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# **MINUTES**

**AUGUST 12, 2024**  
**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, August 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  
Mark Bilder , Fire Chief  
Michael Marks, Police Chief  
Frank J. Clark, Engineer, KCE (Absent)  
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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner ATIYEH moved, seconded by Commissioner SNYDER to approve the Minutes of the following meeting with corrections:

Regular Public Meeting – July 8, 2024

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

At this time, Recreation Director Brandon Hibbler gave a brief presentation of the summer events.

- Camp Whitehall had a successful season with 30-40 registrants along with 6 counselors and 2 Co-directors. Special thanks to Fire Chief Bilder and staff for his cooperation in having Fire Truck Fridays, every Friday was a different fire truck. Other special thanks to EAC, Action Karate, the High School Football, Softball and Field Hockey teams for their interactions with the kids this summer.
- Necessary tree work has been concluded by Witts Tree Service at certain park locations.
- Working on Mickley-Prydun Farm Phase II
- Parkway Pavilion is being completed on the inside with installation of cabinets, kitchen sink and hot water heater.

- Summer Concert Series was a huge success and thanks to Police, Fire, Fire Police, vendors, the Board Of Commissioners and Mayor for support. Looking forward to building on it for 2025.
- West Catasauqua Building getting new floors on August 26<sup>th</sup>
- Pools also had a successful season with over 600 pool passes sold. Held numerous special events that were well attended. New pool tech has been working out well.
- Fullerton Playground has received a \$80,000 grant for new playground equipment along with new benches and mulch.
- Recreation Staff, consisting of 6 employees, were busy this summer fixing lighting, fencing, basketball hoops, cleaning up trail, just to name a few.
- Brandon is working on Cindy Miles Foundation, Recreation Comprehensive Plan, budget, and 2025 programs.
- Upcoming in Recreation are: Halloween Parade on October 24<sup>th</sup>, Trick or Treat Night October 25<sup>th</sup> Historical Society Flea Market September 7<sup>th</sup> and Haunted Woods in October. Thanks for support from Mayor Marx, Jack Meyers, Lenore Brazier and Michele Dragovits.

\*Attorney Gross noted that on July 22<sup>nd</sup> the Township received two applications for Agricultural Security Areas - Location 1) 4760 Robin Street & 2) 5439 Roosevelt Street. He also noted that the applications were incomplete and no action is necessary.

**B. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

Bruce Charles of 76 Madison Lane noted the following items for consideration of the Board:

- Ordinance for hazardous trees
- Ordinance for senior citizens to opt out of such added taxes – land preservation

Andrea Hoagland of 51 Kimmet Avenue asked the status of the camera issue. She also believes an outside audit should be done on employees.

Fran Lloyd of 2011 Orchard Drive asked if monitoring of Orchard Drive can be done in that vicinity as speeding has been a long-standing issue. Mayor Marx indicated that he is working on an initiative to obtain a grant for digital speed signs. Commissioner WARREN added that individuals should reach out to the local legislators for them to pass the usage of radar by the police, as Pennsylvania is the only state that does not have that option.

Jim Corpora 3240 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue asked if police monitoring would be considered at the intersection of Center Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue as motorists frequently do not adhere to the stop signs.

Anthony Kopeck of 3763 Dogwood Drive stated that Brandon Hibbler did a great job with the summer concert series and free swims offered during the hot weather. He was disappointed that the Township did not participate in National Night Out. He questioned when the structure will be removed in the Greenway by Home Depot. Also questioned if the school district needs a permit to have non school related events on their property.

Al Gomez of 5637 N. Coplay Road stated concerns with neighbor who is not maintaining their property. Lee Rackus advised that the property owner has been notified of violations and it will proceed thru the necessary process.

Chris Nagle of 5649 N. Coplay Road also stated concerns with neighbor who is allowing a person to live in a tent on the property. Lee Rackus also advised that they have been notified as well of violations and this too will go thru the required process.

Katherine Rabenold of 2009 Orchard Drive noted that her property was the scene of the fatal accident and has costly damage to her car and has not been given any insurance information for her to contact. Mayor Marx will make sure she receives that information in a timely manner.

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

1. BILL NO. 26-2024

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE DEFERRING THE REQUIRED INSTALLATION OF SIDEWALKS FOR 310 FEET ALONG THE CENTER STREET FRONTAGE OF 3229 N. FRONT STREET AS REQUIRED IN CHAPTER 21, SECTION 21-16 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP. (DEVELOP)

President SLONAKER announced that this item was tabled due to not receiving information that was requested from the developer.

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

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3332

TITLE: A RESOLUTION GRANTING THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOKENDAUQUA REQUEST FOR A WAIVER OF FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE FILING OF A SIGN PERMIT APPLICATION FOR 3005 S. FRONT STREET, WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP.

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3332 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner PILIGIAN

SEVEN Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3332 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 3333

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP TO ENTER INTO A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL OF ADP HOSPITALITY LLC AND THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1500 MACARTHUR ROAD (ADMIN/BOC)

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3333 to the Board.

Commissioner ATIYEH moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SCARFARO

SEVEN Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3333 was approved.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 3334

TITLE: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING A PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMONWEALTH FINANCE AUTHORITY MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION FUND GRANT FOR THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP CURB RAMP IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3334 to the Board.

Commissioner SCARFARO moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner PILIGIAN

SEVEN Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3334 was approved.

***E. OTHER***

**MOTIONS**

1. MOTION - to approve the appointment of Anthony Molchany to the Whitehall Township Industrial Commercial Development Authority with term expiring on December 31, 2029.

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

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Status of Old Police Station (K. Snyder)  
Rebid scheduled for 3 days. New sign was made for the property and more inquiries have been made as a result.
2. Updating of Website (K. Snyder)  
Discussion held during workshop covered concern and also to note this was more about IT concerns. Updating of EAC page was asked and that can be completed in house.
3. West Catasauqua Playground Pavilion Access Ramp/Walkways (J. Warren/K. Snyder)  
Frank CLARK is working with Recreation Director HIBBLER on a plan.
4. Temporary Sign Ordinance Revisions (K Snyder)  
Commissioner SNYDER is asking that an ordinance be drawn up to temporarily remove the temporary sign regulations, while revising the current regulations. Attorney Gross and Lee Rackus advised against that process and instead will work jointly with Commissioner Snyder on revising the Ordinance and hopefully have a draft within the next month or two.

***F. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS***

Commissioner SNYDER utilized his time for review of discussion items.

Commissioner PILIGIAN stated he attended the last IRT meeting and they are asking for the bag house to be preserved. He unfortunately missed the EAC due to a work commitment. He asked Deputy Mayor Meyers to provide a breakdown of the costs for the Pavilion. Lastly, he wanted to bring to light a developing rodent problem in certain areas of the Township. State and County have been contacted but have not come up with any means to help fund a solution.

Commissioner WARREN also noted that the summer concert series was well attended and a great job by Brandon Hibbler.

Commissioner ATIYEH noted the great job Brandon is doing as full time Rec Director. He also noted the sad events that happened the past week and asked that the families and first responders be kept in everyone's thoughts and prayers.

Commissioner SCARFARO commended Brandon for the success of the summer concert series

Commissioner FOX thanked residents for coming to the meetings.

Commissioner SLONAKER was impressed with the attendance of the summer concert series and was glad it was a success.

Mayor MARX gave an overview of his Report:

- Commended Police and Fire personnel with their efforts this past week on the two fatal accidents on Orchard Drive and Spring Ridge Apts and the 5<sup>th</sup> Street fire.
- Thanked Senator Miller and Representative McNeill with their support of successfully switching the LSA grant from the purchase of foam trailer to a crack sealing machine
- Senator Miller also provided a \$80,000 grant to the Township for the purchase of playground equipment for Jefferson St. Playground
- Representative McNeill provided a \$50,000 grant to our Police Department
- Chief Bilder was successful in obtaining a \$400,000 grant for air packs for his department
- Gave kudos to the Public Works Department on the paving work that has been done this summer
- Noted that an active shooter drill was held at the LV Mall this past Sunday and was impressed with all the departments that participated.
- Lastly, working with Dr. Steckel and the school board to approve a tax abatement for firefighters

Treasurer KOREN advised she passed out a Business Priviledge process sheet to show that there is a process in place. The office picked up 494 new landlords this year. Monthly report was sent out previously.

President SLONAKER announced that the Board had an executive session for legal matters on August 5, 2024.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION – Commissioner SCARFARO moved, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 pm.