
MINUTES

January 6, 2014
Reorganizational Meeting

Board of Commissioners

Township of Whitehall

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Mayor HOZZA stated that Attorney Jack GROSS of the law firm of Gross and McGinley would be filling in for Attorney FONZONE who is attending another municipal reorganizational meeting and at this time Attorney GROSS would make a statement.

Attorney GROSS stated he wanted to advise everyone that Linda K. SNYDER, prior to this meeting, submitted to him and the Township a letter where she stated that she is declining the nomination for the two year term of Whitehall Township Commissioner to begin on January 6, 2014 and the letter will be submitted to the County tomorrow in accordance with County rules for her to decline that position and a copy has been submitted to the Township for its records.

2. The Reorganizational Meeting of the Whitehall Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, January 6, 2014, by Mayor HOZZA in the Public Meeting Room of the with the following in attendance:

COMMISSIONERS

Philip J. Ginder
Dennis C. Hower
Clair D. Hunsberger
Gerard F. Palagonia
Thomas Slonaker
Linda K. Snyder

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL

Edward D. Hozza, Jr., Mayor
John D. Meyers, Deputy Mayor
Jack Gross, Attorney
Diane M. Hunsicker, Tax Collector
Patricia A. Sweeney, Executive Secretary

The meeting was formally opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, a prayer (attached) and a moment of silence for our military troops around the globe and all of our deceased veterans.

B. OATH OF OFFICE - NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Tax Collector Diane HUNSICKER and Commissioners Gerard PALAGONIA, Thomas SLONAKER, and Linda SNYDER were sworn in by Magisterial District Judge Robert C. HALAL.

C. REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1. Mayor HOZZA requested a motion for nomination for President of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner PALAGONIA moved to nominate Commissioner Linda SNYDER.

Commissioner GINDER moved to nominate Commissioner Thomas SLONAKER.

There were no further nominations. Nominations were closed.

Commissioners PALAGONIA, HUNSBERGER, SNYDER and HOWER voted for Linda SNYDER and Commissioners GINDER and SLONAKER voted for Commissioner SLONAKER.

Commissioner Linda SNYDER was approved by a vote of four to two.

President SNYDER presided over the remainder of the meeting.

2. President SNYDER requested a motion for nominations for Vice President of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner SLONAKER moved to nominate Commissioner GINDER and Commissioner HOWER moved to nominate Commissioner PALAGONIA.

There were no further nominations. Nominations were closed.

Commissioners SLONAKER, HOWER, GINDER and HUNSBERGER voted for Commissioner GINDER and Commissioners PALAGONIA and SNYDER voted for Commissioner PALAGONIA.

Commissioner GINDER was approved by a vote of four to two.

3. President SNYDER requested nominations for Secretary of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner GINDER moved to nominate Commissioner SLONAKER and Commissioner SNYDER moved to nominate Commissioner HOWER.

There were no further nominations. Nominations were closed.

Commissioners HUNSBERGER, PALAGONIA and SNYDER voted for Commissioner HOWER. Commissioners GINDER and SLONAKER voted for Commissioner SLONAKER. Commissioner HOWER abstained.

Commissioner HOWER was approved by a vote of three to two with one abstention.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

1. Commissioner HUNSBERGER moved, seconded by Commissioner GINDER to approve the appointment of the firm of Gross McGinley, primarily Charles J. FONZONE as Township Solicitor, at a rate of \$120.00 per hour and \$105.00 per hour for associates. (BOC)

Six Commissioners were present and voted "yes". Motion carried.

2. Commissioner HOWER moved, seconded by Commissioner GINDER, to approve the appointment of Attorney Donald LIPSON as Township Conflict Counsel, at a rate of \$250.00 per hour.

President SNYDER questioned the amount and stated she had spoken to Attorney FOGERTY, the previous conflict counsel, who stated he would be interested in the position but she did not know at what rate but did not think it would be \$250.00. Mayor HOZZA noted Attorney FOGERTY previously resigned from that position. Commissioners SNYDER and GINDER stated they didn't remember Attorney FOGERTY resigning. It was noted it was a few years ago.

After further discussion, both Commissioners HOWER and GINDER withdrew their motions. Motion was tabled.

3. Commissioner PALAGONIA moved, seconded by Commissioner GINDER to approve the appointment of KEYSTONE CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC. as the Township Engineer firm, at rates per their 2014 Professional Fee Schedule.

There were no questions or comments. Six Commissioners were present and voted "yes". Motion carried.

4. Commissioner SLONAKER moved, seconded by Commissioner HUNSBERGER to approve the appointment of Jeffrey MATZKIN as Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor at a rate of \$125.00 per hours.

Commissioner GINDER asked to renegotiate the rate. Commissioner PALAGONIA noted the Solicitor is only making \$120.00 per hour and felt this rate should be the same as the Solicitor's associate's rate of \$105.00 per hour. Commissioner HOWER stated the rate was not outrageous and believes they had put it in the budget. It was noted the budgeted rate was \$120.00 and that the previous rate was \$75.00

After further discussion, Commissioners SLONAKER and HUNSBERGER rescinded their original motions and made motions to approve at the rate of \$120.00.

Six Commissioners were present and voted "yes". Motion carried.

E. OTHER

1. President SNYDER brought up the matter of the appointment of a new Commissioner. It was noted they had 45 days to make an appointment. Executive Secretary SWEENEY addressed the Board on the timeline and dates. After discussion, it was decided to advertise twice in the Whitehall-Coplay Press, once in the Morning Call and the deadline for applications would be January 28, 2014 at noon. Interviews will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 with the appointment to be made at the regular public meeting of the Board on February 10, 2014.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner HUNSBERGER moved, seconded by Commissioner PALAGONIA to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.