
MINUTES

June 11, 2018

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 11, 2018, in the Public Meeting Room of the Whitehall Township Municipal Building, 3219 MacArthur Road, Whitehall, PA, with the following in attendance:

COMMISSIONERS

Dennis C. Hower, President
Philip J. Ginder, Vice President
Thomas Slonaker, Secretary
Shawn E. Clary
Jeffrey L. Dutt
Joseph J. Marx Jr.
Jeffrey J. Warren

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL

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

The meeting was formally opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence for our troops serving home and abroad.

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner WARREN moved, seconded by Commissioner MARX to approve the minutes of the following meeting:

Regular Public Meeting – May 14, 2018

Seven Commissioners were present and six voted “yes” and President HOWER abstained. Motion carried.

B. OATH OF OFFICE

Chief MARKS stated he has the pleasure to introduce to the Board and the public our newest Police Officer Ryan HOLOHAN. Officer HOLOHAN has been serving as a police officer with the City of Reading for the past two years and on May 29th, 2018 he was hired as a full-time Officer here at Whitehall Township. Officer HOLOHAN will be assigned to field training so he can hone his skills he already possesses as a police officer. We welcome his family into the Whitehall Police Family. As they have already experienced through Ryan’s tenure at Reading this isn’t always an easy job for an officer as well as the family, but know you always have someone to lean during the tough times and there are many here that have experienced problems that your love one may face. The oath that Officer HOLOHAN is about to take is a solemn oath and one that is a foundation behind the badge and also the duties that he is going to

swear to protect and serve the community. At this time, Chief MARKS requests that Larissa BRUDER perform the oath of office and asks Mayor HAKAKAL to present the badge of office to Ryan HOLOHAN. Police Officer HOLOHAN was sworn in by Notary Public Larissa BRUDER. Mayor HAKAKAL handed the badge to Officer HOLOHAN's dad to pin on him.

C. **COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

Lori Ann FEHNEL of 3107 N. 3rd Street wanted to thank the Mayor and Lee Rackus for the ability for her and her children to enjoy their yard again. She also advised that there have been a bunch of juveniles using the Veterans Memorial at 3rd street as target practice shooting bb guns. She provided a bag of bb's that she picked up at the site. She also has them on video. She hopes that the police can patrol the area to catch the kids doing this as they are shooting off fireworks nearby. She also asks that the weed ordinance be amended from the 15 inches it is now to 12 inches.

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

1. **BILL NO. 15-2018**

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE DEFERRING THE REQUIRED INSTALLATION OF BOTH CURBING AND SIDEWALKS ALONG THE SCHADT AVENUE FRONTAGE OF 1942 SCHADT AVENUE, AS REQUIRED IN CHAPTER 21, SECTION 407 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP. (DEVELOP)

President HOWER read Bill No. 15-2018 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Clary.

Clarification was made as to when a stenographer is needed for hearings. Mr. SLONAKER questioned if the applicants speaking should be sworn in. Attorney GITTINGER proceeded to swear in anyone giving testimony.

Commissioner GINDER noted that he doesn't see any swales along Schadt Avenue noted on the plan. Mr. CLARK stated there are any but east of this property with an inlet. Commissioner GINDER questioned if curbing would be installed would the water funnel to the drainage area. Mr. CLARK indicated it'll work as it does now. Commission GINDER questioned a statement made in the applicants request that Schadt Avenue is a state road w/out curbing. Attorney PLUNKETT advised that the applicant stated that in reference to his property only. Commissioner WARREN asked if anyone knew where the school bus stop is? It was noted that it is located at Beryl and Schadt Avenue. Attorney PLUNKETT further commented that since there is not a consistent line of sidewalk along this side of Schadt Avenue is doesn't seem beneficial at this time to have the developer install it. The approval could be conditioned upon installation if all the other locations that do not have sidewalk have to install, then they would do so at that time as well. Commissioner SLONAKER noted that Schadt Avenue is a major road and the applicant being a developer it would be

less costly for them to install it during development then have to go to a homeowner in the future and ask them to pay that expense.

Seven Commissioners were present six voting “no” and Commissioner DUTT voting “yes”. Bill 15-2018 was denied.

E. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3015

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE MINOR SUBDIVISION OF 1942 SCHADT AVENUE, LOCATED AT 1942 SCHADT AVENUE, INDEX #1913-18. (DEVELOP)

President HOWER read Resolution No. 3015 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner CLARY.

Frank CLARK stated that there is a waiver request for SALDO 22.21.a.4.

Commissioner GINDER verified that the E&S control plan is correct and to document the 80’ lot width be noted on plan.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3015 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 3016

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE PRE-DESIGN PHASE SERVICES FOR THE PROPOSED EMERGENCY SERVICES BUILDING. (ADMIN)

President HOWER read Resolution No. 3016 to the Board.

Commissioner MARX moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DUTT.

Commissioner MARX thanked the Mayor, Chief Nelson and Chief Marks for all their diligence and moving forward. Mayor HARAKAL noted that there were many more involved and it was a great team effort and a lot of congratulations to go around.

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 3016 was approved.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 3017

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE ESTABLISHED POOL RATES FOR THE YEAR 2018. (BOC)

President HOWER read Resolution No. 3017 to the Board.

Commissioner CLARY moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER.

There were no questions or comments.

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 3017 was approved.

F. OTHER

1. Commissioner MARX moved, seconded by Commissioner GINDER to approve the release of escrow for completed and withdrawn projects, per Deputy Mayor MEYERS memo dated May 24, 2018.

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

2. Edward Vajda and Cristina Alместica are petitioning the Board to request a license to occupy an existing Township Storm Sewer Easement at 927 Second Street, Whitehall. Commissioners generally agreed for the applicant to proceed.

G. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

1. Commissioner WARREN commented that the results of the 2017 census have been released and Whitehall Township has surpassed the City of Easton. He confirmed with Frank CLARK that the McDonald’s sidewalk issue is progressing.
2. Commissioner CLARY stated that he’s excited about the Public Safety Building moving forward and the proposed Litter Control Team.
3. Commissioner DUTT noted that he received a letter from the Hokey Park Assoc. about moving lights from Mulligans Golf Course down to the baseball fields. Park is willing to do the majority of work along with PPL donating their services in putting the lights up. Mayor HAKAL is working on it and will keep the Board apprised. Commissioner DUTT stated that since the news broke regarding Coplay Aggregates he has been hearing concerns from numerous people. He introduced Michael Dee from Representative McNeill’s Office. Mr. DEE advised he spoke with Steve STRELLA from Representative’s MAKO’s office and are trying to coordinate a meeting of all the parties. Commissioner’s SLONAKER, GINDER and HOWER all expressed their frustration that Coplay Aggregates has not been shut down over the findings and that no one at the State level is doing anything to try to correct this situation. Commissioner WARREN added his concern of how this material that exceeded EPA levels becomes classified as beneficial reuse material and was able to cross state lines. Commissioner DUTT expressed his opinion that he blames DEP for their lack of monitoring and regulating.
4. Commissioner MARX added that another concern regarding Coplay Aggregates is to find out how much of this contaminate is really there – is it a truck load or more?
5. Commissioner GINDER commented on what is happening with the wall on Lehigh Street. He noticed that cement was “slimed” over a portion that is supposed to be the Township’s. Frank CLARK advised that he will look into. Commissioner GINDER also commented on Peter TERRY’s letter that he thought his report was to be on weight

restrictions. Frank CLARK explained that the information Peter provided is all part of the process of trying to get to the end result. You can't impose restrictions without having an alternative. Questions still exist as to who owns the wall.

6. Commissioner HOWER wanted to extend thanks to the Legions & VFW for the Memorial Day services that were held. He asked if there is a public address system available to be used at these events. Commissioner HOWER addressed the letter from Officer Doelp and after a brief overview from Jack MEYERS, the Board collectively agreed to his request.
7. Mayor HAKAKAL stated that he extends a job well done to the Staff involved in the Public Safety Building. The Litter Outreach resulted from the students involved in Student Gov't Day. He also noted that it was an honor to perform his 1st wedding. The Mayor was also proud to be involved with the Memorial Day celebrations.
8. Treasurer GOBER noted that May was a productive month. Business Privilege monies continue to come in.

President HOWER announced that the Board will be holding an executive session after the adjournment of the meeting.

H. ADJOURNMENT

1. MOTION – Commissioner WARREN moved, seconded by Commissioner DUTT to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.