
MINUTES

January 8, 2018
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 8, 2018, in the Public Meeting Room of the Whitehall Township Municipal Building, 3219 MacArthur Road, Whitehall, PA, with the following in attendance:

COMMISSIONERS

Dennis C. Hower, President
Philip J. Ginder, Vice President
Thomas Slonaker, Secretary
Shawn E. Clary
Jeffrey L. Dutt
Joseph J. Marx Jr.

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL

Edward D. Hozza Jr., Mayor
John D. Meyers, Deputy Mayor
Chuck Fonzone, Township Solicitor
Bruce Somers, Acting Police Chief
Frank Clark Engineer
Lee Rackus, PZ&D
Patricia Sweeney, Executive Secretary

The meeting was formally opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, a moment of silence for our troops serving at home and abroad and for James CARPENTER a member of the CWSA Board who passed away.

President HOWER read the statement on fair housing as required.

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) Commissioner DUTT moved, seconded by Commissioner CLARY to approve the minutes of the following meeting:

Regular Public Meeting – December 11, 2017

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

- b) Commissioner MARX moved, seconded by Commissioner CLARY to approve the minutes of the following meeting:

Reorganizational Meeting – January 2, 2018

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

B. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR - no one signed in.

C. RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2998

TITLE: A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ROGER REICHARD AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP ZONING HEARING BOARD. (BOC)

President HOWER read Resolution No. 2998 to the Board.

Commissioner GINDER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DUTT. There were no questions or comments.

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 2998 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2999

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

President HOWER read Resolution No. 2999 to the Board.

Commissioner MARX moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner CLARY. There were no questions or comments.

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 2999 was approved.

D. OTHER

1. Commissioner DUTT moved, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER to approve the reappointment of Ann FREYMAN to serve on the Planning Commission, term expiring December 31, 2021.

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

2. Commissioner SLONAKER moved, seconded by Commissioner CLARY to approve the reappointment of James MOLINARO to serve on the Planning Commission, term expiring December 31, 2021.

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

3. Commissioner CLARY moved, seconded by Commissioner GINDER to approve the reappointment of John KOSTICK, JR. to serve on the Civil Service Commission, term expiring December 31, 2023.

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

4. Commissioner MARX moved, seconded by Commissioner CLARY to approve the reappointment of Kevin SERENSITS to serve on the Tax Appeals Board, term expiring December 31, 2020.

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

5. Commissioner DUTT moved, seconded by Commissioner CLARY to approve the reappointment of Rhonda BASTIAN to serve on the Whitehall Township Industrial and Commercial Development Authority, term expiring December 31, 2022.

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

6. Commissioner MARX moved, seconded by Commissioner DUTT to approve the appointment of Jason SZEWCZAK to serve on the Whitehall Township Authority, term expiring December 31, 2022.

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

E. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

1. Commissioner DUTT noted the next town hall meeting for the Thomas Iron Works Historic Preservation neighborhood will be on January 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the Union Hall on Lehigh Street. He noted a survey will be going out to owners of those homes, businesses, schools, etc. to see if they want a historical preservation neighborhood.
2. President HOWER congratulated all of the volunteers who were reappointed and thanked them for their service.
3. Mayor HOZZA stated he has accepted the invitation of former Township Board President and now County Executive Phillips ARMSTRONG to serve as Director of Administration for Lehigh County, still needs approval by the County Commissioners but have begun the transition in the office for the next incoming Mayor for when he departs sometime in February. He noted the Board of Commissioners will follow the Home Rule Charter regarding his replacement, looks forward to the transition, will be different than with his six predecessor's, will be more interactive in order to bring the next person up to speed very quickly.

RESOLUTION NO. 3000

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COPLAY-WHITEHALL SEWER AUTHORITY TO PROCEED WITH THE SUMMIT STREET AND PROSPECT STREET SANITARY SEWER PROJECT. (ADMIN/BOC).

President HOWER read Resolution No. 3000 to the Board.

Commissioner CLARY moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner MARX.

Commissioner GINDER asked if something this size isn't normally done by an ordinance.

Frank CLARK stated the grant available requires a resolution authorizing the Sewer Authority to apply for it, would need an ordinance later. Commissioner GINDER stated this talks about them going ahead with the project. Commissioner MARX stated for this grant money the CWSA needs a resolution giving them permission to apply for the grant. Commissioner GINDER stated the resolution should state that and not to move forward with the project because we have not had public comment and also doesn't know if the residents have been informed.

Mayor HOZZA stated the need to have the resolution attached to the grant request and there is no guarantee the CWSA will receive the grant. Commissioner GINDER stated the way it

reads if the grant isn't awarded, the Sewer Authority is still being charged by the Board of Commissioners to sewer Summit Street.

Lee RACKUS stated they spoke to Mr. HARLEMAN, understands all they need now is a resolution of the Board endorsing the Sewer Authority to pursue the grant funds to provide public sanitary sewer service to Summit Street which the Board has asked them to investigate and do a feasibility study on and maybe the resolution can be modified to say that. Commissioner MARX stated time is of the essence because the application deadline is February 26th. Lee RACKUS stated once the feasibility study is complete, property owners would be notified, they would have to approve of the front foot assessment if there is one. Commissioner GINDER stated he understands the timeline the Sewer Authority is on but feels the resolution tells them to go ahead. Mayor HOZZA suggested changing the sentence to read: "the Coplay-Whitehall Sewer Authority is hereby authorized to proceed with submitting to DCED for grant funding for the Summit Street and Prospect Street Sanitary Sewer Project". Commissioner MARX noted the Sewer Authority qualifies for up to two \$500,000 grants, a million dollars total, the anticipated cost came in at \$1.3 million but could come in lower and this would be a major windfall for the rate payers and citizens in the Township and Borough of Coplay.

Both Commissioners CLARY and MARX amended their motions to include the changes to the Resolution.

Six Commissioners were present and voted "yes". Resolution No. 3000 was approved.

F. ADJOURNMENT

1. MOTION – Commissioner MARX moved, seconded by Commissioner CLARY to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm.