
MINUTES
October 23, 2017
Special Public Meeting

Board of Commissioners

Whitehall Township

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. A Special Public Meeting of the Whitehall Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 23, 2017, in the Public Meeting Room of the Whitehall Township Municipal Building, 3219 MacArthur Road, Whitehall, PA, with the following in attendance:

COMMISSIONERS

Phillips M. Armstrong, President
Dennis C. Hower, Vice President
Thomas Slonaker, Secretary
Jeffrey L. Dutt
Philip J. Ginder
Joseph J. Marx, Jr.
Linda K. Snyder

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL

Edward D. Hozza, Jr., Mayor
John D. Meyers, Deputy Mayor
Samuel Cohen, Attorney
Patricia A. Sweeney, Executive Secretary

The meeting was formally opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

B. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON ORDINANCES

1. **BILL NO. 35-2017 (First Reading)**

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF EITHER GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR A GENERAL OBLIGATION NOTE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFUNDING THE TOWNSHIP'S PRESENTLY OUTSTANDING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES OF 2011 AND TO FUND TOWNSHIP IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS CONSISTING OF STREET LIGHT UPGRADES AND OTHER CAPITAL PROJECTS, AND TO PAY THE COST OF ISSUANCE. (ADMIN/BOC)

President ARMSTRONG read Bill No. 35-2017 to the Board.

Deputy Mayor MEYERS stated Chris GIBBONS of Concord Financial did the competitive bidding process, New Tripoli Bank was the low bidder by 30%, the Mayor, Purchasing Agent and himself are working with West Side Hammer Electric and a couple of different suppliers of LED lighting to see what is allowed in Penn DOT thoroughfares which are eligible for PPL rebates, prices are coming in lower than anticipated so will be able to work between \$1.2M and \$1.5M after looking at possibly \$1.8M. Mayor HOZZA stated we are not bringing in another company as other cities do who guarantees the municipality they will see a 40-50% energy savings for the project, doing it in house, we

are the agent and the savings from our electric usage goes to pay back the loan, are looking at a 10 year payback period. He noted PPL is under an order to reduce energy consumption, are working closely with us, in communities where they do not own their lights as we do, PPL has started the conversion even on private property and in those communities they have to pay for the fixtures to PPL and are not getting a reduction where we will see the reduction as we own them.

Deputy Mayor MEYERS stated this is a Township project where every single home in this community will see the benefit of. Mayor HOZZA noted this is not changing the fixtures currently out there. There are 2 separate components. Neighborhoods having the traditional PPL wooden poles with a mast arm and cobra head, only the cobra head changes. Neighborhoods having the lantern style, not including the 3 subdivisions done already, will see a new top as we are going to a uniform lantern style so it is easier for maintenance which should not be required for 10 years. In addition, this is a Smart System, where everything can be controlled at the Township building thru a computer.

Commissioner SLONAKER asked if the numbers for the bond issue are what it is the budget now. Deputy Mayor MEYERS stated it is reflected in the budget and once we see what the energy savings are will be used to pay back the loan. President ARMSTRONG asked if we received such a good rate because the Township has a good Triple A bond rating. Deputy Mayor MEYERS stated the bond rating helps but also having Mr. GIBBONS aggressively getting some very good financing proposals.

Chris GIBBONS, Concord Financial, stated it really has a lot to do with the Township's credit rating. Commissioner SNYDER noted Mr. GIBBONS has been here on many occasions taking time to explain everything in detail to those who didn't quite get it and appreciates it. Commissioner MARX noted the CWSA used Mr. GIBBONS for a project which they were very successful with. President ARMSTRONG stated all governments should realize the advantage of a good credit rating. Mr. GIBBONS stated the savings the Township will realize from the refinancing of the 2011 bond will be about \$66,000. Deputy Mayor MEYERS noted the Township only has the 2011 issue outstanding, so with refinancing that debt is a good return and net present value savings. Mr. GIBBONS stated it is also a good time to look at a refinance when you are going to spend the money for an issuance cost. President ARMSTRONG noted it is good to know we have good people doing the right thing for the Township.

C. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner DUTT moved, seconded by Commissioner MARX to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m.