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# **MINUTES**

## **JULY 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, July 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 (Absent)  
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 (Absent)  
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 advised that there was an Executive Session of the Board held on June 16, 2021 at the Coplay Whitehall Sewer Authority regarding legal and personnel issues.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner ATIYEH moved, seconded by Commissioner MARX to approve the Minutes of the following meeting:

Regular Public Meeting – June 14, 2021

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

### **B. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

Lori Ann Fehnel of 3107 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street addressed the Board with her concern of the increased usage of fireworks. She asked that additional manpower be used on holidays such as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Commissioner DEE advised that numerous local legislators, including Rep. McNeill,

recently introduced Bill 988 (Repeal of the Legalization of Fireworks).

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

1. **BILL NO. 21-2021 (FIRST HEARING)**

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 27 (ZONING), ARTICLE VII (DEFINITIONS AND LIMITATIONS USES), ARTICLE IX (SCHEDULE OF PERMITTED, ACCESSORY, SPECIAL EXCEPTION AND CONDITIONAL USES), ARTICLE XVI (DEFINITIONS OF WORDS), TO REDUCE THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF OUTDOOR COMMERCIAL COOKING OPERATIONS IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS.

President GINDER read Bill No. 21-2021  
No action taken.

2. **BILL NO. 22-2021**

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7 (FIRE PREVENTION AND FIRE PROTECTION), ARTICLE VI (DESIGNATED OFFICIAL; INSPECTIONS), SECTION 39 (IMMEDIATE FIRE OR OTHER SAFETY HAZARD), TO PROVIDE LANGUAGE ALLOWING FOR THE EMERGENCY DEMOLITION OF A BUILDING OR STRUCTURE DETERMINED TO BE AN IMMEDIATE FIRE OR SAFETY HAZARD.

President GINDER read Bill No. 22-2021 to the Board.

Commissioner FISHER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE. President GINDER verified with Attorney Jack GROSS that legal fees can be recovered.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 22-2021 was approved.

3. **BILL NO. 23-2021**

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE JEFFERSON PLAYGROUND COMMUNITY BUILDING ROOF FOR THE RECREATION BUREAU OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, BID 2021-07 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE (RECREATION)

President GINDER read Bill No. 23-2021 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER.

President GINDER verified with Deputy Mayor Jack MEYERS the successful bidder was Alan Kunsman Roofing & Siding in the amount of \$41,750.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 23-2021 was approved.

4. BILL NO. 24-2021 (FIRST HEARING)  
TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER I, PART 8 ARTICLE XXXVI OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES, SPECIFICALLY AS IT PERTAINS TO THE TOWNSHIP'S HARASSMENT POLICY (ADMINISTRATION)

President GINDER read Bill No. 24-2021 to the Board.  
No action taken.

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

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3165  
TITLE: A RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING FUNDS WITHIN THE GENERAL FUND AND LIQUID FUELS FUND TO PROVIDE FOR APPROPRIATIONS TO MEET UNANTICIPATED CURRENT FISCAL YEAR EXPENSES CONSTITUTING BUDGET TRANSFER 2021-01 (ADMIN)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3165 to the Board.

Commissioner DEE moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner MARX. President GINDER thanked Jack MEYERS for putting the support information together for this Resolution. Seven Commissioners were present and voting "yes". Resolution No. 3165 was approved.

**F. OTHER**

1. MOTION – to approve the release of escrow for completed and withdrawn projects, per Deputy Mayor MEYERS memo dated July 2, 2021

Seven Commissioners were present and voted "yes". Motion carried.

At this time, President GINDER thanked Jack MEYERS for the work he put into the 6 month report that he had requested.

**G. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

Commissioner ATIYEH asked to revisit the traffic issue that was discussed at a previous Board meeting at Pennsylvania & Congress Streets. Chief MARKS indicated that this location is difficult to set up the VASCAR system as there are no cross streets to do so. It is on a list for the traffic unit to monitor periodically. The Chief also suggested calling state representatives to support the radar bill.

Commissioner DEE thanked everyone that helped at the Recycling Event held on June 26<sup>th</sup>. He noted that there were 445 televisions, 518 electric devices and over 100 computers brought. Commissioner DEE also noted that the West Catasauqua Senior

Center grand re-opening and 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary was Sunday July 11<sup>th</sup>. The Center offers many activities such as yoga, stretching, strength training and bingo! President GINDER added to thank the school district for the use of the Middle School parking area.

Commissioner WARREN reiterated thanks for the help at the Recycling Event and wanted to mention the 20 high school volunteers that helped out as well. He also noted that the Senate passed the radar bill with a vote of 49-1. The Bill does set safeguards and thresholds to guard against entrapment.

Commissioner FISHER questioned Frank CLARK on a sinkhole repair on Lehigh Street and how PennDOT is handling the protection of that area from motorists. Mr. CLARK advised he is aware that PennDOT has had an ongoing issue there and because of it being a State Route, the Township hands are tied as to involvement. Commissioner FISHER also noted his concern of the DELTA variant numbers rising making it more important to get vaccinated.

Commissioner MARX commented that even though there was trimming done along S. Church Street, the site distance is still an issue at Chestnut Street. Frank CLARK advised he will make a phone call first thing tomorrow.

President GINDER asked Frank CLARK the status of Mechanicsville Road sidewalks Mr. CLARK advised has to check with attorney. President GINDER gave a big thank you to Jack MEYERS for working quickly in getting Public Works a pickup truck after one theirs became unusable, and to Chief MARKS as well, as he gave up a pickup truck from his fleet of vehicles. Mechanicsville Road sidewalks he has to check with attorney.

***H. ADJOURNMENT***

MOTION – Commissioner FISHER moved, seconded by Commissioner Atiyeh to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.