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# **MINUTES**

**February 9, 2026**  
**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, February 9, 2026 held at the Whitehall Township Public Meeting Room, with the following in attendance:

**COMMISSIONERS**

Jeffrey J. Warren, President  
Thomas Slonaker, Vice President  
Randy Atiyeh, Secretary (Absent)  
Ken Snyder  
Elizabeth J. Fox (Absent)  
Lee A. Christman  
Taylor A. Stakes

**TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL**

Joseph J. Marx, Jr., Mayor  
John D. Meyers, Deputy Mayor  
Jack Gross, Esq., Township Solicitor  
Michael Marks, Police Chief  
Mark Bilder, Fire Chief  
Elisa Highly, Township Engineer - KCE  
Lee Rackus, PZ&D  
Tina J. Koren, Tax Collector  
Larissa Bruder, Executive Assistant

The meeting was formally opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence to reflect on the friends and family that have been lost over the past year and Pete Vilbas who was a long-standing Whitehall Volunteer with EMA and the Fire Department giving nearly 35 years to the Township. He was also a member of St. Johns Church and served on the Property Committee, as well as a Youth Leader. He also coached at Tri-Boro Soccer and Lehigh County Special Olympics.

President WARREN read the statement on fair housing as required.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner STAKES moved, seconded by Commissioner CHRISTMAN to approve the Minutes of the following meeting:

Reorganizational Meeting – January 5, 2026

Five Commissioners were present and five voted “yes”. Motion carried.

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

Regular Public Meeting – January 12, 2026

Five Commissioners were present and five voted “yes”. Motion carried.

**B. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

LoriAnn Fehnel of 3157 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street stated concerns regarding applying to be a member of EMA and receiving a rejection letter without being interviewed.

Joni Todesko of 424 4<sup>th</sup> Street asked why there were numerous job openings; how many vehicles were ticketed during the recent snow emergency and believes that a referendum should be done for a rec center.

David Rivera of 4230 Belmont Circle asked how the Township will bill the homeowners of Belmont Glen if the culvert ever fails.

Andrew Kopeck of 3763 Dogwood Drive asked if the Township has decided on protocol on how to handle businesses not removing snow/ice from public sidewalks and what the Township is going to do to address it.

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

1. BILL NO. 40-2025

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING THE COMPREHENSIVE PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

President WARREN read Bill No. 40-2025 to the Board.

Commissioner SNYDER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner STAKES.

FIVE Commissioners were present and five voting “yes”. Bill No 40-2025 was approved.

2. BILL NO. 2-2026

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) DODGE DURANGO PURSUIT AWL VEHICLES 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 WARREN read Bill No. 2-2026 to the Board.

Commissioner SLONAKER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SNYDER.

Commissioner STAKES had concerns over not receiving comparable quotes and would like to see multiple bids.

Andrew Kopeck of 3763 Dogwood Drive verified that the cars being replaced are recycled to other departments when possible and also equipment is also transferred to a new vehicle.

FIVE Commissioners were present and five voting “yes”. Bill No 2-2026 was approved.

3. BILL NO. 3-2026

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR THE REPLACEMENT AND INSTALLATION OF A CUSTOM MODULAR CLASSROOM BUILDING AND A.D.A. SWITCHBACK RAMP FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 IN THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE. (FIRE)

President WARREN read Bill No. 3-2026 to the Board.

Commissioner STAKES moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner CHRISTMAN

FIVE Commissioners were present and five voting “yes”. Bill No 3-2026 was approved.

4. BILL NO. 4-2026

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR PROVIDING OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES FOR WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 IN THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE. (PUBLIC WORKS)

President WARREN read Bill No. 4-2026 to the Board.

Commissioner SNYDER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER

FIVE Commissioners were present and five voting “yes”. Bill No 4-2026 was approved.

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

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3416

TITLE: A RESOLUTION FOR SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN REVISION FOR NEW LAND DEVELOPMENT FULLERTON TERMINALS DISTRIBUTION CENTER LOCATED AT 2625 RANGE ROAD, WHITEHALL PA. (DEVELOP)

President WARREN read Resolution No. 3416 to the Board.

Commissioner SNYDER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner STAKES

FIVE Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3416 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 3417

TITLE: A RESOLUTION FOR SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN REVISION FOR NEW LAND DEVELOPMENT WHITEHALL FARMS, LOCATED AT 3855 LEHIGH STREET, WHITEHALL, PA. (DEVELOP)

President WARREN read Resolution No. 3417 to the Board.

Commissioner SLONAKER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner STAKES

FIVE Commissioners were present and four voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3417 was approved.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 3418

TITLE: A RESOLUTION FOR SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN REVISION FOR NEW LAND DEVELOPMENT 415 SEVENTH STREET, LOCATED AT 415 SEVENTH STREET, WHITEHALL, PA. (DEVELOP)

President WARREN read Resolution No. 3418 to the Board.

Commissioner STAKES moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner CHRISTMAN

FIVE Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3418 was approved.

4. RESOLUTION NO. 3419

TITLE: A RESOLUTION GRANTING THE EGYPT COMMUNITY CHURCH REQUEST FOR A WAIVER OF FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE FILING OF A VARIANCE APPLICATION FOR AN ELECTRONIC SIGN AT 4129 S. CHURCH STREET, WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP.

President WARREN read Resolution No. 3419 to the Board.

Commissioner SLONAKER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner WARREN

FIVE Commissioners were present and five voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3419 was approved

5. RESOLUTION NO. 3420

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING POOL PASS RATES FOR THE YEAR 2026. (BOC)

President WARREN read Resolution No. 3420 to the Board.

Commissioner STAKES moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SNYDER

Commissioner SNYDER asked that a letter of reciprocity be sent to Coplay.

FIVE Commissioners were present and five voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3420 was approved.

6. RESOLUTION NO. 3421  
TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING CAMP WHITEHALL RATES FOR THE YEAR 2026. (BOC)

President WARREN read Resolution No. 3421 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner STAKES

FIVE Commissioners were present and five voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3421 was approved.

7. RESOLUTION NO. 3422  
TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF SPECIFIC TOWNSHIP RECORDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TOWNSHIP’S RECORD RETENTION AND DISPOSAL SCHEDULE. (ADMINISTRATION)

President WARREN read Resolution No. 3422 to the Board.

Commissioner SLONAKER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner CHRISTMAN

FIVE Commissioners were present and five voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3422 was approved.

**E. OTHER**

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

1. Discussion of Recreation Center (K. Snyder)  
Commissioner SNYDER explained the analysis that was done regarding utilizing the existing Fullerton Building vs. constructing a new building. The figures discussed were from \$14 million to \$20 million depending on the size and amenities that would be decided upon. Funding was discussed with a worse case scenario of a possible tax increase. He believes that the Township is at a point to decide whether to move forward or not. It was a consensus to further explore this idea. Commissioner SNYDER will move forward with doing more research and come back to the Board in 60-90 days with further information.  
LoriAnn Fehnel advised that there is a 57% poverty level and feels this should go on a referendum.  
Toni Todesko also agreed that this should be a referendum.  
Anthony Kopack also believes this should be referendum.
2. Treasurer Position (K. Snyder)  
Commissioner Snyder believes that this should be a hired position. As of now, the requirements do not guarantee of getting a person that is qualified. Many other municipalities have gone in this direction and would like to see this as a referendum placed on the next available ballot.  
Commissioner STAKES and CHRISTMAN both agreed.

3. Schadt Avenue Agreement with Sports Factory (K. Snyder)  
Commissioner SNYDER advised that the contract is being finalized and the Board should see it on March Meeting Agenda.
4. Comprehensive Plan Update (J. Warren)  
Commissioner STAKES asked what the status of this item was. Lee RACKUS explained that in 2024 she budgeted \$50,000 and prepared a request for proposal, and solicited proposals from several agencies. A pre-submission meeting was held and it was disclosed that the full project was not funded, and the consultants were not comfortable committing to a project that does not have full funding so in turn we received no proposals.

A grant was applied for and \$75,000 was awarded but the money was never appropriated. Also, the grant requires a 50% match which is not budgeted at this point. It was previously estimated that this project was a \$200K project, at a minimum. She did not budget any money this year since she was advised to prepare a slim budget for 2026. She suggested that we do not try to start it until 2027 with full funds budgeted and then seek extension from DCED.

### **MOTIONS**

1. MOTION – to appoint Denise Rodriguez to the Whitehall Township Ethics Board.  
  
FIVE Commissioners were present and five voting “yes”. Motion was approved.
2. MOTION - to approve the appointment of John Gulycz to serve as a member of the Whitehall Township Zoning Hearing Board, with term expiration of December 31, 2030.  
  
FIVE Commissioners were present and five voting “yes”. Motion was approved.
3. MOTION - to approve the appointment of Deb Rosene to the Whitehall Township Open Space Committee, with term expiration of December 31, 2028.

### **F. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

Commissioner CHRISTMAN stated he attended the January Zoning Hearing Board meeting and this Board is in need of members and urged residents to volunteer. He also thanked Public Works for their hard work during the recent storm. They did a great job considering the conditions.

Commissioner SLONAKER also thanked Public Works for their hard work.

Commissioner STAKES advised that he is working with Attorney Gross in drafting appropriate legislation regarding ICE and DHS and thanked Chief Marks for his input, as well as Attorney Gross.

President WARREN thanked KCE for advising him that the stake out at intersections along MacArthur Road are for the PennDOT Traffic Signal Update Project. He was disappointed in finding out that the poles will not be upgraded and will remain a galvanized pole.

Treasurer KOREN sent out report to the Board and made it easier to understand.

Mayor MARX noted the following:

Fire Chief submitted and received a grant for new breathing apparatuses and Firemen Relief also gave \$100,000 toward the purchase.

Whitehall Mall was sold and the Developer has progressive ideas for the site.

Lehigh Valley Dairy property is moving forward with possible vibrant redevelopment.

President WARREN announced that the Board will be going into an Executive Session regarding litigation.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION – Commissioner CHRISTMAN moved, seconded by Commissioner STAKES to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM.