
MINUTES

APRIL 13, 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, April 13, 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 (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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Regular Public Meeting – March 9, 2020

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

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

Special Public Meeting – March 27, 2020

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

B. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

No questions submitted.

C. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON ORDINANCES

1. BILL NO. 11-2020 (FIRST 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.

2. BILL NO. 12-2020

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR PERFORMANCE OF RECONSTRUCTION OF SPECIFIED SECTIONS OF COPLAY ROAD FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS BUREAU OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, BID 2019-04 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE. (PUBLIC WORKS)

President GINDER read Bill No. 12-2020 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 12-2020 was approved.

3. BILL NO. 13-2020

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR RETROFITTING OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR VEHICLES PURCHASED 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. 13-2020 to the Board.

Commissioner MARX moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FISHER.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting yes, Bill No. 13-202 was approved.

4. BILL NO. 14-2020

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE DEFERRING THE REQUIRED INSTALLATION OF SIDEWALKS ALONG THE QUARRY STREET FRONTAGE OF 3434 N. FRONT STREET FOR A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 190 FEET AS REQUIRED IN CHAPTER 21, SECTION 21-16 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER advised that this item was tabled at the request of the Engineer.

F. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3113

TITLE: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AMOUNT OF INTEREST RETURN TO BE CREDITED TO POLICE PENSION FUND MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019. (ADMIN)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3113 to the Board.

Commissioner SLONAKER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3113 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 3114

TITLE: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RETIREMENT AND THE COMMENCEMENT OF MONTHLY PENSION BENEFITS TO FORMER POLICE LIEUTENANT BRUCE SOMERS. (ADMIN)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3114 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FISHER.

Commissioner MARX thanked Lieutenant SOMMERS for his years of service and wished him well.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3114 was approved.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 3115

TITLE: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RETIREMENT AND THE COMMENCEMENT OF MONTHLY PENSION BENEFITS TO FORMER POLICE OFFICER TIMOTHY DUGAN. (ADMIN)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3115 to the Board.

Commissioner MARX moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE.

Commissioner MARX thanked Officer DUGAN for his years of service and wished him well.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3115 was approved.

4. RESOLUTION NO. 3116

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDED SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (BOC)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3116 to the Board.

Commissioner DEE moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner WARREN.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3116 was approved.

5. RESOLUTION NO. 3117

TITLE: A RESOLUTION FOR SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN REVISION FOR NEW LAND DEVELOPMENT OF IMPERIAL REALTY PROPERTY GROUP, LLC. LOCATED AT 1942 SCHADT AVE., WHITEHALL PA. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3117 to the Board.

Commissioner FISHER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3117 was approved.

G. OTHER

1. MOTION – to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Whitehall Police Bargaining Unit and Whitehall Township.

Commissioner MARX questioned if everything is in order. Deputy Mayor MEYERS indicated the negotiations were a give and take and that the Agreement will benefit the Township in the future.

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

2. MOTION – to endorse and authorize the Mayor of Whitehall Township to delay the Real Estate Discount Period and the Collection of Garbage Fees. (BOC)

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

H. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

President GINDER stated thanks to the Mayor, Jack Meyers, Attorney Gross, Larissa Bruder and Zach Herb of Integra for making this virtual meeting happen.

Commissioner ATIYEH also thanked everyone still working and wished everyone well and to stay safe.

Commissioner FISHER wished to thank everyone who put the meeting together and noted a few items to make the next meeting an easier one.

Commissioner DEE echoed President GINDER's remarks and also noted that the Whitehall Copley Hunger Initiative -Shari Noctor and other volunteers provided a large amount of food to the community during the last few weeks and any donations can be dropped off at the Whitehall ReMax office. He also thanked Commissioner WARREN for volunteering with this project and to the general public for their generosity.

Commissioner WARREN noted that the Hunger Initiative is such a great event for the community and was an honor to volunteer. Also noted was the passing of Gerald Fabian who served as a Commissioner for 20 years. Commissioner WARREN also thanked Susan WILD for her letter of support for the Firefighter Grant.

Commissioner SLONAKER thanked everyone involved in getting the meeting coordinated.

Commissioner MARX also thank Chief's MARKS and NELSON, John RACKUS and his staff and all Bureau Chief's and staff who are here keeping the Township functioning.

Commissioner GINDER gave his condolences to the Fabian Family on the passing of Gerald Fabian who served as a Commissioner for 20 years back in the 70's and 80's.

Mayor HAKAL stated that this past month has been a trying one. All municipalities are trying to figure out how to get through this horrific experience. The Mayor believes everyone will come out of this stronger as many more people are working together. He thanked the Board for supporting the State of Emergency Enactment along with extending the real estate and garbage discount periods. Mayor also passed along his condolences to the Fabian family.

I. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Commissioner MARX moved, seconded by Commissioner WARREN to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.