
MINUTES

January 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, January 13, 2020, in the Public Meeting Room of the Whitehall Township Municipal Building, 3219 MacArthur Road, Whitehall, PA, 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

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 moment of silence for our troops serving home and abroad.

President GINDER read the statement on fair housing as required.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Regular Public Meeting – December 9, 2019

Six Commissioners were present and four voted “yes” and two abstained (FISHER & ATIYEH). Motion carried.

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

Reorganizational Meeting – January 6, 2020

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

**B. OATH OF OFFICE
POLICE OFFICERS – ALEXANDER REINIK & KEVIN SELL**

Chief MARKS had the pleasure of introducing the 2 newest members of the Whitehall Police Department. On July 1, 2019, Alexander Reinik and Kevin Sell started their careers with the Department. After 24 weeks of Police Academy training, they stand before the Board to take their Oath of Office. Alexander Reinik comes to the Department via the Lehigh County Jail where he worked as a Sergeant and also a member of the United States Marine Corp., where he served our country with distinction. Kevin Sell attended Kutztown University where is was a stand-out in the classroom as well as on the baseball diamond. Both Officers have been assigned to the Field Training Program where they will learn additional skills to patrol the streets of Whitehall Township. Chief MARKS further welcomed the REINIK and SELL families to the Whitehall Township police family. This is not always easy for family members, but know you always have someone here to lean on during tough times and to celebrate the good times. The oath that Officers REINIK and SELL are about to take is a solemn oath and one that is a foundation behind the badge and also the duties that they swear to protect and serve the community. At this time, Chief MARKS requests that Ms. BRUDER perform the oaths of office and asks Mayor HAKAKAL to present the badge of office to Alexander REINIK and Kevin SELL. Police Officers REINIK & SELL were sworn in by Notary Public Larissa BRUDER. Mayor HAKAKAL handed the badge to Officer REINIK’S son and Officer SELL’s mother to pin on them.

C. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Joni TEDESCO of 424 4th Street voiced her concern regarding the diagonal parking on Pershing Boulevard for St. Elizabeth’s Church. She finds it difficult on Sunday’s to traverse that roadway as passing through is restricted.

Tony STRUSS of 4209 Bridge Street stated his displeasure on the status of the completion of Bridge Street and the inconvenience he has been experiencing with having to take his toters to Reliance Street, noise and not being able to see out his windows because of being so dirty. Frank CLARK was instructed by the Board to take care of getting this issues corrected as soon as possible.

D. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON ORDINANCES

1. BILL NO. 62-2019

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE FOR THE ACQUISITION BY DEED IN LIEU OF CONDEMNATION OF 2381 SQUARE FEET (0.055 ACRES) OF PROPERTY OF WILLIAM DINBOKOWITZ, ET AL., HAVING AN ADDRESS OF 3630 MECHANICSVILLE ROAD, WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY, PA (BEING TAX PARCEL ID #549827364102 1) FOR WIDENING OF MECHANICSVILLE ROAD (S.R. 1012), FOR SUBSEQUENT CONVEYANCE TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION) AND FOR COMPLETION OF CERTAIN IMPROVEMENTS ON THE IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT PROPERTY OF DINBOKOWITZ, ET AL., AND FOR DETERMINATION OF ANY COMPENSATION PAYABLE IN CONNECTION THEREWITH. (ADMIN/BOC)

President GINDER advised that this item was being tabled to obtain further information.

2. BILL NO. 1-2020

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE DEFERRING THE REQUIRED INSTALLATION OF CURBING AND SIDEWALKS ALONG THE MECHANICSVILLE ROAD FRONTAGE OF 3937 MECHANICSVILLE ROAD FOR A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 80 FEET, AS REQUIRED IN CHAPTER 21, SECTION 21-16 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Bill No. 1-2020 to the Board.

Commissioner FISHER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner MARX.

Commissioner MARX verified the location of this request.

Six Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 1-2020 was approved.

3. BILL NO. 2-2020

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE DEFERRING THE REQUIRED INSTALLATION OF CURBING AND SIDEWALKS ALONG THE SOUTH CHURCH AND COLUMBIA STREET FRONTAGES OF 3585 SOUTH CHURCH STREET FOR A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 1,850 FEET (S. CHURCH) AND 650 FEET (COLUMBIA ST.) AS REQUIRED IN CHAPTER 21, SECTION 21-16 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Bill No. 2-2020 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner MARX.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the engineer asking for the deferral due to lack of pedestrian traffic in that area and existing stormwater issues. Board members expressed that with the number of potential employees, they felt these employees would take advantage of the Weis and Dunkin Doughnuts on Columbia Street and that some form access should be provided. Mayor HAKAKAL suggested sidewalks on Columbia extended to MacArthur Road. It was suggested that they come back with a revised deferral request.

Six Commissioners were present and six voting “no”. Bill No. 2-2020 was denied.

G. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3091

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE MINOR SUBDIVISION PLAN OF TERRY L. BOSSARD, LOCATED AT 3937 MECHANICSVILLE ROAD, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, INDEX #1945-19. (DEV)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3091 to the Board.

Commissioner MARX moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner

ATIYEH.

Six Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3091 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 3093

TITLE: A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING FRANK S. KREMPASKY TO SERVE ON THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BUILDING CODE BOARD OF APPEALS. (BOC)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3093 to the Board.

Commissioner SLONAKER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FISHER.

Six Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3093 was approved.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 3094

TITLE: A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING LOUIS A. JANY TO SERVE ON THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP ZONING HEARING BOARD. (BOC)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3094 to the Board.

Commissioner MARX moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner WARREN.

Six Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3094 was approved.

4. RESOLUTION NO. 3095

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF BT (PA) QRS12-25 INC. PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL WAREHOUSE FACILITY, LOCATED AT 3585 S. CHURCH STREET, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, INDEX #1930-19.

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3095 to the Board.

Commissioner FISHER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner MARX.

President GINDER advised that an additional letter from Benchmark dated 1/10/2020 will be added as an attachment to the Resolution.

Commissioner WARREN questioned whether there will be a pull-off area of Southbound turn lane for the trucks coming to the site. Traffic Engineer advised that going by PennDOT standards, neither are required. Commissioner WARREN also asked about any proposed lighting at the intersection of S. Church & Columbia. Traffic Engineer advised they can review the crash data and evaluate if lighting there is appropriate. Commissioner MARX questioned how all traffic will be made to use S. Church Street and not Columbia St. The Traffic Engineer stated that improvements made to MacArthur Road (longer turning lane) will generate GPS

taking the trucks on the path of least resistance. Commissioner SLONAKER questioned if trucks will stack out onto S. Church St. Engineer stated that the trucks will be internally contained.

Six Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3095 was approved.

H. OTHER

1. **MOTION** – to approve the re-appointment of Stanley Wimmer to the Whitehall Township Authority with the term expiring 12/31/2024.

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

2. **MOTION** – to approve the re-appointment of Robert Piligian to the Whitehall Township Planning Commission with the term expiring 12/31/2023.

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

3. **MOTION** – to approve the re-appointment of Robin Ruhmel to the Whitehall Township Planning Commission with the term expiring 12/31/2023.

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

4. **MOTION** – to approve the re-appointment of Boyd Kreglow to the Whitehall Township Tax Appeals Board with the term expiring 12/31/2022.

Six Commissioners were present and six voted “yes”. Motion Carried.

At this time, another resident asked to approach the Board. Anne CHICKILLY of 3328 N. Front Street advised the Board of numerous accidents that have occurred on a stretch of N. Front Street in Hokendauqua from Lehigh Street to Hokendauqua Street. Her car has been hit 3 times and a neighbor – Robert Hartner has had four trucks totaled in 10 years. They are requesting a stop sign at some point along N. Front Street. Lieutenant Bealer advised that Ms. CHICKILLY should fill out a traffic control request and they will take a look at the crash history and also do a traffic study once their equipment that is in the budget to be replaced is purchased and received. Carol MAHONEY of 3326 N. Front Street added that her car as well was hit and totaled. Asking for something to be done to stop these incidents.

I. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Commissioner WARREN advised of an accident on Mechanicsville Road with a car pulling out of McDonald’s and getting t-boned by a vehicle using the hashed lane and asked if something could be placed in that lane that still could allow an emergency vehicle to utilize it.

Commissioner FISHER wanted to say that it's an honor, pleasure and privilege to be serving on the Board. He stated that Mario SPAGNOLETTI is an inspiration for all his years of service to the Township and hope we can get more people to volunteer.

Commissioner SLONAKER asked the Mayor if he's been notified of a tank leak and forwarded a document to him for reference. He also stated that he's glad to have two new faces on board and is sure they will do their best.

Commissioner MARX welcomed both Commissioner FISHER and ATIYEH.

Commissioner ATIYEH stated that Whitehall is home to him and thanked the residents as well as the Board for welcoming him.

Mayor HAKAKAL noted that in light of losing 3 good people we have replacements that one is an assistant principle and the other is a molecular biologist and welcome them with their younger perspective. He also noted that he participated in the Wreaths Across America event which was inspiring and asks that others get involved and hope that it expands into the neighboring cemetery.

Treasurer GOBER noted that her office is closing out 2019.

President GINDER stated that an executive session will be held on legal and personnel matters.

J. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Commissioner FISHER moved, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.