in as little as 3.66 years.

Motion (May-Cobb) vote 6-0 to award a contract to Spotts Brothers, Inc. of Schuylkill Haven, PA for their low bid price of \$629,125 to supply and install a rooftop solar array at the Springfield Township Municipal Campus in accordance with their sealed proposal received July 11, 2025, last revised August 26, 2025. The award is subject to Spotts Brothers entering into a written agreement with Springfield Township, setting forth the terms and responsibilities of the contractor, and in a form that is acceptable to the Township Solicitor.

Mr. Wilson commented that the first estimate for the solar project was in excess of \$1 million and raised questions about the cost-effectiveness of such an investment. However, after reviewing the recent proposals, he has reconsidered his earlier position and believes this is the appropriate path forward. Mr. Wilson opined that the project would benefit the Township through energy savings and advance energy independence.

Mr. Cobb added that energy independence is needed due to the rising costs of electricity provided by power companies. Mr. Cobb also thanked Ms. Bergey of the Environmental Advisory Commission for championing the project.

Mr. May expressed his pride in the Environmental Advisory Commission and their ongoing efforts.

Mr. Wilson, on behalf of Ms. McNamara, Chairwoman of the Public Works and Facilities Committee, reported:

Motion (Wilson-Ratsavong) vote 6-0 to authorize the execution of an amendment to the lease dated May 1, 2006 between Springfield Township and TJKFCC, LLC for the property known as Flourtown Country Club, 150 McCloskey Road, Flourtown. The terms of the amendment include:

- (1) An extension to the term of the lease for 3 additional years commencing January 1, 2026 and ending on December 31, 2028.
- (2) The rent for the extension period shall be \$200,000 beginning January 1, 2026, \$210,000 beginning January 1, 2027, and \$220,000 beginning January 1, 2028.
- (3) A swimming pool pass shall be created to provide single-day access to the swimming pool for Springfield Township residents. The pool passes shall be made available for loan at the Free Library of Springfield Township subject to certain black-out dates.
- (4) Lessee is required to perform all work necessary on the property to remedy certain safety recommendations identified by the Township's insurance carrier.
- (5) Lessee has agreed to complete specified capital improvements valued at \$194,000 at its sole cost to enhance the property and operations, and
- (6) Lessee has agreed to certain environmental covenants regarding the application, storage and use of pesticides to maintain the golf course.

Ms. Ratsavong thanked the residents who brought up environmental impacts regarding the use of pesticides to maintain golf courses. She also thanked the operator/lessee for their cooperation in incorporating assurances into the extension of the lease.

Mr. Wilson noted that no revenue share was included in the deal, just a flat rate.

Mr. Morris, Chairman of the Cultural Resources Committee, reported:

Mr. Morris announced that The Springfield Township Community Day celebration will take place on Sunday, October 5, 2025, from 10 AM to 1 PM at Cisco Park in Erdenheim. The

celebration will include inflatables, face painting, balloon creations, food, music, fishing, and fire/ambulance equipment displays, free of charge. Mr. Morris noted that Community Day is made possible via the generous support of the business community and various community volunteers. For more information, please contact www.erdenheimcivic.org.

Mr. Lee opened the meeting to public comment.

Joy Bergey, Flourtown, expressed her pride in being a Springfield Township resident, and commented that it has been two years since the Environmental Advisory Commission brought their request to the Board of Commissioners to install solar panels. She is thankful for the Board's actions this evening.

Ms. Ratsavong acknowledged the efforts of the Environmental Advisory Commission members to advance these types of projects.

Motion (Ratsavong-Wilson) vote 6-0, to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor
Manager/Secretary