

NOVEMBER 13, 2012

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Rudolph at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 in the Township Building.

ROLL CALL

The following Commissioners were also present: Mrs. Sage, Messrs. Culp, Janiczek, Wechsler, Layden, and Lanciano. Also present were Messrs. Byrne and Fulton, as well as Mrs. Warner.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Reverend Pamela McShane of the Princeton Presbyterian, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Dr. Janiczek presented a plaque to Edward Porter for over eighteen years of exceptional volunteer service to the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Porter came forward to accept his plaque.

Police Chief Joseph Daly presented Commendations of Merit to Officer Scott Francis and Detective Robert Nutley for their roles in solving an auto theft case from Spencer Chevrolet and Conicelli Toyota and exposing an international car theft ring.

Mr. Rudolph presented plaques to employees of various Township departments for their dedication and service to the residents of Springfield Township during Hurricane Sandy, October 2012. The following employees received plaques for their respective department: Administration - Alana Cervino, Emergency Management – John Pietrafitta, Parks – Frank Pappa, Police – Chief Daly, Fire - Chief Woolson, Property Management – Ed Abel, Golf Course staff – Randy Hess, Traffic Signals – Bob Artese, Code Enforcement – Bill Cervino, Public Works – Jeff Lawler & Burt Lawley and Ambulance Corps – Jerry Gillen.

MINUTES

On motion of Mrs. Sage, the minutes of October 9, 2012 were approved as transcribed. Seconded by Mr. Wechsler and carried.

Mr. Rudolph asked if anyone in the audience wished to comment on any of the agenda items.

Mr. Frank Sorochen, 559 Sheffield Drive, asked for clarity regarding payment of taxes for the Springfield Country Club hotel. Mr. Byrne replied there is a PILOT (Payment In-Lieu of Taxes) agreement on tonight's agenda. He explained this agreement involves the School District, County, Springfield Township and Blue Hen Development LLP (developer of the Marriott Hotel). Under the agreement, Blue Hen Development will pay an initial \$15,000 during the first year to the School District and \$30,000 annually in the years thereafter. The County will receive a payment of \$2,763 during the first year, with an annual increase of \$5,535 during the 30-year agreement. The Township will not participate in the PILOT agreement in terms of collecting real estate taxes. The Township is the landlord and will receive an annual land lease payment of \$115,000, as well as additional revenues from money spent at the golf course and ice rink, as well as receipt of mercantile taxes. He noted the Country Club property is tax exempt and there will no impact on the School District and little impact on the County.

Mr. Sorochen stated that he read a news article where the School Board commented there would be an increase in payments if the hotel was to expand in size by 10%. Mr. Byrne clarified that there has been no discussion of the hotel getting any larger.

Mr. Rudolph called for Committee Reports.

Mr. Culp announced the Library's annual direct mail fund drive has begun. The Library is once again providing a drop-off site for the U.S. Marine's Toys for Tots program. Deadline for donating new unwrapped toys is December 12th.

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Christmas Tree Lighting

Mr. Culp announced the Springfield Fire Company, along with the Saxer Avenue Business Association and Township, will be hosting their First Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. The event will take place on Sunday, December 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at Old Central School.

Zoning

Mr. Wechsler stated the Zoning Hearing Board met on October 25th and denied the application for Chuck E Cheese for additional signage and lighting facing the Andrew Road side of a building. Also, the Board approved a dimensional variance for the building to be constructed within 14ft. of a flood hazard located at 504 Eagle Road. The next Zoning Hearing is scheduled for November 15th, at which time two applications requesting sign variances will be considered.

Electronic Recycling

Mr. Wechsler announced the State has passed regulations that no household electronics (computers, monitors, printers, TVs, etc.) will be allowed to enter our Township's trash stream beginning January 2013. As a result, the Township has made arrangements with eForce Compliance to provide, free of charge, specific containers for residents to deposit all household electronics with a plug. Containers will be located at the Public Works garage and the Township Building. Residents unable to take their household electronics to a designated drop-off site may contact the Public Works Department to reserve a curbside bulk pick-up.

Dr. Janiczek noted that even if a curling iron is found in the trash at the transfer station, the entire load will be denied. The Township would then have to go through the trash load to insure that there are no electronic devices in the trash. He said it is extremely important that the residents recognize the new State mandate.

Public Works

Dr. Janiczek reported, to date, the Township has received \$1,496.00 for recycled oil. Revenue received for recycled paper collected during the month of October was \$4,991.00 and commingled items brought in \$1,230.45. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no trash or recycling collection on Thursday, November 22 & Friday, November 23.

Dr. Janiczek reminded residents that under Township Code, the weight limit for a trash container, including refuse, is 40 pounds. A number of residents are using the extra large 60 gallons refuse containers . Their capacity when full is well over 200 pounds. These types of cans are designed to be handled by machines, not people. Due to the size and weight of these cans, we are endangering our employees' safety. Public works employees are currently reaching into the cans to remove bagged items. Loose debris will not be dumped from these cans.

Mr. Layden reported for the month of October, total rounds at the golf course were 2,827, bringing the year-to-date total to 33,978. Revenue for the month of October was \$95,988, which is a positive variance of \$19,219 over last year's revenue. The year-to-date revenue for the golf course is \$1,329,172, which is a positive variance of \$146,721 over last year. Off-season golf rates are now in effect.

Mr. Lanciano announced the Ice Rink is open for public skating. He read the list of public skating sessions. Special skating sessions have been scheduled on the day after Thanksgiving.

Mr. Lanciano read the Parks Department progress report for the month of October. Renovations to the infield of the baseball field at Memorial Park have been completed. Weekly maintenance to the football and soccer field for the season has been completed. The majority of the time was spent on leaf removal in the parks, and clean-up resulting from Hurricane Sandy.

Mr. Rudolph reported for the Finance Committee by stating the committee has started early looking at the upcoming 2013 budget challenges. The Township's operating budget is currently being prepared. He stated while every budget presents unique challenges, this one appears to be heading into a perfect storm. Items which the Township have little or no control over are rising sharply.

Golf Course

Ice Rink

Parks

Finance

Mr. Rudolph commented trash dumping fees are increasing over 40%, from \$23.45/ton to \$33.00. Liability insurance premiums have increased by \$40,000, pension contributions exceed a million dollars this year, healthcare is projected to go up 10%, sanitary sewer fees are increasing significantly, real estate transfer fees are down, due to the economy. There are reductions in commercial tax assessments that have impacted the revenue. He noted since 2011, the Township's staffing levels have been reduced due to reorganization and retirements. This resulted in significant reductions in payroll and benefit costs. The Township's goal is to provide Springfield Township with a high level of services we have all come to expected, while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

BILLS SUBMITTED

Mr. Wechsler moved that all bills approved for payment by the appropriate chairperson be paid. Seconded by Dr. Janiczek and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

On motion of Mr. Layden, seconded by Mr. Lanciano, the Treasurer's Report for October 2012 was accepted and ordered filed.

**RESOLUTION #23-12
Zoning Hearing Board**

Mr. Culp moved for the adoption of Resolution #23-12 appointing Edward Kelly, 301 Avon Road, as a full member of the Zoning Hearing Board. Seconded by Dr. Janiczek. All vote aye, with the exception of Mr. Layden voting nay. The motion was carried.

**RESOLUTION #24-12
Zoning Hearing Board
Alternate**

Dr. Janiczek moved for the adoption of Resolution #24-12 appointing Beth Burkhart, 949 Lincoln Avenue, as alternate member of the Zoning Hearing Board. Seconded by Mr. Culp and carried.

**RESOLUTION #25-12
Payment In-Lieu**

Mr. Layden moved for the adoption of Resolution #25-12 authorizing the proper officials of the Township to execute a Payment In-Lieu Tax Agreement with Blue Hen Development, (developer of the Marriott Hotel to be located at the Springfield Country Club, 400 W. Sproul Road). The

agreement also includes the School District and County, wherein Blue Hen Development will make payments to the School District and County in lieu of taxes. Seconded by Mr. Lanciano and carried.

Mrs. Sage moved authorizing the Township Engineer to release \$382,914.45 from the escrow account for the Miller Ale House, 18 Baltimore Pike. Seconded by Mr. Culp and carried.

Mrs. Sage moved authorizing the Township Engineer to release \$90,024.01 from the escrow account to DB Enterprises for the Springfield Knoll development. Seconded by Mr. Wechsler and carried.

Mr. Lanciano moved that the proper officers of the Township be authorized to advertise for receipt of bids for Gasoline and Diesel to be received by December 7, 2012 by 10:00 a.m. Seconded by Mr. Layden and carried.

Dr. Janiczek moved for the appointment of Rocco Brunone, 483 Thatcher Road, to an unexpired term on the Golf Advisory Board. Seconded by Mr. Culp and carried.

Dr. Janiczek moved for the appointment of Joseph Arrel, 603 Farmhouse Circle, to an unexpired term on the Planning Commission and carried. Seconded by Mr. Culp and carried.

On motion of Mr. Wechsler, Samuel Adolph, 257 W. Leamy Avenue, was appointed to an unexpired term on the Golf Advisory Board. Seconded by Mr. Layden and carried.

Mr. Frank Sorochen, 559 Sheffield Drive, commented on the oversized trash cans and upcoming required electronic recycling. He asked if there were any paper shredding events,

RELEASE OF
ESCROW FUNDS

RELEASE OF
ESCROW FUNDS

BIDS AUTHORIZED

GOLF ADVISORY
BOARD

PLANNING COMMISSION

GOLF ADVISORY
BOARD

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scheduled, as well as if there will be a reduction of golf rates due to the construction of the hotel at the Country Club. Mr. Layden responded that the decision will be made by the Golf Course Director, Jim Simpson. Mr. Byrne replied that the golf course will not be affected by the construction.

Mr. Ed Porter, 555 Sheffield Drive, stated alternate members of the Zoning Board usually become voting members and questioned why it is not done by seniority this evening? Mr. Byrne stated under the terms of the MPC, there is no procedure for seniority. The governing body, which is the Board of Commissioners, has the ability under the MPC to appoint both the alternate members and the voting members and there are no provisions for seniority. Mr. Porter suggested in the future to consider appointing an alternate to a voting member by seniority.

Mr. George Miller, 311 Alliston Road, suggested the Township should make residents who are not currently recycling aware the importance of recycling.

Dr. Janiczek moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Sage and carried.

ADJOURNMENT
(9:07 p.m.)