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# **MINUTES**

**JULY 08, 2024**  
**Regular Public Meeting**

**Board of Commissioners**

**Township of Whitehall**

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**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, July 8, 2024 held at the Whitehall Township Public Meeting Room, with the following in attendance:

**COMMISSIONERS**

Thomas Slonaker, President  
Jeffrey J. Warren, Vice President  
Randy Atiyeh, Secretary  
Alberta Scarfaro  
Ken Snyder  
Elizabeth N. Fox (Absent)  
Robert Piligian

**TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL**

Joseph J. Marx, Jr., Mayor  
John D. Meyers, Deputy Mayor  
Jack. Gross, Esq., Township Solicitor  
Mark Bilder , Fire Chief  
Michael Marks, Police Chief  
Frank J. Clark, Engineer, KCE  
Lee Rackus, PZ&D  
Tina J. Koren, Tax Collector (Absent)  
Larissa Bruder, Executive Secretary

The meeting was formally opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence will follow for reflection of our troops stationed overseas and that may be in harms way.

President SLONAKER read the statement on fair housing as required.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner SCARFARO moved, seconded by Commissioner Fox to approve the Minutes of the following meeting with corrections:

Regular Public Meeting – June 10, 2024

Six Commissioners were present and four voted “yes” and with two abstentions (WARREN & ATIYEH) Motion carried.

**B. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

LoriAnn Fehnel of 3107 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street commended first responders to a recent accident that happened on her street. She also noted that the first Parkway concert was great but has concerns with people allowed to bring in coolers as they potentially could have bottles which in turn could be thrown into the Parkway.

Bruce Charles of 76 Madison Lane noted the following items for consideration of the Board:

- Ordinance for hazardous trees
- Ordinance for senior citizens to opt out of such added taxes – land preservation
- Change in fireworks regulations
- Berkheimer cost savings and reduce employees

Mr. Charles also noted that he utilizes the recycle/shred event every year and thanked all involved in the planning.

Andrea Hoagland of 51 Kimmet Avenue asked the status of the concern of personal cameras being placed at a township owned recreation facility. Attorney Gross advised that he is working on a policy for the Board’s review and will be on the August agenda.

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

1. BILL NO. 24-2024

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR THE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF FLOORING FOR THE WHITEHALL SENIOR CENTER BUILDING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 IN THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE. (RECREATION)

President SLONAKER read Bill No. 24-2024 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve the motion, seconded by Commissioner SNYDER

SIX Commissioners were present voting “yes”. Bill No. 24-2024 was approved.

2. BILL NO. 25-2024

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF H. A. BERKHEIMER INC. AS TAX COLLECTOR OF THE TOWNSHIP BUSINESS PRIVILEGE /MERCANTILE TAX

President SLONAKER read Bill No. 25-2024 to the Board.

Commissioner PILIGIAN moved to approve the motion, seconded by Commissioner SCARFARO  
Commissioner SNYDER commented that he has concerns regarding the data base information being provided to Berkheimer from the Township is up to date and current.

SIX Commissioners were present five voting “yes” and one voting no. (SLONAKER)  
Bill No. 25-2024 was approved.

**D. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS**

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3328

TITLE: GRANT FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY’S GREENWAYS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION PROGRAM FOR THE IRONTON RAIL TRAIL PAVING AND GATES PROJECT

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3328 to the Board.

Commissioner PILIGIAN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner WARREN

SIX Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3328 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 3329

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE MAJOR SUBDIVISION/  
LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF WHITEHALL TOWNHOMES, LOCATED AT  
3229 N. FRONT STREET, INDEX NO. 2032-23A.

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3329 to the Board.

Commissioner PILIGIAN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SNYDER

Commissioner PILIGIAN noted that #6 condition on resolution - recreation fees should read \$2,000 per lot. It was clarified that no further subdivision of Lot 11 will occur. It was also verified that the side yard setbacks are 12 ½ feet.

SIX Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3329 was approved.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 3330

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND  
WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP TO ENTER INTO A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT  
REGARDING THE TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL TENANT MANAGERS  
WHITEHALL, LLC AND THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 2401 MACARTHUR  
ROAD (ADMIN/BOC)

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3330 to the Board.

Commissioner SNYDER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SCARFARO

Commissioner WARREN asked that a letter be sent to the state and advise them of the impact the appeals are having on the Township

SIX Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3330 was approved.

**E. OTHER**

**MOTIONS**

1. MOTION - to approve the release of escrow for completed and withdrawn projects, per Deputy Mayor MEYERS memo June 27, 2024.

SIX Commissioners were present and voting “yes” with one abstention (PILIGIAN).  
Motion passed.

2. MOTION – to appoint Pedro Jose as an Alternate to the Whitehall Township Zoning Hearing

Board , term expiring December 31, 2029.

SIX Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Motion passed.

3. MOTION – to appoint John Cool to the Ironton Rail Trail Oversight Committee, to represent Whitehall Township as an Alternate.

SIX Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Motion passed.

4. MOTION - to approve the appointment of Janet Minnich to serve on the Whitehall Township Environmental Advisory Council, term expiring December 31, 2027.

SIX Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Motion passed.

5. MOTION - to approve the appointment of Deb Rosene to serve on the Whitehall Township Shade Tree Committee, term expiring December 31, 2027.

SIX Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Motion passed.

6. MOTION - to approve the appointment of Karen Poshefko to serve on the Whitehall Township Shade Tree Committee, term expiring December 31, 2026.

SIX Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Motion passed.

7. MOTION - to approve the appointment of Janet Minnich to serve on the Whitehall Township Shade Tree Committee, term expiring December 31, 2025.

SIX Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Motion passed.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Status of Old Police Station (K. Snyder)

Rebid scheduled for 3 days. New sign was made for the property and more inquiries have been made as a result.

2. Updating of Website (K. Snyder)

Discussion held during workshop covered concern and also to note this was more about IT concerns. Updating of EAC page was asked and that can be completed in house.

3. West Catasauqua Playground Pavilion Access Ramp/Walkways (J. Warren/K. Snyder)

Frank CLARK is working with Recreation Director HIBBLER on a plan.

4. Temporary Sign Ordinance Revisions (K Snyder)

Commissioner SNYDER is asking that an ordinance be drawn up to temporarily remove the temporary sign regulations, while revising the current regulations. Attorney Gross and Lee Rackus advised against that process and instead will work jointly with Commissioner Snyder on revising the Ordinance and hopefully have a draft within the next month or two.

**F. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

Commissioner SNYDER noted he attended the CWSA Board Meeting and has nothing to report.

Commissioner PILIGIAN stated that he attended the June 24<sup>th</sup> Recreation Committee meeting and as Ray Bieak is now the Rail Trail Liaison, the Committee requested that he continue to attend the meetings. He also noted that he attended the June EAC meeting, but will not be able to attend that or the IRT meeting this month due to a work commitment.

Commissioner WARREN commented that the first two Parkway Concerts were a great success despite the heat and commended staff on doing a tremendous job in organizing the events. Secondly noted that Joe Wilfinger, long time volunteer in the Township and advocate of the EAC, passed this week and it was fitting that 3 qualified people were placed on the EAC this evening. Lastly, he stated that over a year ago he requested that security cameras be placed at township facilities and hoping that administration is looking at that.

Commissioner ATIYEH noted that he was absent from last month's meeting due to a job commitment. He did watch the video from that meeting and was bothered by how people were spoken to and he feels that everyone needs to treat people with respect.

Commissioner SCARFARO thanked Commissioner Atiyeh for his statement and she also thanked the EAC members that were appointed this evening for their dedicated involvement.

Commissioner SLONAKER remembered Joe Wilfinger and also noted the passing of Bob George, he too was an active member on many boards and commissions.

Mayor MARX gave an overview of his Report:

- Successful recycling event and thanked Deb and Karen for their involvement, as well as the kids from the high school who volunteered to help
- First two Parkway Concerts were very successful and thanked all the staff involved in putting that together
- Rebid of the former Police Station Property
- Hired new Fire Inspector – Madison Belts, promoted from within as she is a long time Whitehall firefighter.
- In response to a previous comment on Deputy Mayor Meyers – he has known Jack for over 20 years, and Jack is one of the most impeccable and professional man he has ever met, Jack has best interest of Township at heart, as he works and lives here and is blessed that he is his Deputy Mayor.
- Lastly, he noted he oversaw the removal of damming obstructions along Coplay Creek

President SLONAKER announced that the Board is going into an executive session for legal matters.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION – Commissioner WARREN moved, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm.