
MINUTES

MAY 11, 2020

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 11, 2020 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
Frank Clark Engineer
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 WARREN moved, seconded by Commissioner FISHER to approve the Minutes of the following meeting:

Regular Public Meeting – April 13, 2020

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

B. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Lori Ann Fehnel of 3107 N. 3rd Street questioned if there will be an extension for garbage and real estate discount period, and also asked if any businesses will be cited for going against Governor’s guidelines. Mayor HARAKAL advised that the Township has already extended the discount period for garbage and real estate and the Township will enforce the regulations as set forth by the Governor.

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

1. **BILL NO. 11-2020 (SECOND HEARING)**

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT A DEED OF RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT FOR PROPERTY DEDICATED FOR STORM WATER DRAINAGE PURPOSES. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Bill No. 11-2020 to the Board.

Commissioner SLONAKER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE. Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 11-2020 was approved.

2. **BILL NO. 15-2020**

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE DEFERRING THE REQUIRED INSTALLATION OF CURBING AND SIDEWALKS ALONG THE LEHNERT ROAD FRONTAGE OF 1401 LEHNERT ROAD FOR A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 2,250 FEET AS REQUIRED IN CHAPTER 21, SECTION 21-16 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Bill No. 15-2020 to the Board.

Commissioner SLONAKER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FISHER .

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 15-2020 was approved.

3. **BILL NO. 17-2020**

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR PURCHASE OF A ROSENBAUER AERIAL CUSTOM FIRE APPARATUS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 IN THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE. (FIRE)

President GINDER read Bill No. 17-2020 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE . Commissioner WARREN questioned whether the Firemen’s Relief Fund would be able to contribute to the cost, as well he asked since the truck has a 25 yr lifespan that it be financed for the same amount of years. Chief NELSON advised that he is not in control of the Fund, but it will be discussed at the next meeting.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting yes, Bill No. 17-2020 was approved.

F. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3096

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF 3614 LEHIGH STREET PROPOSED 5000 SF WAREHOUSE, LOCATED AT 3614 LEHIGH STREET, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, INDEX #1944-19.

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3096 to the Board.

Commissioner FISHER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE. Commissioner SLONAKER questioned if there is enough room for trucks to access the site. Lori Ann FEHNEL asked about fumes from the trucks affecting the nearby daycare Ken SNYDER advised that there is enough area for trucks as he is obtaining a HOP permit. Mr. SNYDER also noted that trucks will have to meet EPA standards regarding the fumes. Commissioner WARREN added that the Township has a non-idling Ordinance and added the type of material to construct the structure be considered.

Seven Commissioners were present and 5 voting “yes” and 2 voting “no” (SLONAKER and FISHER). Resolution No. 3096 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 3118

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO LEHIGH COUNTY FOR SECURING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS FOR THE 2020 APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3118 to the Board.

Commissioner DEE moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3118 was approved.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 3119

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE MAJOR SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT OF HOOVER, LOCATED AT 4124-4128 SPRING MILL ROAD, INDEX #1952-19. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3119 to the Board.

Commissioner ATIYEH moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner WARREN

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3119 was approved.

4. RESOLUTION NO. 3120

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF MUHLENBERG COLLEGE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL FIELDS, LOCATED AT 1401 LEHNERT ROAD, INDEX #1954-20.

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3120 to the Board.

Commissioner FISHER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER.

Commissioner Dee questioned if these were to be home or practice fields. Jim HOCKER advised they are to be home fields, but no seating is proposed at this time. He also noted that they will have to adhere to ADA regulations.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3120 was approved.

5. RESOLUTION NO. 3121

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE MAJOR SUBDIVISION PLAN OF 1058, 1064 & 1070 THIRD ST., INDEX #1960-20.

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3121 to the Board.

Commissioner FISHER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER.

Frank CLARK advised that the revised plan shows that the previously shown future gravel driveway is now going to be paved.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3121 was approved.

6. RESOLUTION NO. 3122

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF ST. LUKE’S MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING, LOCATED AT 2363 MACARTHUR ROAD, INDEX #1955-20.

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3122 to the Board.

Commissioner SLONAKER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FISHER.

David Lear of Lehigh Engineering advised that moving the grass buffer out to Schadt Avenue will be accommodated.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3122 was approved.

7. RESOLUTION NO. 3123

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE MINOR SUBDIVISION PLAN OF 4601 QUARRY ST., INDEX #1961-20.

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3123 to the Board.

Commissioner FISHER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3123 was approved.

8. RESOLUTION NO. 3124

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY CREATING A TOBACCO-FREE POLICY FOR ALL WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS AND OTHER RECREATIONAL AREAS; REPEALING PRIOR INCONSISTENT RESOLUTIONS AND PARTS OF RESOLUTIONS; PROVIDING FOR A SAVINGS CLAUSE; AND CONTAINING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (BOC)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3124 to the Board.

Commissioner DEE moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH. Commissioner WARREN questioned if the private parks were on board with this. Mayor HAKAKAL advised that all have said they would comply with the Ordinance, only Egypt has not yet made that determination.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3124 was approved.

G. OTHER

1. MOTION – to approve the reappointment of Dennis Wehr to the Plumbers Examining Board with a term expiration of 4/30/2023.

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

H. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Commissioner ATIYEH noted his concern for business owners during the pandemic and hoping there is a way to get them open following the guidelines.

Commissioner FISHER encouraged everyone to register to vote by mail to ensure safety.

Commissioner DEE noted that the Whitehall Copley Hunger Initiative -Shari Noctor and other volunteers continue to do a wonderful job providing a large amount of food to the community during this crisis.

Commissioner WARREN questioned Frank CLARK about the progress of the sidewalk connector on Mechanicsville Road. Mr. CLARK advised that the final review by PennDOT is nearly completed. Bids will be put out immediately upon completion of the reviews.

Commissioner SLONAKER questioned the MAYOR as to where recreation events stand as far as being held or cancelled. Mayor HAKAKAL advised that Camp Whitehall has been cancelled, the pool openings should be determined by May 18th. Fullerton Carnival has been postponed till later in the year and the Cementon Carnival has not been decided upon as of yet.

Commissioner GINDER thanked Zach Herb from Integra for all his work in getting these meetings off the ground and organized. The Whitehall Township Staff was also thanked for getting everything done during this unprecedented time.

Mayor HAKAKAL was hoping to announce some good news regarding where we stood in this pandemic, but after evaluating the published numbers, the Lehigh Valley still remains with a high ratio of positive numbers and is at the bottom of the list to move into a yellow phase. Local businesses are suffering and we all need to do our part to support them. The counties that are taking matters into their own hands and defying the Governor's order will suffer consequences. The Mayor also noted that the Public Service Building construction has been restarted and thanked the Board for their support.

Treasurer GOBER advised that even though she is in the office with no staff, and with the help of Jack Meyers she is getting the mail open and deposits made. She asks the residents to be patient with that at this time and also in returning phone calls, as she receives numerous calls a day.

I. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Commissioner FISHER moved, seconded by Commissioner DEE to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.