
MINUTES

MAY 10, 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, May 10, 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Regular Public Meeting – April 12, 2021

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

President GINDER announced the passing of several individuals: Gerald Nero of Cementon, who served 58 years as a Township firefighter, Keith Hontz was a Public Works employee for 44 years and recently retired and James Sweeney who served as a Commissioner back in the 1990’s. Thoughts and prayers are with the families and thanked them for their years of service.

B. LANTA PRESENTATION Lanta Representative AJ Jordan reviewed Lanta’s

Enhanced Bus Service and Rapid Transit Line Project. Benefits of this service include: lower cost per rider, increased economic activity, enhanced safety, robust tourism, increased property values, high frequency bus service corridors and corridors for targeted regional development. Sequence of implementation is as follows: corridor scoping which is nearly complete, corridor plan development, NEPA, engineering, construction and funding securement. Project could be completed in 3-5 years.

C. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Philips Armstrong, Lehigh County Executive was present to make his yearly visit and answer any questions. He mentioned that he found the previous LANTA presentation very interesting as he is a member of Lehigh Valley Transportation Committee s he represents four states for regional planning. He also noted that the CARES funding has been allocated in the most fair method by population in the municipalities in Lehigh County. Have a great working relationship with the Township. Commissioner WARREN questioned if the County is going to convert to digital as the Township is purchasing new portable radios digital capable. County is looking into and hopefully by fall they will be able to help subsidize with the costs. President GINDER thanked Mr. ARMSTRONG for all he does to help the Township.

D. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON ORDINANCES

1. BILL NO. 12-2021

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWELVE (12) PORTABLE RADIOS FOR THE FIRE 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 (FIRE)

President GINDER read Bill No. 12-2021 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE. Commissioner WARREN verified that the radios will have analog and digital capabilities and Commissioner FISHER verified that they will be protected at all times. Chief NELSON affirmed both questions and advised that the radios are \$6,000 per unit.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 12-2021 was approved.

2. BILL NO. 13-2021

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2022 MACK GR42BR CAB AND CHASSIS SINGLE AXLE DUMP 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. 13-2021 to the Board.

Commissioner SLONAKER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FISHER.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 13-2021 was approved.

3. BILL NO. 14-2021

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN SCBA DECONTAMINATION WASHER FOR THE FIRE 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 (FIRE)

President GINDER read Bill No. 14-2021 to the Board.

Commissioner FISHER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 14-2021 was approved.

4. BILL NO. 15-2021

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF A PARKAIRE ACTIVITY CENTER (PAVILION) FOR THE RECREATION 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 (RECREATION)

President GINDER read Bill No. 15-2021 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE. President GINDER requested that Tony COCCA, Recreation Director, provide total figures for project and grant monies received. Mr. COCCA advised total cost of pavilion would be \$118,128 and total cost to construct is \$143,425. Grant monies received so far \$205,700 with another \$100,000 pending.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 15-2021 was approved.

Commissioner WARREN thanked all who helped in all aspects of this project.

5. BILL NO. 16-2021

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 2021 CDBG HC RAMPS CONCRETE CURB AND

SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS IN WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, CONTRACT NO. 2021-04 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 IN THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Bill No. 16-2021 to the Board.

Commissioner ATIYEH moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 16-2021 was approved.

6. BILL NO. 17-2021

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE DEFERRING THE REQUIRED INSTALLATION OF CURBING AND SIDEWALKS ALONG THE RURAL ROAD FRONTAGE OF 3704 AND 3712 RURAL ROAD AS REQUIRED IN CHAPTER 21, SECTION 21 16 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Bill No. 17-2021 to the Board.

Commissioner MARX moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 17-2021 was approved.

E. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3159

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE MINOR SUBDIVISION/ LOT CONSOLIDATION PLAN OF 3704 RURAL ROAD AND 3712 RURAL ROAD. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3159 to the Board.

Commissioner FISHER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner MARX.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3159 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 3160

TITLE: A RESOLUTION FOR SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN REVISION FOR NEW LAND DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHITEHALL PARKWAY PAVILION, WHITEHALL PA. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3160 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FISHER.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3160 was approved.

F. OTHER

1. MOTION - to reappoint Michael Long to the Plumbers Examining Board, term to expire 4/30/2024.

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Motion carried.
Commissioner DEE passed along his gratitude to Mr. LONG for his willingness to serve.

2. DISCUSSION ITEM – Jefferson Pool

Tony COCCA, Recreation Director gave an overview of the issues that are of concern for the Jefferson Pool. The pool itself has not had any major renovations since its construction in 1966. There are numerous issues that have been band-aided in previous years, including the electrical system, leaky pipes and lighting system in pool, numerous issues in the pumphouse and the retaining wall that is caving in. He received quotes from two aquatic engineers to do analysis of what it will cost to do a total renovation. Mr. COCCA also updated the Board on other matters: Cementon & Hokendauqua Pools are being prepped for opening and have hired enough lifeguards to staff both pools. Jamie Henry has been hired as the Aquatics Director and is getting her up to speed on duties. Unfortunately, it appears that Camp Whitehall will not be able to be held this year as there was very little response for counselors. Those that did apply were males and in turn the Camp Director was not comfortable with the direction camp was going, so she has resigned. Mr. COCCA is trying to formulate a plan for those counselors that did apply, hopefully to utilize them at the playgrounds throughout the Township to provide some type of organized activities. The Chamber will be holding a Christmas In July at the Grist Mill Barn, and it appears that as of June 1 we will start booking rentals at the Playground buildings.

G. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Commissioner DEE advised that the vaccine clinic on MacArthur Road (previously ACMoore) is now accepting walk-ins. Dorney Park will also be holding another drive thru clinic on Wednesday from 8am-4pm. Lehigh County Aging & Adult Services in seeking to provide vaccines to homebound people. He also noted that the May 8th litter clean had been postponed due to predicated weather and rescheduled for May 15th. Although a few people showed for the event and did do some clean up, there still is plenty of work awaiting. Asked that anyone that visits the park areas to clean up after themselves. Finally, Commissioner DEE noted that the Lehigh County Senior Center will be re-opening approximately June 1st. Recycling Shredding Event on June 26th

at the WC Middle School from 9am to 12pm.

Commissioner FISHER reiterated the litter clean up event and also noted that the EAC meetings will be held at the Chestnut Street Barn the second Thursday of the month, starting at 7:00pm with the Litter Committee holding their meeting at 6:15pm. Commissioner FISHER also urges everyone to get vaccinated.

Commissioner ATIYEH thank Chief MARKS and Public Works Director, John RACKUS for supplying their monthly reports regularly.

Commissioner WARREN thanked Representatives McNeill and Mako as well as Senator Boscola for their support in obtaining grant money for the Pavilion Project, as well as Commissioner DEE. He also acknowledged the Mennonite Church's 25th anniversary of their Adopt A Highway – Litter Clean Up program for MacArthur Road . He also thanked Frank CLARK for facilitating getting the brush cleared along S. Church Street.

President GINDER questioned Attorney GROSS if any progress was made in researching information regarding the removal of the original flagpole outside the township building. Attorney GROSS noted that he is still looking into it. Frank CLARK was asked to update on any of the outstanding items he's been tasked with following up on: the 72" storm pipe – Mr. Clark advised that Scheuermann is to finally view this coming week; Mechanicsville Road sidewalk issue – waiting on PennDOT regarding issue of adding multiple names to agreement; and S. Lehigh Avenue – he has met with contractor and is finishing up field engineering. Mayor HAKAKAL advised that the Haul Road Agreement was sent to the property owner, but changed dramatically when returned. Attorney GROSS is in the process of ironing out the issues. President GINDER noted that the Board still has not received Recreation Commission meeting minutes as previously requested. Mr. COCCA advised that he will have Bob ABBOTT, secretary for that board, forward those on. President GINDER also asked for the financials for the playgrounds. Mr. COCCA advised that they come out on June 1st and will be forwarded at that time. President GINDER also asked Treasurer GOBER the status of receiving numerous reports as previously requested. Treasurer GOBER noted that they are ready but found an error in one of the reports, which she will correct and have out to the Board in the next few days. She noted that she received several calls from homebound seniors who wanted to pay their taxes and has gone to pick them up as a courtesy. Treasurer GOBER also advised that with the change in banks, she now spends a lot of time driving to out of the area locations for the daily deposits.

Mayor HAKAKAL in trying to address issues along the creek, he attended a Penn Sate Extension - First Investigation of Spring Health Presentation. He is also looking for an opportunity to meet with DEP to see if monies can be available to private property owners along the creek in the hopes of ai cleaned up. Building construction/renovation is progressing on time and on budget. In the process of getting the videos on the website updated. Also trying to figure out budgeting needs to update the website. Thank Commissioner DEE for the help he has provided the Township. Thank all who are involved with the Litter program.

Treasurer GOBER reiterated that she will have the requested reports out in a few days. The department is doing well with the collection and processing of incoming taxes.

Commissioner SLONAKER reminded everyone of the primary election on May 18th.

H. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Commissioner DEE moved, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.