
MINUTES

MARCH 11, 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 7:13 p.m. on Monday, February 12, 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
Robert Piligian

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL

Joseph J. Marx, Jr., Mayor
John D. Meyers, Deputy Mayor
Jack Gross, Esq., Township Solicitor
David Nelson, Fire Chief
Michael Marks, Police Chief
Frank 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.

President SLONAKER apologized for the late start due to the Board being in an Executive Session for legal matters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Regular Public Meeting – February 12, 2024

SEVEN Commissioners were present and six voted “yes” and one abstention (PILIGIAN). Motion carried.

B. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Karen Poshefko of 3303 Musselman Court reported the following from the EAC

- Bird Town Committee is at a silver lever
- Attended a We Conserve Conference and learned that doing an energy audit for energy savings which

can possibly lead to saving money.

- Can Township provide information to the residents on the what the open space referendum is.

John Kelly of 2832 Pine Cone Drive requested that in the search for a permanent fire chief the job be offered not only internally but externally as well, as it will generate a strong candidate pool along with the best ideas and vision for the future.

Andrea Hoagland of 51 Kimmet Avenue requested that the Township provide information when a resident has an issue with management who they can go to for a solution.

Susan Barthol of 3046 Birch Street verified that regular street sweeping will be done where the streets are posted. She also verified that sales people going door to door need to have a license. She next questioned the status of the old police building on Lehigh Street. Deputy Meyers advised that there were no bidders and is now working on a marketing plan. Lastly, she stated her concern with potholes at 7th & Birch Sts.

Andrew Kopack of 3763 Dogwood Drive noted the following issues:

- Removal of debris from Range Road
- Replacement of barriers at Route 145 & Lehigh Street extension
- Removal of graffiti on the IRT at the overpass by Sheetz
- IRT Trailhead parking lot paving

C. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON ORDINANCES

1. BILL NO. 7-2024

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, CHAPTER 5, CODES ENFORCEMENT, BY AMENDING THE PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL AMENDMENTS TO THE PENNSYLVANIA UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE, ARTICLE VIII, INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE, SUBSECTION 5-26, ADDITIONS, ALTERATIONS, DELETIONS, BUILDING CODES, BY REVISING CHAPTER 14, HEATING AND COOLING EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCES, SECTION M 1402, CENTRAL FURNACES, SUBSECTION M 1402.1 OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE; AND REVISING ARTICLE IV, MECHANICAL CODE, CHAPTER 9, SECTION 901, BY ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION SPECIFICALLY REGARDING OIL BURNER SHUT OFF SWITCHES.(LEGAL & LEGIS.)

President SLONAKER read Bill No. 7-2024 to the Board

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

SEVEN Commissioners were present voting “yes”. Bill No. 7-2024 was approved.

2. BILL NO. 8-2024

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2020 MACK CAB TRACTOR HEAVY HAULER FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, 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. 8-2024 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve the motion, seconded by Commissioner PILIGIAN
SEVEN Commissioners were present voting “yes”. Bill No. 8-2024 was approved.

3. BILL NO. 9-2024
TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER A29, FEES, SECTION M-6, TO PROVIDE
FOR NEW AND/OR INCREASES FEES AND/OR PENALTIES

President SLONAKER read Bill No. 9-2024 to the Board.

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

SEVEN Commissioners were present voting “yes”. Bill No. 9-2024 was approved.

4. BILL NO. 10-2024
TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP CODIFIED
ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 15, MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, TO ESTABLISH
A BRAKE RETARDER PROHIBITION ON STATE ROUTE 1017 (MAUCH CHUNK
ROAD) BETWEEN STATE ROUTE 1008 (SCHADT AVENUE) AND RURAL ROAD

President SLONAKER read Bill No. 10-2024 to the Board.

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

SEVEN Commissioners were present voting “yes”. Bill No. 10-2024 was approved.

5. BILL NO. 11-2024
TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 15, SECTION 23 OF THE CODIFIED
ORDINANCES OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL “STOP
INTERSECTIONS” AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT WHITEHALL
TOWNSHIP. (DEVELOP)

President SLONAKER read Bill No. 8-2024 to the Board.

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

SEVEN Commissioners were present voting “yes”. Bill No. 8-2024 was approved.

D. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3302
TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TOWNSHIP OF
WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING POOL PASS
RATES FOR THE YEAR 2024. (BOC)

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3302 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH

SEVEN Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3302 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 3303

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING CAMP WHITEHALL RATES FOR THE YEAR 2024. (BOC)

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3303 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner PILIGIAN

SEVEN Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3303 was approved.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 3304

TITLE: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AMOUNT OF INTEREST RETURN TO BE CREDITED TO POLICE PENSION FUND MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023. (ADMIN)

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3304 to the Board.

Commissioner ATIYEH moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SNYDER

SEVEN Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3304 was approved.

4. RESOLUTION NO. 3305

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF SPECIFIC TOWNSHIP RECORDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TOWNSHIP’S RECORD RETENTION AND DISPOSAL SCHEDULE. (ADMIN)

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3305 to the Board.

Commissioner SCARFARO moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FOX

SEVEN Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3305 was approved.

5. RESOLUTION NO. 3306

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP TO ENTER INTO A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL OF LEHIGH VALLEY ASSOCIATES AND THE PROPERTY LOCATED ON MACARTHUR ROAD AND DESIGNATED ON THE TAX MAPS OF LEHIGH COUNTY AS TAX PARCEL ID NO. 549880461887 2

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3306 to the Board.

Commissioner SCARFARO moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH

SEVEN Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3306 was approved.

6. RESOLUTION NO. 3307

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP TO ENTER INTO A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL OF LEHIGH VALLEY ASSOCIATES AND THE PROPERTY LOCATED ON RING ROAD AND DESIGNATED ON THE TAX MAPS OF LEHIGH COUNTY AS TAX PARCEL ID NO. 549890446337 1

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3307 to the Board.

Commissioner SNYDER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SCARFARO

SEVEN Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3307 was approved.

7. RESOLUTION NO. 3308

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP TO ENTER INTO A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL OF LEHIGH VALLEY ASSOCIATES AND THE PROPERTY LOCATED ON MACARTHUR ROAD AND DESIGNATED ON THE TAX MAPS OF LEHIGH COUNTY AS TAX PARCEL ID NO. 549870096195 1

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3308 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SNYDER

SEVEN Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3308 was approved.

8. RESOLUTION NO. 3309

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP TO ENTER INTO A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL OF LEHIGH VALLEY ASSOCIATES AND THE PROPERTY LOCATED ON MACARTHUR ROAD AND DESIGNATED ON THE TAX MAPS OF LEHIGH COUNTY AS TAX PARCEL ID NO. 549880461887 1

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3309 to the Board.

Commissioner SCARFARO moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner PILIGIAN

SEVEN Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3309 was approved.

9. RESOLUTION NO. 3310

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND

WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP TO ENTER INTO A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL OF LEHIGH VALLEY ASSOCIATES AND THE PROPERTY LOCATED ON MACARTHUR ROAD AND DESIGNATED ON THE TAX MAPS OF LEHIGH COUNTY AS TAX PARCEL ID NO. 549880461887 4

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3310 to the Board.

Commissioner PILIGIAN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SNYDER

SEVEN Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3310 was approved.

10. RESOLUTION NO. 3311

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP TO ENTER INTO A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL OF LEHIGH VALLEY ASSOCIATES AND THE PROPERTY LOCATED ON GRAPE STREET AND DESIGNATED ON THE TAX MAPS OF LEHIGH COUNTY AS TAX PARCEL ID NO. 549891278471 1

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3311 to the Board.

Commissioner ATIYEH moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SCARFARO

SEVEN Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3311 was approved.

11. RESOLUTION NO. 3312

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP TO ENTER INTO A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL OF LEHIGH VALLEY ASSOCIATES AND THE PROPERTY LOCATED ON MACARTHUR ROAD AND DESIGNATED ON THE TAX MAPS OF LEHIGH COUNTY AS TAX PARCEL ID NO. 549891034514 1

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3312 to the Board.

Commissioner SCARFARO moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FOX

SEVEN Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3312 was approved.

12. RESOLUTION NO. 3313

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP TO ENTER INTO A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL OF LEHIGH VALLEY ASSOCIATES AND THE PROPERTY LOCATED ON GRAPE STREET AND DESIGNATED ON THE TAX MAPS OF LEHIGH COUNTY AS TAX PARCEL ID NO. 549871957317 1

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3313 to the Board.

Commissioner SNYDER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SCARFARO

SEVEN Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3313 was approved.

E. OTHER

1. MOTION – to appoint Isaac Martinez to serve as a member of the Whitehall Township Fire Police

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH

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

2. MOTION - to approve the Addendum to Cash Management Master Agreement with TD Bank

Commissioner SCARFARO moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner WARREN

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

3. MOTION – to approve the appointment of Casey Zelena to serve on the Whitehall Township Planning Commission, term expiring December 31, 2027

Commissioner PILIGIAN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner WARREN

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

4. MOTION – to approve the appointment of Vincent Misuraca to serve on the Whitehall Township Planning Commission, term expiring December 31, 2026

Commissioner PILIGIAN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SNYDER

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

5. MOTION – to approve the appointment of LoriAnn Fehnel to serve on the Whitehall Township Traffic Impact Committee. No motion made.

6. MOTION – to approve the appointment of Michael Frana to serve on the Whitehall Township Recreation Commission, term expiring September, 30, 2024

Commissioner PILIGIAN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner WARREN

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

7. MOTION – to approve the appointment of David Willgruber to serve on the Whitehall Township Environmental Advisory Council, term expiring December 31, 2026

Commissioner ATIYEH moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SCARFARO

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

8. MOTION – to approve the appointment of Fady Salloum to serve on the Whitehall Township Environmental Advisory Council, term expiring December 31, 2026

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH

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

9. MOTION – to approve the appointment of Charles Fisher to serve on the Whitehall Township Industrial Commercial Development Authority, term expiring December 31, 2028

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SCARFARO

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner SNYDER explained that he discussed in detail the below items during the Workshop Meeting and will give a brief summary of each:

- 1 Current and future grants
 - Deferring discussion until the administration has time to go through the list and get a procedure in place.
- 2 Commercial CO’s and revision of current sidewalk legislation.
 - Feels changes to commercial co’s is needed along with curb and sidewalk deferment/waiver and suggests that these items go to L&L committee for discussion. Commissioner PILIGIAN suggested that the Planning Commission be given the opportunity to grant deferrals with an expiration date.

F. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Commissioner SNYDER questioned the fire chief position and Attorney GROSS advised it is going to be discussed in the executive session following the meeting.

Commissioner PILIGIAN thanked all for his appointment last month. Also thanked the fire department for their excellent job on the Caroline Avenue fire.

Commissioner WARREN also noted the great job of the fire department on the Caroline Avenue fire as well. He also commented on looking at expediting permits that are time sensitive ie. hot water heaters.

Commissioner ATIYEH stated that the Township is in need of seasonal employees - lifeguards, camp counselors etc. He welcomed Commissioner PILIGIAN and noted that his wealth of knowledge will be a great asset to the Board. Open House for Parks & Recreation on March 25th at Whitehall High School auditorium at 6:30pm. Lastly, great job by the Mayor and Public Works on the recent sinkhole that opened on Minnesota Drive.

Commissioner SCARFARO thanked Public Works for their diligence during the past month's storms and also thanked the residents that have been coming to the meetings and lastly, Friday was International Women's Day and gave a shout out to all the women in attendance. She also announced that Saquon Barklay is going to be back in PA since he has signed with the Eagles and noted that he does a lot for the community.

Commissioner FOX thanked all that come out as well.

Mayor MARX advised that he submitted his report and also noted that Interim Fire Chief Joseph SHAMBO was sworn in on March 7th and his record speaks for itself. He also thanked Assistant Chief BILDER and Mr. STETTLER for the great response and handling of the Carolina Avenue fire.

Frank CLARK noted that the repair process for the 72" pipe has finally started.

Treasurer KOREN noted that she forwarded her report to the Board and to let her know if there are any questions.

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

G. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Commissioner PILIGIAN moved, seconded by Commissioner SCARFARO to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 pm.