

THE SENTINEL

AMERICA'S HEARTLAND NEWS



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COMMUNITY UPDATES

Local Events, Traditions & American Values

STEP's Response to Last Night's Township Board Meeting

First and foremost, a heartfelt thank you to the many dedicated residents of Springfield and Rose Township, who respectfully waited through a two-hour agenda before public comment. After less than 30 minutes of public comment, one elected official sarcastically criticized residents for taking too much time. Not to be dissuaded, our dedicated neighbors soldiered on despite the disrespect. Thankfully, one of our Trustees addressed this pattern of contempt with integrity at the end of the meeting. Video of the full meeting here:

<https://www.springfield-twp.us/departments/clerk/minutes.php>

Meeting Highlights and Context:

Last fall when the Fact-Finding Committee was formed, the Township promised residents independent studies on environmental, traffic, and property-value impacts to determine whether “very serious consequences” would result under Michigan law. Instead, the Township accepted \$150,000 from the applicant, Levy, and is using \$81,000 to hire Ramboll – a consulting engineering group – for “technical review” and “communication and meeting support.” The Ramboll contract explicitly states that **“all project documentation has been provided”** and that **“no additional studies are pending”** and **“no field work will be done.”**

In other words, Ramboll is being paid with Levy's money to review only the application data Levy provides — with no new field work and no independent testing. Levy also maintains control over how the escrow fund is spent. Our township attorney noted that truly independent studies “could” be

undertaken only if Ramboll determines the need and the Board approves. We also learned that Levy is given an opportunity to review all questions, comments, and legal opinions of township experts prior to public disclosure. Equally as disturbing is the fact that no new Fact-Finding documents have been released to the public since November of last year.

Is this the independent study and transparency we were promised? This is more like asking a pesticide company to pay for and conduct a study on whether their products harm our crops, our water, and our children. Residents deserve better. We deserve real independent studies performed by truly neutral experts using their own field data — not a review of the applicant's hand-picked information.

But wait, there's more...

A resident stepped forward to inform the community that our elected officials have accepted a “donation” from Levy for the township's celebration of America's 250th birthday. You read that correctly – a few years of gravel for our roads plus a party in exchange for the destruction of our environment, our property values, and everything we know and love about our community.

Friends and neighbors, we must demand:

1) immediate release of all Levy application documents to the public, 2) truly independent environmental, traffic, and property-value impact studies with actual field work, and 3) removal of any avenues that allow Levy to control the review process meant to protect us.

Transparency and independence are not optional – they are the foundation of public trust.

Stay Engaged

Please attend future Planning

Commission meetings (held on the 4th Tuesday of every month, except as noted):
April 28, May 26, June 23,
July 28, August 25, September 22,
October 27, *November 17, *December 15

The township has hired a new planning firm, Carlisle Wortman. Their consultant, Megan Masson-Minnock, will provide monthly updates at these meetings.

One more way to help: Please contact the Road Commission of Oakland County and share your concern about the impact of 160 gravel haulers per day on Ormond Road.
Online comment form:
<https://www.rcocweb.org/FormCenter/Contact-Us-4/Contact-Us-Form-43>
Email: dcsmail@rcoc.org
Phone: 877-858-4804

Upcoming STEP Events

- April 24 — Community Town Hall
- June — Davis Lake Walk and Community Picnic
- July — Visit our booth at the Oakland County 4-H Fair
- October — Community Chili Cook-Off
- December — Community Pancake Breakfast

Contact Stephanie at snananahas7@gmail.com for more info or to be included on our email distribution

Join us for the April 24th Town Hall from 6-8:30pm at the 4-H Community Center. Admission is free and dinner will be served at this informative event! (Please RSVP to Stephanie.) **We also hope to see you at the next Planning Commission meeting on April 28th at 7pm.**

Stay Connected

Website: protectspringfield.org

Facebook Group:
facebook.com/groups/1679440232688813

Let's stay united to protect the beautiful community we love.