
MINUTES

August 9, 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, August 9, 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
Tom Deily, Engineer, KCE
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 read the statement on fair housing as required.

President GINDER advised that there was an Executive Session of the Board held on August 4, 2021 at the Coplay Whitehall Sewer Authority regarding legal and personnel issues.

President GINDER announced the retirement of Donald HAYN who has served on the Civil Service Commission for 21 years. A memo written by Jack MEYERS was read that paid tribute to Mr. HAYN and President GINDER commented a job well done.

President GINDER announced the retirement of Steve YOO and thanked him for his 31 years of dedicated service he gave to the Township working in the Public Works Dept.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner DEE moved, seconded by Commissioner WARREN to approve the Minutes of the following meeting:

Regular Public Meeting – July 12, 2021

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

B. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

No appearances.

C. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON ORDINANCES

1. BILL NO. 24-2021 (SECOND HEARING)

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER I, PART 8 ARTICLE XXXVI OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES, SPECIFICALLY AS IT PERTAINS TO THE TOWNSHIP’S HARASSMENT POLICY (ADMINISTRATION)

President GINDER read Bill No. 24-2021 to the Board.

Commissioner DEE moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner MARX.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 24-2021 was approved.

2. BILL NO. 25-2021

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP CODIFIED ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 29, FEES, BY AMENDING SECTION M-16, PLANNING, ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT; SUBSECTION 16.11, USE PERMITS.

President GINDER read Bill No. 25-2021 to the Board.

Commissioner FISHER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 25-2021 was approved.

3. BILL NO. 26-2021

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2022 FORD F250 4X4 PICK UP TRUCK FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS BUREAU OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE (PUBLIC WORKS)

President GINDER read Bill No. 26-2021 to the Board.

Commissioner FISHER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE.

Commissioner FISHER questioned the frequency of purchase of these vehicles. Deputy Mayor MEYERS indicated that every year one or two are replaced. He also wondered if thought is going toward electric vehicles? Mayor HARAKAL advised that proof would be needed that it would be advantageous to do so. Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 26-2021 was approved.

4. BILL NO. 27-2021

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE DEFERRING THE REQUIRED INSTALLATION OF SIDEWALKS ALONG THE LEHIGH STREET FRONTAGE OF 4205 LEHIGH STREET AS REQUIRED IN CHAPTER 21, SECTION 21-16 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP. (DEVELOP)

At the request of the developer, this item was pulled from the agenda.
No action taken.

E. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3166

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE MINOR SUBDIVISION PLAN OF 4205 LEHIGH STREET. (DEVELOP)

At the request of the developer, this item was pulled from the agenda.
No action taken.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 3167

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY REQUESTING A GRANT FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA’S KEYSTONE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM FOR THE WHITEHALL PARKWAY PAVILION PROJECT.

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3167 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3167 was approved.

F. OTHER

*At this time, President GINDER asked Deputy Mayor MEYERS to give a brief overview of documentation sent to the Board earlier in the day regarding proposed additional work for the Municipal Building renovation which includes the renovation of the original employee bathrooms, connecting corridor, additional upgraded finishes and new audio-visual updates in the Board Room,

1. MOTION – to approve the additions to the Whitehall Township Improvement Project as described in the report of Deputy Mayor Jack MEYERS and explained in Option 1 of D’Huy’s memo dated August 6th, 2021.

Seven Commissioners were present and 6 voted “yes” and one abstention (SLONAKER). Motion carried.

G. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Commissioner WARREN noted the great turnout for the Christmas in July event held on July 25th at the Lehnert Road Barn. He also stated that the Historical Society has been having open house events the last several weekends that has provided opportunity to view the additions to the museum and the Prydun Farm Garden has been producing triple the amount of food.

Commissioner DEE noted the passing of Ken Snyder Sr who served Whitehall Township in many capacities and sends condolences to the family. Whitehall Copley Hunger Initiative Summer Program provided 1,065 bags of food and will provide thru August 25th. Books have also been supplied as well as toys. Food Pantry at St. John the Baptist will be providing food August 12th.

Commissioner FISHER advised that starting that in the Hokenduaqua are on August 16th a few streets will be having some work being done and door hangers have been put out to the residents affected. Street postings will also been done. The recent litter cleanup around White Castle area was very successful and asked if the frequency of the cleanups in this area can be addressed. The Mayor indicated that he will be meeting with the manager at Home Depot to try to address this issue. Commissioner FISHER again pleaded with people to get vaccinated to stop the increase in infection rates.

Commissioner ATIYEH asked on an update on the Jefferson Street Pool. The Mayor noted that we are looking into costs for renovating although there is a decision that has to be made due to seeing that with only two pools operating this year we haven’t had any issues. Commissioner ATIYEH asked that if the pool is eliminated that another recreational alternative be given to the children in that area. Lastly, with school starting in a few short weeks, he also reminded people to be on the lookout for kids walking to bus stops.

Commissioner SLONAKER had no comments.

Commissioner MARX had no comments.

President GINDER asked Tom DEILY of KCE if there was any update on the Mechanicsville Road sidewalk issue. The Mayor stated that Atty Fogerty and Frank are working on getting the signatures all on one deed. President GINDER noted work has started on Lehigh Avenue as well as Bridge Street. President GINDER questioned Treasurer GOBER on where the financials are for July, and she indicated she is

waiting for some info to finish and will get it out this week. He also questioned that status of deposit accounts mentioned in audit. Treasurer GOBER indicated that the treasurer disbursement is almost complete, the per capita report is finished and will send out immediately. She is still waiting for an answer from the school district regarding the overdrawn account, but in speaking with Jack MEYERS it was decided they would deduct fees from the current payment. President GINDER questioned MAYOR if all has been addressed with WTA regarding private hydrant issues and he indicated it has. President GINDER then asked the same of NBMA and the Mayor indicated he will need to look into that with Chief NELSON.

Mayor HAKAKAL stated that a mask mandate is being instituted in common areas of the township building starting tomorrow and that staff has been notified. He attended a meeting with Lehigh County Bureau of Agricultural Land Preservation about acreage in Egypt. Work continues w/WTICDA on potential for a Township Authority. He noted the passing of Thomas Piscula, a life long member of Station #36 in Fullerton. He Attended meeting regarding RAISE Grant for the Riverside Development in Allentown which will affect Wood Street area. He met with Hal Warner of the Lehigh County Humane Society and discussed a project in Whitehall hoping to educate the community regarding trapping, neutering and releasing feral cats. Celebrated the 70th Anniversary of Lions Club which is one of the oldest Lions Club in the country and the Leo Club is also the longest lived in the country as well. Met with Chad HELMER, Frank CLARK and Tony COCCA for the Boscola Grant to help close out monies needed for the Parkway. Met with WCSD Superintendent Robert STECKEL regarding becoming a member of the school district community council. Met with resident of Alberta Drive regarding the Red Haven Alley issues.

Treasurer GOBER prepared information for Lehigh County for 15 homes going for upset sale. Thanked taxpayers for cooperation on using the drop box and being patient on addressing their individual issues.

H. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Commissioner FISHER moved, seconded by Commissioner MARX to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.