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# **MINUTES**

**February 10, 2014**

**Regular Public Meeting**

**Board of Commissioners**

**Township of Whitehall**

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**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 10, 2014, in the Public Meeting Room of the Whitehall Township Municipal Building, 3219 MacArthur Road, Whitehall, PA, with the following in attendance:

**COMMISSIONERS**

Linda K. Snyder, President  
Philip J. Ginder, Vice President  
Dennis C. Hower, Secretary  
Clair Hunsberger  
Gerard F. Palagonia  
Thomas Slonaker

**TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL**

Edward D. Hozza, Jr., Mayor  
John D. Meyers, Deputy Mayor  
Charles Fonzone, Attorney  
Frank Clark, Keystone Engineering  
Lt. Ribello Bertoni, Police Department  
Lee Rackus, PZ&D  
Carl Lagler, Township Surveyor  
Diane M. Hunsicker, Tax Collector  
Patricia Sweeney, Executive Secretary

The meeting was formally opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence for our troops.

President SNYDER announced that Lehigh County Executive Tom Mueller was in attendance and thanked him for coming.

**2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

Regular Public Meeting – January 13, 2014

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

**B. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

Paul GEISSINGER, 1983 Linden Lane, Whitehall, stated several years ago the Board hired a Harrisburg firm to save the Fifth Street Bridge, was under the impression it was a done deal that the Township would absorb 2 state roads to keep the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, travels the bridge a lot to avoid MacArthur Road and Fullerton Avenue, noted a newspaper article stating “A Bumpy Road Ahead for Whitehall’s Fifth Street Bridge”, and would like to have a definitive answer as to what the status is for the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. Mayor HOZZA stated the reconstruction of Fullerton Avenue and the Rt. 22 Lehigh River Bridge is scheduled for 2015 to 2017. PennDOT plans on

using the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge as the detour when they dismantle the Fullerton Avenue Bridge, upon completion the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge will be demolished and is on the TIP to be rebuilt when Rt. 22 is widened, are looking at 2019 to 2021 for the widening of Route 22 from Airport Road to 15<sup>th</sup> Street with monies from the increase of the gas tax passed by the Legislature for the \$5B increased transportation funding and if it was different than PennDOT would have stopped coming to our turn back meetings for Schadt Avenue and Lehigh Street. Mr. GEISSINGER asked if the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge is wide enough now for the Route 22 widening, with an affirmative response. Mayor HOZZA stated it is the decision of PennDOT District 5 that it will accommodate a six lane Route 22 with another new ramp configuration at MacArthur Road and the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge will be a full vehicle bridge since PennDOT realizes with their conversations with Simon, the operators of the Lehigh Valley and Whitehall Malls and our discussions on emergency management for fire, police and ambulance, they cannot eliminate that bridge but there may be a short period of time when there is no bridge when it is being rebuilt with the widening of Route 22. Commissioner PALAGONIA asked if he got this information recently. Mayor HOZZA stated he is on the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Transportation Sub-Committee, it was discussed last Thursday evening and Lee attends the monthly meetings of Lehigh Valley Transportation where representatives of PennDOT, the three cities and the two counties are present. Commissioner PALAGONIA asked if there is anything in writing. Mayor HOZZA stated it is on the TIP.

President SNYDER stated if and when this take place and the Board is asked to agree to take over Lehigh Street and Schadt Avenue, will want the representatives from the State here to tell us what they are asking us to do. Mayor HOZZA stated we have told PennDOT we will not sign any turn back documents until we see the contract awarded for the reconstruction of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge.

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

**1. BILL NO. 4-2014 (Second Hearing)**

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 27 OF THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP CODIFIED ORDINANCES, SECTION 27-72, R-3, LOW/MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL; SECTION 27-73, R-3A, SPECIAL CARE COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL AND SECTION 27-74, R-4, MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL, REGARDING SETBACKS FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL USES. (Legal & Legislative)

President SNYDER read Bill No. 4-2014 to the Board.

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

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Bill No. 4-2014 was approved.

**2. BILL NO. 6-2014**

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 15, SECTION 37 OF THE 2006 CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, ESTABLISHING A NO PARKING ZONE ALONG BOTH SIDES OF MUNICIPAL DRIVE BETWEEN MACARTHUR ROAD/SR 145 AND JOAB ROAD IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. (DEVELOP)

President SNYDER read Bill No. 6-2014 to the Board.

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

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Bill No. 6-2014 was approved

3. BILL NO. 7-2014

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 15, SECTION 23 OF THE 2006 CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL “STOP INTERSECTIONS” THROUGHOUT THE TOWNSHIP. (DEVELOP)

President SNYDER read Bill No. 7-2014 to the Board.

Commissioner PALAGONIA moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner HUNSBERGER.

Paul GEISSINGER, 1983 Linden Lane, Whitehall, asked what the stop intersections are and if there was a traffic study done for them. Commissioner SLONAKER stated at the workshop, our engineer and Mr. LAGLER told us the new way is to have the police look into it. Carl LAGLER, Township Surveyor, stated ~5 years ago the MUTC (Municipal Traffic Control) for the federal government and state was changed to permit Police Departments and Boards of Commissioners/Supervisors to do certain traffic studies, such as stop signs and speed limits, the Police Department has looked at it, done a study and because of site distance recommends a stop sign be installed at that intersection. He noted that was the qualification for the stop sign, most alleys do not have stop signs installed, not necessary by the PA Vehicle Code but in the interest of safety and limited site distance coming out of Oak Alley, recommended the implementation of a “T” type intersection stop sign. Mr. GEISSINGER questioned the “T” stop sign in three directions near the Whitehall Apartments on Orchard Drive because there is never anyone coming off of the intersecting residential street and seems like stop signs go up just to be there and is there any way to look at a stop sign that shouldn’t be there and have it removed. It was noted the area in question is by Fox Meadows, Ellsworth and Orchard Drive, and Commissioner HOWER stated it is there because there are a lot of kids in the area, is a school bus stop and would hate to see a stop sign get removed especially where there is a school bus stop because you cannot see over the crest to see the kids walking there. Mr. GEISSINGER asked where they are walking from because all the homes around there have fences. Commissioner SLONAKER noted the police did pull some cars over there recently for going thru those stop signs. President SNYDER stated she asked the same questions of Mr. LAGLER since before were told a traffic study was needed for a stop sign but now we don’t need to do that if the police think it is advisable because of the visibility and asked if it also changed regarding speed bumps because of the information from PennDOT stating they are legal now in certain areas.

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Bill No. 7-2014 was approved.

4. BILL NO. 8-2014

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, APPENDIX “M”, THE OFFICIAL FEE

SCHEDULE, BY AMENDING SUBSECTION M-18, RECREATION BY  
UPDATING AND REVISING VARIOUS FEES. (LEGAL & LEGISLATIVE)

President SNYDER read Bill No. 8-2014 to the Board.

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

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Bill No. 8-2014 was approved

***D. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS***

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2832

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TOWNSHIP OF  
WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING  
CAMP WHITEHALL RATES FOR THE YEAR 2014. (BOC)

President SNYDER read Resolution No. 2832 to the Board.

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

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 2832 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2833

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TOWNSHIP OF  
WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING  
POOL PASS RATES FOR THE YEAR 2014. (BOC)

President SNYDER read Resolution No. 2833 to the Board.

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

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 2833 was approved.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 2834

TITLE: A RESOLUTION GRANTING TERMINATION OF THE SUBDIVISION  
AND LAND DEVELOPMENT IMPROVEMENTS AGREEMENT AND THE  
SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT MAINTENANCE  
AGREEMENT WITH GRACE WORSHIP CENTER. (DEVELOP)

President SNYDER read Resolution No. 2834 to the Board.

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

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 2834 was approved

**E. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

1. Commissioner SLONAKER asked where they stand with monies for snow removal and if Columbia Street is in jeopardy. Deputy Mayor MEYERS stated we have exhausted our salt budget, are halfway through our overtime budget in Public Works and will be looking at some type of scale back of the FDR project at this point in time for Columbia and Ringer Road. Commissioner SLONAKER asked again about the handicapped ramps, looks like they sometimes snow plow to them instead of trying to get it away, cannot expect residents to move this really heaving stuff in the streets now and there is no way handicapped people can actually get through. Mayor HOZZA stated it is understandable with the amount of snow but Public Works is aware of it, are training workers to attempt to move it to different corners of the intersection and to be cognizant of the ramps. He noted we have reached out to Juvenile Probation to assist us with some of the calls we receive from residents who because of age, disability or not having relatives in the area, to help them with shoveling. Mayor HOZZA stated he would like to have a pool to expand it throughout the whole Township and to also include kids from the high school to help seniors or people with disabilities that need a hand and are looking to move that way in the future.
2. Commissioner HOWER thanked our road crew because if anyone has driven in surrounding municipalities, is very thankful for the job they did here in Whitehall Township, works in Allentown and it is a mess.
3. Commissioner GINDER thanked the road crew, all the Township employees who field all the phone calls, the police and fire departments, has been one hell of a ride this winter and it is not over yet and obviously everyone has been working hard and doing their best for the residents of the Township.
4. Commissioner HUNSBERGER questioned the application for candidates, thought at one time it had on about a criminal background check. It was noted it is on the Boards and Commissions application and was never on the Commissioner application. Commissioner HOWER noted it asks if you were ever convicted of a felony, not about a background check and that convictions would not necessarily disqualify an applicant. It was noted to add it to the Commissioner application. Commissioner SLONAKER stated when he was appointed, they did a background check on the children thing which you do not get if you are elected but if you are appointed Commissioner they do it, there is a difference.

Commissioner HUNSBERGER stated he received an anonymous letter and would show it to anyone who wants to see it. Commissioner PALAGONIA noted he didn't receive one and would have dusted it for prints. President SNYDER stated to explain what the letter is for, not the name but the reason he received the letter. Commissioner HUNSBERGER stated seven people were in the room with the Mayor for about 2 hours discussing all the candidates, said we would go home and sleep on it and all of a sudden gets a letter two days later telling him how to vote and thinks they are a bunch of cowards because they can't put their name on it. Commissioner PALAGONIA agreed. Commissioner HUNSBERGER stated since they are telling him how to vote thinks he can make a motion for Richard KLOCK as Commissioner. It was seconded by Commissioner PALAGONIA. President SNYDER asked if the Board was in agreement to do it now or wait till later and asked if they can do it without it being advertised. Attorney FONZONE stated eventually they will need to make a motion on the Commissioner vacancy and will have to do it sometime tonight if they want to get it

done. President SNYDER asked if it is appropriate at this time or do they need to wait until the end of the meeting. Attorney FONZONE stated it is her discretion. President SNYDER stated they could finish the Commissioner reports and then continue with what Commissioner HUNSBERGER is asking if the Board wants to do it. President SNYDER stated they have a first and a second, asked if the Board has any questions in regard to this, asked if there are any questions from the floor and hearing none asked the Secretary to pole the Board. Commissioners HUNSBERGER, PALAGONIA and SNYDER voted “yes”. Commissioners SLONAKER, GINDER and HOWER voted “no”. Motion did not pass. President SNYDER asked the Attorney if it was basically dead. Attorney FONZONE stated for that particular individual. President SNYDER noted then it doesn’t mean they can’t make any more motions in regard to what they just did before the meeting is over.

5. Commissioner PALAGONIA stated he hasn’t read the letter, heard about it and stated whoever did it, is a coward to make derogatory remarks like that. Commissioner PALAGONIA commended the Public Works on a super job, couldn’t ask for a better Public Works, is one of the last roads in the Township to get plowed but doesn’t bother him because they do it well. He thanked the Police Department with the bad weather and accidents and commended them on a robbery at one of our mini marts where an individual gave someone a ride, was then held up by knife point, his car was taken and it was followed up with an arrest.

Commissioner PALAGONIA asked the status of the letter read to the Board last month from Panna CHIBBER, stated he is concerned about the damage probably done to her door, he did look at the door and it appeared it was struck with an instrument, there was some damage to the door and if it was done by accident and done by Whitehall Township, should make restitution. Lt. BERTONI stated it is under review, Chief KULP has requested copies of all the incidents that have occurred at that residence and has not personally spoken to the officer involved.

Commissioner PALAGONIA asked about the status of our golf/driving range. Mayor HOZZA stated it was put out for bid, did not receive any bids, meet with an individual who asked if we would be willing to sell the property to be used as a recreation site, is a developer in the Lehigh Valley who has experience with golf type facilities but is looking to put in some type of fun entertainment center. It was suggested to him to consider the need for an indoor field hockey, lacrosse and soccer facility. Mayor HOZZA stated it could be an outright sale of the land or a land lease similar to what Simon does with the Malls or a straight lease agreement with him. He noted the person is a very reputable individual, is something to think about on what we want to do with that property and reminded them of the success of the land swap with Vornado and are not sure yet if that will be needed for this proposal. Mayor HOZZA noted we have not found any documentation in the original sale of the property to Whitehall Township that prohibits us from selling the property since the Cameron Tract and Mulligan’s was one parcel. Commissioner GINDER asked if it would go into a lease type situation if it puts the property back on the tax roll. It was noted it is already on the tax roll. Mayor HOZZA noted the Cameron Tract is reaching its life, could be another location to put on the market but it also depends on environmental issues, have monitored it very closely, we don’t let just anyone dump in there, an employee needs to be on site. President SNYDER stated it would be something to look into and get some information. Commissioner PALAGONIA stated he is not in favor of selling Township land when we can use it for something down the road, may need a new police station someday, if we have it should keep it and just lease it out until we know what we want to do with it permanently.

Commissioner PALAGONIA asked about the status of Third and Grape Streets. Mayor HOZZA spoke on the article written by the Road Warrior that was not completely accurate. He stated there was never a discussion about the gas station on the northwest corner; everything was always the southwest corner, Grape Street is Township owned and Third Street is PennDOT controlled, have to go into this with traffic impact money with the understanding from PennDOT this is our limit and no constant redoing of plans. Also, the Traffic Advisory Board needs to monitor the amount of money we have which is not growing. It can be done but needs to be under constraints with PennDOT so that a project we could do for \$500,000 is not all of a sudden \$2M because PennDOT has their hands in it, thinks that was what the article was trying to get too. Frank CLARK stated when they did First Avenue and Main Street the purchase of the house was around \$60K and would probably be the same type of configuration at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Grape. Mayor HOZZA stated other First and Second Class Townships are not using their developer generated funds to do repairs on state roads. Route 309 was just widened but was not done with North Whitehall Township monies, it was state money. He noted Wawa paid close to a \$1M for the road widening improvements on MacArthur Road and the Township has done a lot in assisting PennDOT in traffic improvements here in Whitehall and is not an open piggy bank.

Commissioner PALAGONIA stated last month it came to his attention we need a new aerial fire truck, the one we have is a 1994 Baker and they are out of business. He went to a meeting with Fire Chief Benner and the chiefs of all the departments and was told this 1994 aerial truck costs \$30,000 a year to keep it on the road and when it is down for major repairs is out of service for 6-8 weeks which is unacceptable, is a big plus to have an aerial truck at a fire and is sure it's used quite often and to have another one would be the thing to do after 20 years and even though the mileage of around 30,000 miles isn't high, it is a lot for an aerial truck and to replace it would cost the taxpayers \$1M. He would like to have a letter sent out and has written a proposed one (attached) to ask all the businesses in Whitehall for a donation and asked Attorney FONZONE what can be done as far as having a tax deductible donation. Commissioner PALAGONIA stated it would be great if we could raise a quarter million dollars to get a new one, was told we would need to float a bond, so as a resident and Commissioner just wanted to step forward and make an attempt to shake up our business community and let them know what we need for their safety and the safety of everybody who go into their businesses, the people of Whitehall and our Volunteer Fire Department to fight fires, a nice thing to have and knows we will need it in a couple of years from now or even sooner. He asked Attorney FONZONE what steps should be done to move forward besides getting the Board of Commissioners approval on this. Attorney FONZONE stated there are 3 of the 5 fire companies having tax standing to conduct such a collection and contributions could be tax deductible, need to set up a process where they would get a record for tax purposes, would have to have a dedicated account for the truck, doesn't know which of the three he would choose and would need the Fire Chief's input on that. He noted on the other hand, the community can receive contributions if they are used for purely public purposes, that's the Township, would have to set up a dedicated account, would have to give proof of the contribution to the citizen, is a rough outline to two different avenues but doesn't know what the Commissioners have in mind. President SNYDER asked what is the process and how long does it take to finalize it to make it accurate and legal. Attorney FONZONE stated he isn't certain he can give a timeframe. President SNYDER asked if he can figure out the timeframe, doesn't want to speak for the Board, probably would approve it, first need to know it is taken care of in the proper and legal manner before getting involved, is a very good thing to do but need to know it is done legally,

that a certain account will be set up and only certain individuals will be touching the monies but she certainly will not be one of those individuals. Commissioner PALAGONIA stated he wouldn't either. Mayor HOZZA recommended it not be put in a collection for one of the 3 out of the 5 departments, that all collected monies come and be processed through the tax office, then into finance and with Jack. He stated the letter is admirable and while we do have legal municipal immunity, the letter mentioned the aerial truck could be out for service and does it set us up for litigation, we do have mutual aide with other municipalities who have aerals but in this litigious society by placing it in a letter with Township letterhead do we set ourselves up for a potential lawsuit or can we change the language. Commissioner PALAGONIA stated the language could be changed and President SNYDER agreed. President SNYDER suggested meeting with Attorney FONZONE to change the language and then set up the legal stuff and bring it back to the Board.

Al RECKER, Whitehall-Coplay Press, asked if it would replace the current truck or be in addition to it. Mayor HOZZA responded it will replace it.

6. President SNYDER stated she had a good discussion with Mr. SCHREINER of the Sewer Authority about having a meeting with our Board and his Board in regards to the Act 537 Plan. She stated they did approve the monies to be used but didn't complete the language in it, doesn't think this is premature, is a good idea and wants Mr. CLARK involved to meet with the Sewer Authority and our Board to discuss what the goals are so it will eliminate a lot of the "he said, she said" and Mr. SCHREINER said they have some data and studies, will be happy to share everything with us, will bring it up at their Board meeting and furnish us with a few dates, is a good idea, the best thing is communication and over the years the communication with the Sewer Authority has not been very reliable, probably on both sides and can also decide if we would want to have meetings quarterly, would be a combined effort, feels it would be beneficial for the Act 537 because he agreed there were major problems when Scheidy's Road was done and Commissioner GINDER knows that. President SNYDER stated hopefully we meet with them on a regular basis and work things out but won't know until we at least attempt it but believes it is for them, for us, the residents and ratepayers who are the number one priority and if the Board agrees, would like a letter sent to them asking them for dates to meet on this matter, doesn't care on whose territory as long as we communicate and get this done in the proper way and our engineer will be there along with administration and the Mayor.

Al RECKER, Whitehall-Coplay Press, asked if that mean parts of the Township are not sewerred yet and that would be a step to do it. President SNYDER responded in the affirmative noting it would be in the discussion. Lee RACKUS stated it would be evaluating our current sewer system, the potential expansion of the system and the method by which areas would be served that are not served since it is not just one area of the Township, there are pockets throughout the Township, has had discussions with Carl and Frank and Carl is familiar with the past history and has also had many discussions with Dave at the Sewer Authority. President SNYDER asked if she felt this is the best way to handle it, with an affirmative response. Lee RACKUS stated Carl has already touched base with Dave, got information from him and it has to be a joint effort or else it won't be complete. President SNYDER stated we don't want to be like Washington, they never get together and discuss anything, are too busy fighting, thinks some of that has gone on and maybe she is guilty of that also but this is beyond that, it is important. Commissioner PALAGONIA noted this is for the citizens of Whitehall and Coplay. Frank CLARK stated one thing is to scope out the project to see how big it is going to be



because before they can formally move forward with the update it has to be approved by DEP and would like to have both Boards together on the scope before going to DEP with it. President SNYDER stated L&L has discussed the Northern Tier for years and asked if there are any updates from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. Lee RACKUS stated volumes of material were received from LVPC recommending different ways to preserve the Northern Tier but basically comes back to some of the recommendations in our own study, there are some very hard decisions, will not make everybody happy on what is decided because some landowners want a certain path and others want another path. She stated the L&L Committee decided to put it on the back burner until we investigated what the situation is going to be with the sewer so it ties in with the 537 and has contact from time to time with the property owners who ask what is happening. President SNYDER stated there are probably not many property owners involved. Lee RACKUS stated there are probably four major property owners. President SNYDER stated she has been to all the meetings, heard the pros and cons, heard the developers, our committee, it has made a great impact on her and would like to see the Northern Tier remain the way it is. Commissioner PALAGONIA agreed. President SNYDER stated we are not that desperate in this Township that we need it as a tax base, need what we have up there, if it gets developed it does and if it doesn't, it doesn't, have survived all these years without that tax base and will survive a long time because once you start to congest those roads, will have a mess just like you have down here. So whatever L&L does is fine, will bring it to the Board but wants it to remain the way it is, doesn't mean she doesn't want to listen to other people like the Planning Commission but thinks she has heard pretty much. President SNYDER stated it is all about money, not about open space. Commissioner PALAGONIA stated they are just interested in padding their wallets. President SNYDER stated it's just her opinion and hopes it can be worked out when they meet with the Sewer Authority. Lee RACKUS stated it is something to keep in mind as you deal with the sanitary sewer system and what will happen with the 537 Plan. President SNYDER stated we are coming to the point where we need to make that decision, nothing has really changed all these years since it was rezoned when the people asked it be kept open space and not become congested.

Al RECKER, Whitehall-Coplay Press, asked how many acres are involved. Mayor HOZZA stated it is about 325 acres. President SNYDER stated she has spoken to people; they do not want more congestion up there, is why the Township did what they did years ago and feels the Board needs to move on it.

President SNYDER expressed condolences to Chief Kulp and her family from the Board. She stated Whitehall is not any different than any other municipality but people are getting crazier, crime is much more severe and our police are doing the best job they can. She stated a previous Chief was very concerned with the crime getting worse and is not the Mayor and does not want to step on anybody's territory but believes any elected officials number one job is safety and remembers the Board approved ~\$10,000 of overtime to concentrate in an area of the Township where crime is more intense.

Lt. BERTONI stated it was Operation Impact done in the lower area where we were experiencing a spike in some crimes, did a crime analysis, figured out what types of crimes we wanted to target, were plotted on a map designated as high crime areas and with overtime saturated those areas, worked with probation and parole, Sheriff's Department, auto theft and drug task forces on different nights. President SNYDER stated she remembers it had an effect, understands the cost of new police officers, keep putting it on the back burner but may be sorry one day and if people don't think our police aren't doing anything, should get out and see what they are doing or listen to the

scanner as she does and at Christmas time is sure they had to get more police out. Lt. BERTONI stated during Christmas time they worked really well with the Lehigh Valley Mall who funded officers over and above the normal Friday and Saturday nights, paid for officers to be on weekends in the Mall and in cars on the parking lot with several affects one being visibility which prevents crime and really helped to free up the district cars to patrol the neighborhoods and didn't cost the Township a dime. President SNYDER stated she is very concerned with crime escalating, is willing to take from something else in the budget but safety is the issue and is willing to propose what the previous Chief did or something else, but there needs to be a change. She stated we talk about it but do not move on it, is willing to take a street out of the budget, is an issue that cannot be put on the back burner, realizes the police have a big chunk of our money from this Township but if they weren't here what would the Township be like and if we need to rob Peter to pay Paul is sorry but if that is what we have to do, then we have to do it. She asked that he talk to the Chief, Mayor or whoever and give them something.

President SNYDER asked if the Board wants to have a special meeting regarding picking a candidate for Commissioner for the two year position, are deadlocked and only have 45 days to make this appointment, spoke with Mrs. SWEENEY about it, she can give you the numbers but are pretty much down to the countdown and if there is a special meeting needs to be advertised and if the Board doesn't wish to do that it will move onto the County and the Court system. It was noted the last day for an appointment is Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> and the earliest for advertisement would be Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> and also would need a date to advertise if a candidate is selected in order to have a special meeting for that person's appointment. After discussion, the Board decided to have a meeting on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm to deliberate and a special meeting on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. to make the appointment if it happens or otherwise it will go to the court system.

Al RECKER, Whitehall-Coplay Press, asked if all of the same candidates are in the picture yet, with an affirmative response. President SNYDER stated only Mr. ROTH withdrew because of illness.

7. Mayor HOZZA joked that with all of the snow we had this year, has formed the Whitehall Township Olympic Organizing Committee and will be applying for the 2022 Olympics and will be asking the County for a \$20B grant since the snow will still be here. He noted at 4:00 pm today, 4 tri-axle trucks delivered road salt to the Township from International under the PA Costar contract which we signed up for in February of 2013 when we had to predict how much snow and ice we are going to have in the following year and place our order for salt and road materials.

Mayor HOZZA thanked the residents and commercial property owners in the Township, noting "Patience is a Virtue" since on Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 9 inch snow event within the first 2 hours of plowing had 4 dump trucks go down with mechanical difficulties but our onsite mechanics had 3 of the 4 trucks up and running within 2 hours. Crews worked throughout the day and night to get the streets plowed from curb to curb, are also in a phase now of removing snow from pre-designated areas where we need to have better access with 2 lane traffic since another snow event is predicted for Wednesday into Thursday and we will be prepared for that event.

Mayor HOZZA thanked the Police Department as 100 warnings and citations were issued to residential and commercial property owners for not shoveling or throwing snow back into the street and as of January 31<sup>st</sup> have spent \$170,000 on road salt and \$30,000 in

overtime for Public Works for snow plowing and ice treatment. He thanked everyone for their patience and to remember the sun is always shining in Whitehall Township and when it is shining, it is melting the snow.

8. Treasurer HUNSICKER stated they are in the process of closing out for the year and will have accurate numbers for next month on what has been turned over to Portnoff for collection.

Lee RACKUS stated she wanted to clarify about the stop signs and traffic study issues. She noted the Township's traffic control request packet was brought thru L&L and when people ask why a stop sign is there, she remembers up to the mid 70's traffic controls were up to the municipalities. Then in the late 70's PennDOT came out with regulations on how to control intersections and how you can establish these control devices but all the ones that existed were more or less grandfathered and made legal whether they met today's current standards or not. She stated PennDOT keeps the regulations as a moving target, when we think we know what we are doing, they change it, between her and Carl will get them more information about what the current standards are and if the Board sees the need, will re-review the traffic request packet before L&L to make sure it has the most current information because some of the regulations have been modified and PennDOT likes to say "that's your job now" or "you're liable for it", have found that is something they like to do and even though you say the Police Department or the Public Works Director or even the Board can make recommendations, have to remember it is a litigious society, do not want to do anything that you are not totally comfortable doing.

President SNYDER stated regarding the letter to the Sewer Authority, feels it is up to the Administration to decide who should attend the meeting and can all work together on the time and the dates. She thanked County Executive Mueller for attending, hopes he enjoyed it and invited him back again, the door is always open and like the Mayor said, "we have sunshine all the time in Whitehall".

***F. ADJOURNMENT***

1. MOTION – Commissioner PALAGONIA moved, seconded by Commissioner HUNSBERGER to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.