
MINUTES

JULY 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, July 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
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 FISHER moved, seconded by Commissioner DEE to approve the Minutes of the following meeting:

Regular Public Meeting – June 8, 2020

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

B. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Lori Ann Fehnel of 3107 N. 3rd Street thanked the Police Dept for handling a neighborhood situation during the July 4th Holiday.

C. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON ORDINANCES

1. BILL NO.19-2020

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR PERFORMANCE OF MICROSURFACING TYPE A SINGLE APPLICATION FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS BUREAU OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, BID 2020-02 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) John F. Gross, Esq., Solicitor

President GINDER read Bill No. 19-2020 to the Board.

Commissioner MARX moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE. Seven Commissioners were present and 7 voting yes. Bill No. 19-2020 was approved.

2. BILL NO. 20-2020

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 2020 CDBG HC RAMPS CONCRETE CURB AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS IN WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, CONTRACT NO. 2020-05 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 IN THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Bill No. 20-2020 to the Board.

Commissioner FISHER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE. Seven Commissioners were present and 7 voting yes. Bill No. 20-2020 was approved.

3. BILL NO. 21-2020

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, COUNTY OF LEHIGH, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, SETTING FORTH STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, PURSUANT TO THE FIRST CLASS TOWNSHIP CODE, DEFINING TERMS, ESTABLISHING THE DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSION GOVERNING PROMOTION WITHIN THE BUREAU OF POLICE DETERMINING EXAMINATION PROTOCOLS AND CREATION OF ELIGIBILITY LISTS. (CSC/ADMIN)

President GINDER read Bill NO. 21-2020 to the Board.

Lengthy discussion ensued with Commissioner SLONAKER and President GINDER voicing concerns regarding the Bill's wording being too general and not specifying a salary. Both Commissioners felt it was in the best interest to hold off on voting until the Civil Service Commission met. The original motion by Commissioner MARX to approve and the second by Commissioner ATIYEH were Withdrawn. After additional input from Police Chief MARKS and Mayor HARAKAL the members reinstated their motions.

Commissioner MARX moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH.

Seven Commissioners were present and 5 voting yes and 2 voting no (GINDER & SLONAKER). Bill No. 21-2020 was approved.

4. BILL NO. 22-2020

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2021 MACK GR64BR CAB AND CHASSIS TANDEM AXLE DUMP TRUCK FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS BUREAU OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, 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)

F. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3126

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF THE NEW K-1 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR THE WHITEHALL COPLAY SCHOOL DISTRICT, LOCATED AT 2940 ACARTHUR ROAD, INDEX #1947-19.

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3126 to the Board.

Commissioner DEE moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH .

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3126 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 3127

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF THE NEW K-1 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR THE WHITEHALL COPLAY SCHOOL DISTRICT, LOCATED AT 2940 ACARTHUR ROAD, INDEX #1947-19.

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3127 to the Board.

Commissioner FISHER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DEE .

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3127 was approved.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 3128

TITLE: A RESOLUTION FOR SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN REVISION FOR NEW LAND DEVELOPMENT OF SPECTRUM HOMES LOCATED AT 3614 LEHIGH ST., WHITEHALL PA. (DEVELOP)

President GINDER read Resolution No. 3128 to the Board.

Commissioner GINDER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner MARX .

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3128 was approved.

G. OTHER

1. MOTION – to approve the release of escrow for completed and withdrawn projects, per Deputy Mayor MEYERS memo dated June 24, 2020.

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

2. MOTION – to approve the appointment of Douglas Wiltraut to the Environmental Advisory Council, with a term to expire 12/31/23.

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

H. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Commissioner WARREN questioned if the Board wants to see sidewalk along MacArthur Road on the school district development. It was the consensus that an Ordinance be drafted for review by the Board.

Commissioner FISHER even though the areas residence have been doing a great job but now that the phases have progressed to having more people out in public, he wants to emphasize to keep wearing masks and social distancing so that our numbers don't get worse as have happened in other states.

Commissioner DEE stressed that in light of the recent vehicles he urged people to pay attention and follow the rules of the road. He also stressed that mask wearing is being done, but to urge people to wear them effectively by covering the mouth and nose. He also noted that the Whitehall Copley Hunger Initiative -Shari Noctor and other volunteers continue to do a wonderful job and listed some items that the initiative is in need of.

Commissioner SLONAKER is in agreement with taking all the necessary precautions during the pandemic.

Commissioner GINDER made a statement that an Executive Session was held regarding legal issues on June 15, 2020 at 6:00pm with the attendance of all Board Members, Mayor HAKAKAL, Deputy Mayor Jack MEYERS and Attorney Jack GROSS. Commissioner GINDER questioned the status of the solar panels being donated by CWSA. Mayor HAKAKAL advised that it is definitely being considered to see where they can be utilized. Commissioner GINDER thanked the Fire Chief for submitted his Fire Report totals. He also questioned when the Fireman's Relief Meeting is held. Fire Chief NELSON advised it is on the 4th Tuesday of each month and the location varies and he will find out the location of the next meeting.

Mayor HAKAKAL stated that we all need to advocate mask wearing, hand sanitizing and social distancing so that we don't end up like other states that have seen a rise in numbers and that have had restrictions elevated.

Treasurer GOBER thanked the residents of the Township for paying taxes during the COVID crisis and the office is back to being fully staffed.

I. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Commissioner DEE moved, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m.