
MINUTES

FEBRUARY 08, 2021

Regular Public Meeting

Board of Commissioners

Township of Whitehall

A. CALL TO ORDER

- 1) The regular Public Meeting of the Whitehall Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 8, 2021 held virtually via WEBEX, with the following in attendance:

COMMISSIONERS

Philip J. Ginder, President
Joseph J. Marx, Jr., Vice President
Thomas Slonaker, Secretary
Jeffrey J. Warren
Charles G. Fisher
Randy Atiyeh
Michael D. Dee

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL

Michael P. Harakal, Jr., Mayor
John D. Meyers, Deputy Mayor
John F. Gross, Esq.,
Township Solicitor
Michael Marks, Police Chief
Frank Clark Engineer
Lee Rackus, PZ&D
Colleen L. Gober, Tax Collector
Larissa Bruder, Executive Secretary

The meeting was formally opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a note of thanks given to all serving in the Armed Forces, First Responders, Healthcare Workers, Grocery Store Workers, and Municipal Staff who are all seeing the community through this hard time.

President GINDER noted the passing of a retired, longtime employee of the Township, Edward Yandrisovits. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

President GINDER read the statement on fair housing as required.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner FISHER moved, seconded by Commissioner MARX to approve the Minutes of the following meeting:

Regular Public Meeting – January 11, 2021

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Motion carried.

President GINDER stated that the Board held an Executive Session on February 5, 2021 at 6pm at CWSA meeting room for personnel and legal issues.

B. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Don Kelly of 2722 Halleck Drive commented that with the closing of Station #40 many thanks should be given to all the men and women who gave their time and services at that station.

C. **PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON ORDINANCES**

1. **BILL NO. 32-2020** (SECOND HEARING)

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BY REZONING AN APPROXIMATELY 31.65 ACRE PARCEL OWNED BY WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP FROM R-1, VERY LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL, TO C2-A, LOCAL COMMERCIAL. (ADMIN/BOC)

President GINDER read Ordinance No. 32-2020 to the Board.

Commissioner SLONAKER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 32-2020 was approved.

2. **BILL NO. 1-2021**

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 15, SECTION 37 OF THE 2006 CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, ESTABLISHING A 410 FT LGTH NO PARKING ZONE ALONG THE BOTH SIDES OF ROOSEVELT STREET BORDERING ROOSEVELT VIEW TOWNHOUSE DEVELOPMENT & # 4236 ROOSEVELT ST IN THE EGYPT AREA OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER noted that Administration has suggested that this item be tabled until further review is done.

Discussion ensued with Peter TERRY (Township’s Traffic Engineer) explaining that Roosevelt Street’s width is the basic issue as is narrows going south. Curbing also exists in some locations making it even more difficult.

Numerous residents (Dana Bortz, Jay Levan, Bob Brandenmeir, Wendy & Steve Carpenter and Mike Gensey) spoke regarding multiple concerns:

Residents safety as there are no sidewalks or streetlights from the end of no parking zone to where their homes are along with speeding issues that has been happening before the townhomes were built. Reducing available parking in front of the townhouses will decrease value as many homeowners bought their homes because of having that extra space to park their own or visitor’s vehicles. Mr. GENSEY noted that at the time of approval of the homes, it was noted that widening of the roadway was not possible due to the impervious coverage that was required for the lots. Another option mentioned was speed humps, but those come with challenges as well.

Commissioner FISHER asked if there are other options. Peter TERRY noted that widening the roadway is a possible solution, but that comes with its own complications.

D. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3146

TITLE: A RESOLUTION FOR SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN REVISION FOR NEW LAND DEVELOPMENT OF GEORGE MAKHOUL, LOCATED AT 4601 QUARRY ST., WHITEHALL PA. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3146 to the Board.

Commissioner MARX moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner WARREN.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3146 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 3147

TITLE: A RESOLUTION FOR SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN REVISION FOR NEW LAND DEVELOPMENT OF 3434 N. FRONT ST., WHITEHALL PA. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3147 to the Board.

Commissioner SLONAKER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FISHER.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3147 was approved.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 3148

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING CAMP WHITEHALL RATES FOR THE YEAR 2021. (BOC)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3148 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3148 was approved.

4. RESOLUTION NO. 3149

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING POOL PASS RATES FOR THE YEAR 2021. (BOC)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3149 to the Board.

Commissioner DEE moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3149 was approved

5. RESOLUTION NO. 3150

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE MINOR SUBDIVISION PLAN OF SARACENO LOT LINE ADJUSTMENT, LOCATED AT 4505 AND 4507 SCHEIDYS ROAD, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, INDEX #1973-20.

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3150 to the Board.

Commissioner MARX moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3150 was approved

6. RESOLUTION NO. 3151

TITLE: A RESOLUTION APPOINTING VINCENT MISURACA TO SERVE ON THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BUILDING CODE BOARD OF APPEALS. (BOC)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3151 to the Board.

Commissioner FISHER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner WARREN.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3151 was approved

E. OTHER

1. MOTION - to approve the appointment of Ann FREYMAN to serve on the Whitehall Township Planning Commission, term expiring December 31, 2024.

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Motion carried.

2. MOTION – to approve the re-appointment of John DELSERRO to serve on the Whitehall Township Environmental Advisory Council and Shade Tree Committee, term expiring December 31, 2023

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Motion carried.

3. MOTION – to approve the appointment of Joanne Koury to the Whitehall Township Environmental Advisory Council, term expiring December 31, 2023

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Motion carried.

4. MOTION – to approve the appointment of Deborah Rosene to the Whitehall Township Environmental Advisory Council, term expiring December 31, 2023.

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Motion carried.

5. MOTION – to approve the appointment of Monica Chibber to the Whitehall Township Environmental Advisory Council, term expiring December 31, 2023

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Motion carried.

6. MOTION - to approve the appointment of Richard Bentz to the Whitehall Township Civil Service Commission (Alternate), term expiring December 31, 2026.

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Motion carried.

F. DISCUSSION ITEM:

1. TREASURER’S SALARY – President GINDER noted and thanked Jack MEYERS for the information he forwarded to the Board explaining the Treasurer’s compensation. Currently the Township’s portion is \$37,374 as well as receiving compensation from the Whitehall Coplay School District. As it was felt that the School District should be paying their fair share, the Township has no authority for them to do so. In addition to the before mentioned compensation, the Treasurer receives a percentage on real estate tax certification. There was a general consensus to propose a 2% rate increase for each of the four years of the elected official’s term.

G. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Commissioner FISHER noted a positive news regarding COVID as the number of cases have been declining. Unfortunately, new variants are popping up and strongly urges getting the vaccine when available. He also noted that the EAC Facebook page is being worked on and hopes it to be up and running in the near future. Commissioner FISHER also thanked the volunteers for their time and efforts.

Commissioner WARREN stated that last months Food Pantry grand opening was a huge success. They will be having another distribution on February 11th. He questioned Chief NELSON on the status of the AFG grant. Chief advised that the portable radios need to be 25 yrs old to qualify and they are only 20. In regards to the traffic congestion at Chick-Fil-A, Commissioner

WARREN suggested reducing the size of the center median if the interior road to add another lane of traffic.

Commissioner DEE gave a shoutout the Public Works crew who worked long hours during major snowstorm event on 2/1 and asks that residents be patient as it becomes time consuming with a storm of that magnitude. He also noted that if there is inclement weather on the 11th, Food Pantry distribution will be moved to the 18th.

Commissioner ATIYEH also thanked Public Works for the great job they did during the 2/1 snowstorm. Stay safe going forward.

Commissioner SLONAKER thanked tonight's appointees for volunteering and also gave kudos to the Public Works Dept.

President GINDER questioned Frank CLARK the status of the stormwater pipe issue with CWSA. Frank CLARK advised that he has been brainstorming w/Rob PILIGIAN as to ways to doing the repair and costing out the project. President GINDER noted his concern of the integrity of the rest of the pipe. Frank CLARK will evaluate the whole length. President GINDER thanked the Public Works, Police & Fire Depts, Fire Police and EMA for all that they provide to the Township.

Mayor HARAKAL advised the Board that the Jefferson Pool will not be operating this year. Hokendauqua & Cementon Pools opening are dependent on the COVID situation, as well as Camp Whitehall. The Mayor noted that Public Works is doing a great job with snow removal. The Public Service Bldg construction is moving along as planned. He will be meeting with the Chick-Fil-A manager to discuss possible options for traffic concerns on that site. Mayor HARAKAL stated he has attended meetings regarding the Cementon Bridge construction and is ironing out issues with the proposed lighting contract. He also noted the passing of Edward Yandrisovits who will be missed, as well as Herbie Saylor.

Treasurer GOBER stated that since the Executive Session has yet to be scheduled, she would like to clarify the concerns raised last month. She noted that during the time she was alone when COVID started, she deposited more money by going every other day. For 15 months she was down an employee and at the end of the year she contracted COVID and was out for 6 weeks, which made it difficult to get all aspects of the job completed. There was no unlawful conduct on her part, just difficult situations to handle. Treasurer GOBER concluded with she will finish out her term by putting forth every effort to do things appropriately for the betterment of the Township.

H. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Commissioner FISHER moved, seconded by Commissioner DEE to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.