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# **MINUTES**

**APRIL 12, 2021**  
**Regular Public Meeting**

**Board of Commissioners**

**Township of Whitehall**

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**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, April 12, 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.

President GINDER stated that the Board held an Executive Session on March 11, March 15 and March 31, 2021 at CWSA meeting room for personnel and legal issues.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

Regular Public Meeting – March 8, 2021

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

**B. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

Rafael Abreu of 990 Congress Street stated his concern with traffic speed on Congress Street.

Two years ago, a car lost control and veered onto his property hitting his wife. She has just finished recuperating from her injuries. He is asking that someone look into this continued issue. Mayor HAKAL advised that the Township has a device that can monitor the speeds and will implement it at this location as soon as possible.

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

1. **BILL NO. 8-2021**

**TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR PURCHASE OF A NEW HYDRAULIC SNOWBLOWER FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS BUREAU, 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 GINDER read Bill No. 8-2021 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by FISHER Commissioner

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 8-2021 was approved.

2. **BILL NO. 9-2021**

**TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF ROADWAY AT SOUTH LEHIGH AVENUE FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS BUREAU, 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 GINDER read Bill No. 9-2021 to the Board.

Commissioner FISHER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 9-2021 was approved.

3. **BILL NO. 10-2021**

**TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 2021 DODGE CHARGER VEHICLES AND TWO (2) DODGE DURANGO VEHICLES FOR THE POLICE PATROL DIVISION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 IN THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE. (POLICE)**

President GINDER read Bill No. 10-2021 to the Board.

Commissioner MARX moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 10-2021 was

approved.

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

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3156

TITLE: A RESOLUTION FOR SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN REVISION FOR NEW LAND DEVELOPMENT OF EAGLE VIEW TOWNES, WHITEHALL PA. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3156 to the Board.

Commissioner FISHER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner WARREN.

Six Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3156 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 3157

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE MAJOR SUBDIVISION OF WHITEMAK ASSOCIATES, LOCATED AT WHITEHALL MALL, GRAPE STREET. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 317 to the Board.

Commissioner DEE moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH.

Six Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3157 was approved.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 3158

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO LEHIGH COUNTY FOR SECURING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS FOR THE 2021 APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT. (Develop)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3158 to the Board.

Commissioner DEE moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FISHER. Commissioners gave their well wishes to Officer MERTZ.

Six Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3158 was approved.

**E. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

Commissioner FISHER advised that he is working with the EAC committee on getting their FaceBook page up and running as well as getting events posted. There will be a Jordan Creek cleanup day on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> from 9-12. Also noted that the COVID vaccine has now opened up to 16 yr. old and above and pleads to get the jab!

Commissioner DEE stated the Hunger Initiative is feeding lots of people – 25% more than opening day. They are looking for people who qualify for this service, but lack transportation. He also noted that the vaccine clinic has opened on MacArthur Road at the former ACMoore.

Commissioner WARREN noted that Shari Noctor (WCHI) is planning a Children’s Summer Feeding Program for Whitehall and Coplay low income residents this summer. Shari has submitted a \$35K grant request to Lehigh County for this program and hopes to receive some funds to offset the costs, but will be doing the program regardless. WCSD will label and mail a postcard that we provide with the postage to the 500 neediest food insecure WCSD households. Marketing is already planned out – postcards, fliers for businesses/churches, etc, and yard signs. She needs everyone’s help to make sure we are in the correct locations to serve as many children as possible. Please email her areas that would be most advantageous for this program.

Commissioner ATIYEH reminded everyone that with the warm weather arriving to please be cautious when driving through residential neighborhoods. He also offered his condolences on the passing of Dominic Galluzzo, the owner of Palace Pizza. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. Also, he thanked the volunteers of the Park & Recreation Committee.

Commissioner MARX is asking to obtain prices and design on a digital marque for the Township Building for the use of public service messages. The preliminary plan is to place it along MacArthur Road. Numerous Commissioners indicated that Eberhart Road triangle may be a better area, as it has been used in the past with the portable trailer marque. Mayor HAKAL noted that the Eberhart Road property is controlled by PennDOT so they would need to give their approval. As everyone is on board with the idea, the location needs to be determined and Commissioner MARX asked that Carl LAGLER, as the Township Surveyor, research the best possible location, when his time permits. Another concern Commissioner MARX has is if any plan is being put into place to possibly hold in-person meetings in the near future. Mayor HAKAL noted that the School District has the only capabilities to fit our needs. It is something we will be looking into.

President GINDER gave kudo to Lee RACKUS for her work in putting together the Planning Commission 3 Year Report.. He asked Mayor HAKAL to see that the Recreation Commission financials and minutes be provided to the Board members. Jack MEYERS indicated the financials are done quarterly, as to little activity on the accounts. President GINDER also requested a list of the Recreation Board & Playground officers. He also questioned Mayor HAKAL on the status of opening Camp Whitehall and the pools? The Mayor indicated that progress is being made on getting applications for lifeguards and counselors. At this time, camps will take place at Cementon and Hokendauqua, with no busing being provided.

Mayor HAKAKAL advised that a new phone system has been implemented. A walk-thru of the building will be provided this week to the employees who will be temporarily relocated during the remodeling of the administration area. The Township welcomed Melanie PRIES as our new Human Resource Officer, as well as an additional police officer – Richard LLAGAS. The Recycling Event is on for this year. It will be held on the School District property. The Scheuermann Agreement is still being processed. The Adhoc Litter Committee is working on an Adopt-a-Highway program.

Treasurer GOBER stated that her department is taking in more money than last year, which is a good sign. President GINDER noted that the Board is still not receiving information as noted in the Auditor's forensic report, specifically #9. Treasurer GOBER advised she will get that to the Board.

Chris GRIM wanted to thank Commissioner MARX and Fire Chief NELSON for their assistance in obtaining for EMA a piece of equipment that will meet their needs.

The Fire Department, Fire Police and Police were thanked for their work on the LV Dairy fire last week.

Jeffrey WARREN questioned the working capabilities of the fire hydrants in that area. Mark BILDER advised that it is the property owner's responsibility to have the hydrants on that property tested and maintained. Lee RACKUS noted that the Township I notified when the Authority turns off water to any property.

***F. ADJOURNMENT***

MOTION – Commissioner FISHER moved, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.