
MINUTES

February 8, 2016
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 February 8, 2016, 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
Gerard F. Palagonia - absent
Linda K. Snyder

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL

Edward D. Hozza, Jr., Mayor
John D. Meyers, Deputy Mayor
Charles Fonzone, Attorney
Frank Clark, Keystone Engineering
Diane Hunsicker, Treasurer
Lee Rackus, PZ&D
Patricia Sweeney, Executive Secretary

The meeting was formally opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence for those who have lost their lives in service to our country.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Regular Public Meeting – January 11, 2016

Six Commissioners were present with five voting “yes” and Commissioner GINDER abstained. Motion carried

B. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Joni TEDESCO, 424 4th Street, Whitehall stated the construction project at Fullerton Avenue has increased the traffic on 5th Street, is horrendous mainly between 2 pm and 6 pm even though the speed limit is 25 mph. Mayor HOZZA stated he would check with Chief KULP and Lt. BEALER about increasing the patrols there. Ms. TEDESCO stated the traffic is bumper-to-bumper in both directions and the light at Park Street stays green a long time. Mayor HOZZA noted that is the detour for the next 2 ½ years and PennDOT and our traffic control people are monitoring it to see if the timing can be changed.

C. PULBIC HEARING AND VOTING ON ORDINANCES

1. BILL NO. 1-2016 (Second Reading)

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP TO ENTER INTO A RIGHT-OF-WAY GRANT WITH PPL ELECTRIC UTILITIES CORPORATION FOR THREE (3) UTILITY POLES WITH ANCHOR GUY WIRES AND OVERHEAD FACILITIES LOCATED ON ZEPHYR PARK ALONG SCHADT AVENUE/SR 1008 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA (ADMIN)

President ARMSTRONG read Bill No. 1-2016 to the Board.

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

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Bill No. 1-2016 was approved.

2. BILL NO. 2-2016

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR LEASE/PURCHASE OF A 2012 MILLING MACHINE WITH CONVEYOR FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, 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 ARMSTRONG read Bill No. 2-2016 to the Board.

Commissioner SLONAKER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner GINDER.

Mayor HOZZA noted it is a total of \$262,000 with the five year payment plan.

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Bill No. 2-2016 was approved.

D. PULBIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2923

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT THE MACARTHUR RD (SR 145) AND S. CHURCH STREET (SR 1023) / CENTER STREET APPLICATION FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS APPROVAL TO PENNDOT AND SIGN THE APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP (ADMIN/BOC)

Commissioner HOWER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER. There were no questions or comments.

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 2923 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2924

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO APPOINT AT LEAST ONE BUT NO MORE THAN THREE ALTERNATES TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION, PURSUANT TO PENNSYLVANIA ACT 42 OF 2015, AMENDING THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPALITIES PLANNING CODE. (BOC))

President ARMSTRONG read Resolution No. 2924 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. 2924 was approved.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 2925

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF SPECIFIC TOWNSHIP RECORDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TOWNSHIP’S RECORD RETENTION AND DISPOSAL SCHEDULE (TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR)

President ARMSTRONG read Resolution No. 2925 to the Board.

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

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 2925 was approved.

4. RESOLUTION NO. 2926

TITLE: A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE MAYORS CHALLENGE TO END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS, ACKNOWLEDGING THE WORK OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY HOMELESS VETERANS TASK FORCE, AND ENCOURAGING THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS TO JOIN IN THIS EFFORT. (BOC)

President ARMSTRONG read Resolution No. 2926 to the Board.

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

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 2926 was approved.

E. OTHER

1. Commissioner SLONAKER moved, seconded by Commissioner HOWER to correct the reappointment term of Jeffrey WARREN to serve on the Whitehall Township Industrial and Commercial Development Authority, term to expire December 31, 2020, as per Ordinance No. 2938.

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes. Motion was approved.

2. Commissioner SNYDER moved, seconded by Commissioner HOWER to correct the reappointment term of Benn SMITH to serve on the Whitehall Township Industrial and Commercial Development Authority, term to expire December 31, 2020, as per Ordinance No. 2938.

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes. Motion was approved.

3. Commissioner GINDER moved, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER to approve the release of escrow for completed and withdrawn projects as per Deputy Mayor MEYERS memo dated January 20, 2015.

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes. Motion was approved.

4. Commissioner GINDER moved, seconded by Commissioner DUTT to authorize reimbursement for payment of expenses by the Whitehall Township Industrial and Commercial Development Authority.

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes. Motion was approved.

5. Commissioner SNYDER moved, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER to approve the appointment of Attorney Kevin FOGERTY to serve as Conflict Counsel for the Township at a rate of \$120.00 per hour.

Six Commissioners were present with five voting “yes” and Commissioner GINDER abstained. Motion was approved.

6. Commissioner SLONAKER moved, seconded by Commissioner HOWER to approve the reappointment of Shawn MCHUGH to serve on the Police Pension Board, term expiring December 31, 2019.

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes. Motion was approved.

F. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

1. Commissioner GINDER extended thanks to the Public Works employees, Department Heads and the Mayor for the good job they did during the blizzard compared to other communities in the Valley
2. Commissioner SLONAKER asked how they prioritize plowing, not for the streets but because of the huge influx of people who have to run and normally run on the trail and gets for dangerous for them to be running on slippery roads where there is not much space to jog when someone is driving. Mayor HOZZA stated the first priority, which has been in effect for decades, is the snow emergency routes, then secondary streets, alley’s, cul-de-sacs, parks because they are evacuation sites and when everything is pretty much cleared, is the trail. Commissioner SLONAKER stated he understands the priority but people don’t understand you need to stop and think before you run. Commissioner GINDER noted previously the Rail Trail was not plowed the first day or two because cross country skiers wanted a chance to use the trail and you can’t please everybody. Mayor HOZZA noted there are a few people who call and complain if we plow the trail during a 3-6 inch event.

3. Commissioner DUTT thanked the Public Works Department for clearing the roads quickly, did a really good job for everyone to get around after the storm and really appreciates it. He participated with Commissioner ARMSTRONG at the intergovernmental meeting between Coplay, the School Board and us, was very constructive, feels the communication between the three governmental agencies will continue to improve and will help the Township and School Board work better together.

Commissioner DUTT noted another meeting of the Whitehall Township Veteran's Memorial Committee was held on February 3rd, have a bank account now, will be seeing a lot of fund raising coming up, there is a sketch and letter that will be sent to businesses and individuals to raise money, are considering many fund raising ideas, are getting it off the ground and moving with it.

Commissioner DUTT noted the Whitehall High School Choral will be singing at Allen High as a major fund raiser he is running for a teacher in the district who has twins that had a fire which destroyed his home, the event is February 26th at Allen High School with 15 acappella groups coming, will be pledging a \$1,000 to the twins scholarship fund, he will be the MC and is looking to have fund raisers like this in the Township to get some projects going especially with the Veterans Memorial and different things. Commissioner GINDER asked if the letter for the memorial could be in the next newsletter, with an affirmative response.

4. Commissioner HOWER thanked the Public Works Department for the job they did in removing the snow, thanked residents for their patience, some have more than others and when you hit snow with a plow it just doesn't magically disappear, just moves to a different location, typically do not have snow storms like that, thanked all the residents for their patience in realizing the gentlemen that are out plowing the streets are out working 12 hours and sometimes longer days, especially when the snow was falling, is a tuff job to do, is a big rig to handle, just wants to commend them for the job they did.
5. President ARMSTRONG also thanked the Public Works Department which does not have the numbers of the state and the city who bring one crew in and let the other crew go to sleep, we do not have that many, so our people were putting in the extra time and thought they really came through for the residents of Whitehall knowing the number of hours they were out there and feels they did a fantastic job.

President ARMSTRONG stated copies of the picture of the proposed Veteran's Memorial will be put in the Township building, so people will see it, is a good size committee, people on it are really working hard and hopes the Township can really get behind this project.

President ARMSTRONG noted the instructor for the CPR project has run out of free kits, is waiting for a new order so we won't be scheduling anything until he gets the free kits. He noted this will be the third year for the Stroll Along the Trail which will be the last Sunday in September, had a meeting at the library and put a committee together of the Whitehall Lions Club, the Hokendauqua branch of Trout Unlimited and IRT people that will set up and run a Duck Derby to raise money to purchase an Enhanced Vision Machine for the Township library, will be the only library in the area that will have one and will put our library on the map.

6. Mayor HOZZA commented on some of the items that were voted on this evening by the Board. He stated the PPL poles at Zephyr Park are being added by PPL as back-up to the Schadt Avenue substation since that zone has the highest amount of outages. He noted the

four traffic signals on MacArthur Road at Fairmont Avenue up to the Lehigh Valley Mall have been synchronized so traffic does not back up onto Route 22. The project at Center and Church Streets, at the Auto Zone intersection on MacArthur Road, started out as an ARLE Grant but were then informed by PennDOT they have identified about 40-50 intersections in District 5-0 where they will do the upgrades so we do not have to rely on the grant. The project will involve adding a turn signal on MacArthur Road southbound because of the poor visibility when you try to turn onto Center Street.

7. Mayor HOZZA thanked John Rackus, all of Public Works and Parks and Recreation for the heroic work they did in getting the Township streets cleared and also with the removal of snow from Township streets and cul-de-sacs during the past few weeks. He noted Jack Meyers and John Rackus worked together to submit to Lehigh County Emergency Management, who will forward it onto PEMA, the costs of \$92,000 that were incurred by the Township during the storm event which was the highest amount ever expended by the Township for a storm.

Mayor HOZZA personally thanked everyone in the Township and beyond for the thoughts, prayers and best wishes for his wife during her recent surgery in Philadelphia and for her recovery. She is doing well, will probably take another several weeks, won't be back to full force for about a year but are grateful for the physicians at Lehigh Valley Hospital and at the University of Pennsylvania and the surgeons for the fine work they did.

President ARMSTRONG noted the Board will be going into an Executive Session but no further actions will be taken.

G. ADJOURNMENT

1. MOTION – Commissioner DUTT moved, seconded by Commissioner HOWER to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm.