
MINUTES

September 10, 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, September 10, 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.
Jeffrey J. Warren

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL

Michael P. Harakal, Jr., Mayor
John D. Meyers, Deputy Mayor
Sarah M. Murray, Esq., Township Solicitor
Michael Marks, Police Chief
Frank Clark Engineer
Lee Rackus, PZ&D
Colleen L. Gober, Tax Collector (Absent)
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 HOWER read the statement on fair housing as required.

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

Regular Public Meeting – August 13, 2018

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

B. OATH OF OFFICE

Chief MARKS stated he has the pleasure to introduce to the Board and the public our newest Police Officer Nicholas STIBRANY. Officer STIBRANY had been serving as a police officer with Freemansburg Police Dept. and on July 16, 2018 he was hired as a full-time Officer here at Whitehall Township. Officer STIBRANY will be assigned to field training so he can hone his skills he already possesses as a police officer. We welcome his family into the Whitehall Police Family. As they have already experienced through Nicholas’s previous tenure, this isn’t always an easy job for an officer as well as the family, but know you always have someone to lean during the tough times and there are many here that have experienced problems that your love one may

face. The oath that Officer STIBRANY is about to take is a solemn oath and one that is a foundation behind the badge and also the duties that he is going to swear to protect and serve the community. At this time, Chief MARKS requests that Larissa BRUDER perform the oath of office and asks Mayor HAKAKAL to present the badge of office to Nicholas STIBRANY. Police Officer STIBRANY was sworn in by Notary Public Larissa BRUDER. Mayor HAKAKAL handed the badge to Officer STIBRANY's dad to pin on him.

C. **COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

Mary Kratzer of 1297 Echo Drive voiced her concern regarding the event that took place on August 25th at the Fullerton Playground and the unbearable loud music that was played that day for hours. She called to complain that day and was told that because there was a permit they did not have to turn down the music volume. President HOWER indicated that the Township is looking into an enforceable noise ordinance.

Mario Spagnoletti of 351 Sumner Avenue commented on the issue regarding vandalism/graffiti at the Parkway and what suggestions the Township has to offer to put a stop to it. Also stated his concern on the infestation of the lantern fly.

Marion Brown of 920 W. Union Street noted her backyard borders Fullerton Playground and stated her disgust at the volume of music that was allowed to continue throughout 7 hours at the event held there on August 25th. Mayor HAKAKAL indicated that a meeting was held with the Playground Association Officers and it was made clear that this would never happen again.

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

1. **BILL NO. 17-2018 (SECOND HEARING)**

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF AMERICAN STREET FROM WINT LANE APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED FORTY (140) FEET TO AN UNNAMED ALLEY; VACATING THE UNNAMED ALLEY IN ITS ENTIRETY, FULLERTON AREA OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. (DEVELOP)

President HOWER read Bill No. 17-2018 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present and voting "yes". Bill No. 17-2018 was approved.

2. **BILL NO. 20-2018 (SECOND HEARING)**

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP CODIFIED ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 27, ZONING, BY AMENDING THE GENERAL REGULATIONS TO PERMIT 'ADAPTIVE RE-USE' FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AS A PERMITTED USE IN THE C-1 AND C-2A ZONING DISTRICTS. (Admin)

President HOWER read Bill No. 20-2018 to the Board.

Commissioner GINDER moved to table, seconded by Commissioner MARX. There were no questions or comments.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 20-2018 was tabled.

3. BILL NO. 22-2018 (FIRST HEARING)
TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL TO ENTER INTO A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH CRISTINA V. AND FRANCISCO E. ALMESTICA TO PERMIT THE ENCROACHMENT OF A PROPOSED FENCE, AN EXISTING DECK, AND AN EXISTING SHED INTO AN EXISTING STORM SEWER EASEMENT AT 927 2ND STREET, WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

President HOWER read Bill No. 22-2018 to the Board.

D. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3026
TITLE: A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 3014 AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GREENWAYS TRAILS AND RECREATION PROGRAM TO ENHANCE THE NEW SECTION OF THE JORDAN CREEK GREENWAY AND TRAIL.

President HOWER read Resolution No. 3026 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3026 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 3027
TITLE: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. (ADMIN/BOC)

President HOWER read Resolution No. 3027 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 3027 was approved.

E. OTHER

1. Commissioner MARX moved, seconded by Commissioner CLARY to approve Ernie Robinson to serve on the Fire Police.

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

F. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

1. Commissioner WARREN noted a great turnout for the Egypt Historical Walk and also wanted to note the presentation that is going to be given by Jon Wieand on 9/26 on his Vietnam experience.
2. Commissioner GINDER asked Frank CLARK to comment on the Truck Traffic report. Basically, there are no warrants for any restrictions to be made at this time. Commissioner Ginder also questioned a statement made by Traffic Engineer about subsidence along the Race Street wall. Lee RACKUS noted that the subsidence is actually north of the wall and does not compromise it. Mayor HARAKAL also noted that he visited the area with Engineer Chris BLECHSCHMIDT and had the same opinion.
3. Commissioner DUTT noted upcoming events – 9/20 6:00 PM Active Life Fundraiser, 10/6 Fall Festival Parade & Car Show, 10/27 11am to 3 pm Thomas Iron Works Historical Walk.
4. Commissioner MARX thanked Officer CARTER for his work as the Middle School Resource Officer. Also, thanks to John RACKUS for quick action to take care of potholes on Spring Mill Road. Working on a Veteran’s Day Ceremony. Suggested that Coplay Aggregates be billed for the time that the Fire Dept and CWSA put in trying to determine the source of the 8/23 odor issue.
5. Commissioner HOWER asked to take a minute to let everyone know that he is participating in October’s Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign “Real Men Wear Pink. He is trying to raise funds on 10/3 at Chick-fil-A, 10/12 at the Ramada Inn and 10/20 Teamster’s Hall Fitness Event. If a certain goal is reached he will be dying his beard pink!
6. Mayor HARAKAL advised that there was an issue w/Coplay Aggregates on 8/23. Fire Dept, CWSA, Commissioner Warren and Commission Marx were out trying to determine the cause of the odor. After investigating, it was determined that an area that holds water had an extra 6-7 feet of water due to all the rain. The vegetation at the bottom of this wetland began to rot and when they started to pump this water out to another area, an odor was released. DEP is visiting the site to determine how this issue is to be handled. Mayor also reported that Coplay Aggregates has filed for a permit for renovation fill. This fill falls in the category between regulated and clean fill. Lastly, the visit to the Race Street Wall will result in a Report given in approximately 2 weeks by Engineer Blechschiidt.

G. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Commissioner CLARY moved, seconded by Commissioner MARX to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.