

---

# **MINUTES**

**JUNE 13, 2022**  
**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, June 13, 2022 held at the Coplay Whitehall Sewer Authority, with the following in attendance:

**COMMISSIONERS**

Joseph J. Marx, Jr., President  
Philip J. Ginder, Vice President  
Thomas Slonaker, Secretary  
Jeffrey J. Warren  
Charles G. Fisher  
Randy Atiyeh  
Andy Roman

**TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL**

Michael P. Harakal, Jr., Mayor  
John D. Meyers, Deputy Mayor  
Samuel Cohen, Esq.,  
Acting Township Solicitor  
Michael Marks, Police Chief  
Frank Clark, Engineer, KCE  
Lee Rackus, PZ&D  
Tina J. Koren, Tax Collector  
Larissa Bruder, Executive Secretary

President MARX read the statement on fair housing as required.

The meeting was formally opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence will follow to honor our men and women in uniform and our first responders and the people of Ukraine.

President MARX noted that an Executive Session was held on June 6, 2022 at the Coplay Whitehall Sewer Authority following the Workshop Meeting regarding legal issues.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

Regular Public Meeting – May 9, 2022

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

- \*At this time, Chief Michael MARKS promoted Sgt. Jeff BRUCHAK to Lieutenant. Chief MARKS commented that Lt. BRUCHAK is a leader and takes pride in teaching younger officers. During his 22 years of service Lt. BRUCHAK received four commendations for meritorious service and one commendation for life service.

Chief MARKS stated the Lt. BRUCHAK will be taking over this position due to Lt. James LUCAS's retirement. Lt. LUCAS has served the Township for over 31 years and was highly regarded by the Chief and fellow officers.

**B. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

Ken SNYDER of 4272 Abigail Lane addressed the Board with a few questions and concerns: He would like to be advised how he, as a resident, would go about getting items placed on the agenda. He also would like to know the outcome of the LVPC seat and also questioned how the Township is now going about collecting Business Privilege Tax as bills were never sent out as they were in the past. President MARX and Commissioner SLONAKER stated that the Board's Agenda is structured mainly for voting on and approving ordinances and resolutions. There are many areas where administrative items can be addressed, such as courtesy of the flooring or during the Commissioners, Mayor or Treasurer report. President MARX advised that the County has not yet voted on the nomination of Commissioner GINDER for the citizen's vacancy. Treasurer KOREN explained that there was confusion in the process for sending out the Business Privilege Tax forms. She is in the process of vetting a very outdated list of 20,000 businesses and plans to have it corrected and forms mailed out within the next few weeks.

Michael MADDEN of 2102 Lincoln Avenue explained sinkhole issues that have occurred along Bridge Street (W. Catasauqua area) and that there are still no storm drains off the side streets (1<sup>st</sup> & Lehigh Avenues) and asked for the Board's support in getting PennDOT to address this issue. Mr. Madden submitted a letter from PennDOT dated August 25, 2021 for their review.

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

1. BILL NO. 13-2022

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR WEATHERPROOFING AND STRUCTURAL PRESERVATION RENOVATIONS TO THE PRYDUN FARM BUILDINGS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 IN THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE. (RECREATION)

President MARX read Bill No. 13-2022 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FISHER.

Lengthy discussion ensued with concerns from Commissioners Roman, Ginder and Marx regarding the vision for this property. Commissioner Ginder asked that the Board be provided a plot plan of this property showing all existing buildings and what is proposed to be added. Commissioner Warren reiterated the historic background and grants that have been obtained for the project this far and the importance of retaining and refurbishing this property. Michael DEE was also present as a member of the Prydun Farm Committee and shadowed Commission WARREN's comment of the importance of retaining this property due to the historic background.

Seven Commissioners were present with six voting "yes" and one (ROMAN) voting "no". Bill No. 13-2022 was approved.

2. BILL NO. 16-2022 (Second Hearing)  
TITLE: AN ORDINANCE OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ELECTING TO AMEND ITS NON-UNIFORM PENSION PLAN ADMINISTERED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT LAW; AGREEING TO BE BOUND BY ALL PROVISIONS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT LAW AS AMENDED AND AS APPLICABLE TO MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES. IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY.

President MARX read Bill No. 16-2022 to the Board.

Commissioner GINDER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 16-2022 was approved.

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

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3203  
TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP TO AMEND THE CHAPTER A29-1 FEE SCHEDULE TO PERMIT THE APPLICATION OF LATE FEES.

President MARX read Resolution No. 3203 to the Board.

Commissioner GINDER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FISHER.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3203 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 3204  
TITLE: A RESOLUTION FOR SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN REVISION FOR NEW LAND DEVELOPMENT AT 2409 MACARTHUR ROAD – WHITEHALL PLAZA, WHITEHALL PA. (DEVELOP)

President MARX read Resolution No. 3204 to the Board.

Commissioner GINDER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3204 was approved.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 3205

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

President MARX read Resolution No. 3205 to the Board.

Commissioner SLONAKER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FISHER.

The Board thanked Lt. LUCAS for his years of service and wished him well. Chief MARKS noted that Lt. LUCAS was one of the most diligent, hardworking and upstanding officers he has worked with and will be sad to see him go.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3205 was approved.

**OTHER**

1. MOTION - to approve Ian Stoudt of Keystone Consulting Engineers as the alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer.

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

**F. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

Commissioner ROMAN advised he attended a recent school board meeting along with Treasurer KOREN and addressed their Board with his concerns of them possibly outsourcing tax collection. He also was not aware the Township had a comprehensive plan and requested a copy. He also stated that within our own organization, he would like to see uncompleted items taken care of, more accountability and being more focused, goal orientated and professional.

Commissioner FISHER noted that Tanner Lily has completed his Eagle Scout Project and thanked Deputy Mayor MEYERS for helping to facilitate funding for these projects. He also advised that he has reached out to scout/cub masters to stay connected. They are also reconnecting with schools since that had stopped when the pandemic started. It was nice to see the amount of people who attended the numerous ceremonies for Memorial Day. He also congratulated Commissioner ATIYEH on the birth of his son.

Commissioner GINDER asked Jack Meyers that status of the building punch list. Deputy Mayor MEYERS noted that most of the items have been completed, the main item being the audio/visual

components have been approved by the architect and should be delivered by July 15<sup>th</sup>. He also advised that the handicap access (push buttons for the front doors) are now functioning. Air conditioning is functioning but needs to be fine-tuned. Commissioner GINDER requested a monthly update to the list. Commissioner GINDER asked Frank CLARK the status of the Mechanicsville Road sidewalk. Mr. CLARK advised that PennDOT asked for a revised r/w drawing and that will be provided by end of week. Commissioner GINDER asked the Mayor the status of the Recreation Comprehensive Plan. The Mayor indicated he received a list of companies from Scott Cope which needs to be forwarded to the committee. Commissioner GINDER asked that a meeting get organized to keep this project moving forward. Commissioner GINDER noted that the IRT is losing volunteers and the upkeep is becoming harder, in turn he is asking that coordination be made between remaining volunteers and Township for areas of maintenance. He asked Deputy Mayor MEYERS to have auditors that do audits for the Township give a presentation of their finding at a public meeting. Lastly, he asked Frank CLARK if the Lehigh Avenue wall has been checked for any movement. Mr. CLARK advised that it is on a schedule for that to be done, but he will have it checked.

Commissioner SLONAKER advised that there was a discussion held with representatives from Cetronia Ambulance due to concerns with wait times. Monthly reports are going to be furnished showing this information. President MARX commented that another ALS unit may be provided if necessary and they are working on increasing staffing. Commissioner SLONAKER questioned Frank CLARK on the washout that occurred on S. Church Street (Taylor Villas). Mr. CLARK advised that he is aware of drainage issues and there is a punch list which is being worked through and this issue is on that list.

Commissioner WARREN thanked Rep. McNeill and Senator Boscola for their help in getting the third grant for the Prydun Farm in the amount of \$76,375.00. He also noted that Multi Modal Grant thru PennDOT for Eberhart Road was not successful, but the Commonwealth Financing Authority has the same type of program and submission is due in July.

Commissioner ATIYEH thanked all who sent well wishes on the birth of his son. He suggested that next years student government day be more organized, but all in all he feels it was a great experience for the students. He questioned how Camp Whitehall is going with sign up and Deputy Mayor MEYERS stated that there were not enough sign-ups for Jefferson so there will only be a camp at Cementon.

President MARX wanted to clarify with the Mayor that appointing someone to a board or commission is a legislative procedure. He was glad to learn that the automatic feature for the front doors are now functioning. He is concerned with the lack of exterior signage on the building and traffic flow, along with signage for the call button for after-hours police service. He noted that the Memorial Day event was a success, but was disappointed that again the sound system was nonfunctional. Student government day went well for the students, but agrees with Commissioner ATIYEH that there needs to be more structure. He spoke with Fire Chief Nelson earlier regarding the aerial truck and understands that terms are being negotiated with the manufacturer for the late delivery.

Mayor HAKAKAL attended the Senior Centers Anniversary Celebration as well as, Family Night at WCMS and felt there was a great turnout and very successful. He met with Superintendent Bob Steckel regarding a new program called Launch My City. A second recycling event has been scheduled for October 22, 2022. He reminded everyone that Heritage Day will be on June 25<sup>th</sup> and has been working with Tony Cocca and the Chamber getting things ready. Civil Service Commission has an interested candidate for the alternate position which has been vacant for quite some time.

Treasurer KOREN stated she is working very hard at correcting the issues that are continuing in her office and is very upset by statements that were made earlier by Ken Snyder. Commissioner GINDER noted that Treasurer KOREN's reports are very well done and feels things have come a long way.

President MARX also commended Treasurer KOREN for her efforts. She also noted that she spoke at the School District meeting today and tried to make them understand how important it is to the residents to continue the customer service that has been provided.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION – President MARX moved, seconded by Commissioner ROMAN to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 p.m.