

---

# **MINUTES**

**JUNE 10, 2024**  
**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, June 10, 2024 held at the Whitehall Township Public Meeting Room, with the following in attendance:

**COMMISSIONERS**

Thomas Slonaker, President  
Jeffrey J. Warren, Vice President (Absent)  
Randy Atiyeh, Secretary (Absent)  
Alberta Scarfaro  
Ken Snyder  
Elizabeth N. Fox  
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  
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 – May 13, 2024

Five Commissioners were present and seven voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Commissioner SNYDER noted that Commissioner WARREN & ATIYEH are not present but have an excused absence.

**B. PRESENTATIONS**

**1. RECOGNITION OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT DIVERS**

Lehigh County Coroner Daniel Buglio and Deputy Coroner Cassandra Shiffner recognized the following members of the Fire Department Dive Team for their assistance in a multiagency criminal investigation:

Craig Hanzl, John Rackus, Joe Shambo, Bruce Bray, Mike Martinko

These divers were instrumental in recovering human remains from a homicide that occurred in Slatington on May 15, 2024 and their contributions to the investigation were invaluable. They were presented Certificates and Challenge Coins.

**2. COLLECTION OF THE BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX BY H.A. BERKHEIMER**

Jim Hunt, Director of Government Relations for Berkheimer Tax Innovations was present. Mr. Hunt explained the services being offered and how the process would work in collecting the Business Privilege Tax and Mercantile Taxes beginning in 2025. They will work with the current administrator and acquire the tax rolls, in turn will convert them onto their system and will compare the earned income and local service tax rolls to find any businesses that are being missed. Next, they would send out a letter of introduction saying that Berkheimer is now the administrator and would also include copy of next year's tax return. They are also willing to assist in delinquent collections for business privilege tax. This is an added benefit as Berkheimer is already the Township's Earned Income Tax and Local Service Tax administrator for any new business that registers with the County, so they would also be added to the business and mercantile tax rolls and they are required to provide proof of gross receipts. It was noted that the school district is on board for collection of their portion as well. They would also work closely with the Township (permits) to identify those businesses who are working in Township for more than 15 business days. It was noted that their commission is 2.25 % of the tax paid.

**C. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

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

- Ordinance for hazardous trees
- Refuse Contract – make items such as grass pickup ala cart
- Tax Office should never be closed during business hours

Mr. Charles also noted that the items he requested to be addressed at a previous meeting were done so in a timely manner and commended staff and the Mayor for doing so.

Karen Poshefko of 3303 Musselman Court requested that an Ordinance be enacted so that the Open Space recommendations given in the current Comprehensive Plan can be enforced. Lee RACKUS advised that she has budgeted for and is in the process of obtaining a consultant to revise the Comprehensive Plan and noted that the Open Space recommendations will be addressed.

Andrea Hoagland of 51 Kimmet Avenue commented that for each Department in the Township a standard operating procedure should be put in place.

LoriAnn Fehnel of 3107 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street stated that she attended the opening of the Hokey Pool and it was very clean and looked great. She also noted her concern with abandoned vehicles and feels that the Township should adopt a 72 hour tag and boot policy. Chief MARKS noted that his officers follow the State law and also advised the 72 hour tag and boot policy comes with challenges and most municipalities that have adopted it have since repealed it.

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

1. BILL NO. 17-2024 (SECOND HEARING)

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 22 (SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT), ARTICLE IV (SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS)

President SLONAKER read Bill No. 17-2024 to the Board.

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

FIVE Commissioners were present voting “yes”. Bill No. 17-2024 was approved.

2. BILL NO. 21-2024

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE DEFERRING THE REQUIRED INSTALLATION OF SIDEWALKS FOR 840 FEET ALONG THE RANGE ROAD FRONTAGE 2451 MAIN STREET AS REQUIRED IN CHAPTER 21, SECTION 21-16 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP. (DEVELOP)

President SLONAKER read Bill No. 21-2024 to the Board.

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

FIVE Commissioners were present voting “yes”. Bill No. 21-2024 was approved.

3. BILL NO. 22-2024

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR PHASE 2 OF THE COPLAY CREEK STREAM BANK RESTORATION PROJECT IN WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 IN THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE. (PUBLIC WORKS)

President SLONAKER read Bill No. 22-2024 to the Board.

Commissioner SCARFARO moved to approve the motion, seconded by Commissioner FOX

FIVE Commissioners were present voting “yes”. Bill No. 22-2024 was approved.

4. BILL NO. 23-2024

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR TREE TRIMMING, STUMP REMOVAL AND TREE REMOVAL SERVICES IN WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP PARKS, 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. 23-2024 to the Board.

Commissioner PILIGIAN moved to approve the motion, seconded by Commissioner SCARFARO

FIVE Commissioners were present voting “yes”. Bill No. 23-2024 was approved.

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

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 3324**

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE MAJOR SUBDIVISION PLAN OF FULLERTON TERMINALS, LLC, LOCATED AT 2451 MAIN STREET, INDEX NO. 2034-23A.

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3324 to the Board.

Commissioner SNYDER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FOX

FIVE Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3324 was approved.

2. **RESOLUTION NO. 3325**

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE MAJOR SUBDIVISION/ LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF PROPOSED WAWA REDEVELOPMENT LOCATED AT MACARTHUR AND MICKLEY ROADS, INDEX NO. 2036-24A.

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3325 to the Board.

Commissioner FOX moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SNYDER

Commissioner PILIGIAN asked the representatives present to consider appropriate access signage for southbound MacArthur Road traffic. They will collaborate with Frank CLARK. They are working with PennDOT to restripe Mickley Road. It was also noted that there will infrastructure in place for future EV charging stations.

FIVE Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3325 was approved.

3. **RESOLUTION NO. 3326**

TITLE: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REFUND OF PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS, PLUS ACCUMULATED INTEREST FROM THE POLICE PENSION FUND TO FORMER POLICE OFFICER SHAWN MONAGHAN. (ADMIN)

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3326 to the Board.

Commissioner SNYDER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FOX

FIVE Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3326 was approved.

4. **RESOLUTION NO. 3327**

TITLE: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REFUND OF PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS, PLUS ACCUMULATED INTEREST FROM THE POLICE PENSION FUND TO FORMER POLICE OFFICER JOHN BOWLBY. (ADMIN)

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3327 to the Board.

Commissioner FOX moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER

FIVE Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3327 was approved.

**F. OTHER**

**MOTIONS**

1. MOTION - to reappoint Michael Long to the Whitehall Township Plumber’s Examining Board, term expiring April 30, 2027.

Commissioner SCARFARO moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner PILIGIAN

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

2. MOTION - to appoint Ray Bieak to the Whitehall Township Recreation Commission as the IRT Liaison, term expiring September 30, 2027

Commissioner FOX moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SCARFARO

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

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Ad hoc Committee to Review the “Project Manager Position” (K. SNYDER)  
Preliminary discussions during the Workshop Meeting and will further discuss when all members of the Board are present.
2. Cameras at the Mickley Prydun Farm (K. SNYDER)  
Discussion held during the Workshop Meeting on existing cameras at Mickley Prydun Farm and other facilities. It was determined that Attorney Gross will draft a policy for the Boards review which will pertain to all facilities.

**G. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

Commissioner FOX noted she did not attend previous months meetings due to illness. She thanked the residents that come to the meetings every month.

Commissioner SCARFARO stated that she attended the Memorial Day Ceremony and was glad to see a nice turnout and thanked the Veterans for the service and those that have lost their lives for the country.

Commissioner PILIGIAN also attended the Memorial Day Ceremony and was honored to be there. He attended the EAC meeting and encourages residents to volunteer as this is a dynamic organization. He also attended the IRT meeting and the Library will be placing 18 story panels along the IRT and will be changed out periodically throughout the year. He also attended the Recreation Meeting and explained that Ray Bieak will now be holding the Liaison position.

Commissioner SNYDER noted that the Park & Rec Comprehensive Plan is moving forward. He attended

the Zoning Hearing Board and asked that the person interviewed be appointed to that Board . He did not attend the CWSA or WTICDA meetings.

Mayor MARX gave an overview of his Report:

- Thanked all you attended and participated in the Memorial Day Ceremonies
- Flag Burning Event on Friday June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Hokey Legion
- Township Ecycling Event will be Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>
- Welcomed New Businesses – WaWa, Harbor Freight, Budget Store & Lock, Golf Galaxy, Rally House, Iron Hill Brewing a restaurant to the LV Mall, Hawk Mountain Brewery, to name a few.
- Held Student Government Day on May 20<sup>th</sup> and the students were interested and engaging
- Refuse Pre Bid Meeting was held
- 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Rebuild
- PennDOT Cleanup Cooperation
- Cementon Pool is being worked on and will be utilized as a backup

Lastly, Mayor MARX stated that more civility and kindness towards others is needed.

Treasurer KOREN was not present.

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

***H. ADJOURNMENT***

MOTION – Commissioner SCARFARO moved, seconded by Commissioner FOX to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm.