

---

# **MINUTES**

**June 10, 2019**

**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, June 10, 2019, 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  
Ann Freyman  
Shawn E. Clary  
Joseph J. Marx, Jr.  
Jeffrey J. Warren

**TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL**

Michael P. Harakal, Jr., Mayor  
John D. Meyers, Deputy Mayor  
Jason Ulrich, Esq. for 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 and former employee Stephen Spaits.

President HOWER read the statement on fair housing as required.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

Regular Public Meeting – May 13, 2019

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

**B. DEMONSTRATION- PROJECT LIFESAVER**

Lieutenant Greg BEALER introduced the program designed to allow families to keep track of their loved ones who may become lost. Lieutenant BEALER gave a demonstration of how the device tracks someone who has wandered off. An ankle bracelet is worn by the at-risk individual. If they should wander off, a family member can alert authorities who will then use an antenna to locate the transmitter on the bracelet.

The system works best when someone calls immediately upon finding their family member is missing, as the range of the transmitter is up 2 miles. The Department was able to purchase the transmitters through a grant and the device is free to affected families.

**C. PRESENTATION – PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

KCBA Architects & D'HUY Engineering presented an updated renovation plan for the municipal complex. The presentation included an outline of expenses, interior and exterior layout plans and a schedule of construction and meetings.

**D. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

Mario SPAGNOLETTI of 251 Sumner Avenue expressed what a success the Recycling Event was held on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to Commissioner GINDER, Mayor HAKAKAL and the School District for all their help.

Len HOLBEN of 5218 Pennsylvania Street stated his disappointment of the statement made by a Commissioner on Election Day regarding veterans. He feels that there should be a consequence.

Brent FENSTERMAKER (Incoming Commander of the Egypt VFW) of 3926 Mechanicsville Road also stated his feeling, as well as the members of the VFW, that the Veterans community does not have support from the Administrators of the Township. The recent comment by one of the Commissioners is unacceptable and has lost support and respect and needs to make amends.

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

**1. BILL NO. 32-2019**

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR PURCHASE OF A 2020 FORD EXPLORER 4X4 INTERCEPTOR FOR THE POLICE ADMINISTRATION DIVISION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 IN THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE. (POLICE)

President HOWER read Bill No. 32-2019 to the Board.

Commissioner GINDER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FREYMAN.

There were no questions or comments.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 32-2019 was approved.

**2. BILL NO. 33-2019**

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A STAINLESS-STEEL DUMP BODY ON THE NEW 2019 MACK DUMP TRUCK FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS BUREAU OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY

ORDINANCE (PUBLIC WORKS)

President HOWER read Bill No. 33-2019 to the Board.

Commissioner CLARY moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner MARX.

There were no questions or comments.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Bill No. 33-2019 was approved.

3. BILL NO. 34-2019

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR PURCHASE OF A TRUNARC FIELD-BASED ANALYZER FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 IN THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE. (FIRE)

President HOWER read Bill No. 34-2019 to the Board.

Commissioner GINDER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner MARX.

There were no questions or comments.

Seven Commissioners were present voting “yes”. Bill No. 34-2019 was approved.

4. BILL NO. 35-2019

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR THE INSPECTIONS OF STORM WATER FACILITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT BUREAU OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, RFP 2019-14 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE. (DEVELOPMENT)

President HOWER read Bill No. 35-2019 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present voting “yes”. Bill No. 35-2019 was approved.

5. BILL NO. 36-2019

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE LEHNERT ROAD BARN ROOF FOR THE RECREATION BUREAU OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, BID 2019-09 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE. (RECREATION)

President HOWER read Bill No. 36-2019 to the Board.

Commissioner SLONAKER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FREYMAN.

Mario SPAGNOLETTI questioned the design of the shingles. Deputy Mayor MEYERS indicated they will be architectural “slate looking” shingles. Seven Commissioners were present voting “yes”. Bill No. 36-2019 was approved.

6. BILL NO. 37-2019

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE WEST CATASAUQUA PLAYGROUND COMMUNITY BUILDING ROOF FOR THE RECREATION BUREAU OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, BID 2019-08 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE. (RECREATION)

President HOWER read Bill No. 37-2019 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present voting “yes”. Bill No. 37-2019 was approved.

7. BILL NO. 38-2019

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RATIFYING CHARGES TO BE ADDED TO THE AMOUNT COLLECTED AS PART OF UNPAID REAL ESTATE TAXES AND MUNICIPAL CLAIMS FOR DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS (TREASURER)

President HOWER read Bill No. 38-2019 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present voting “yes”. Bill No. 38-2019 was approved.

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

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3068

TITLE: A RESOLUTION FOR SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN REVISION FOR NEW LAND DEVELOPMENT OF BT(PA) QRS 12-25, INC./MRP INDUSTRIAL, LOCATED AT 3585 S. CHURCH ST., WHITEHALL PA, INDEX #1930-19. (DEVELOP)

President HOWER read Resolution No. 3068 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3062 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 3069

TITLE: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH PENNDOT FOR THE CEMENTON BRIDGE AND TO EXECUTE THE APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP.  
(ADMIN/BOC)

President HOWER read Resolution No. 3069 to the Board.

Commissioner MARX moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER. Commissioner MARX asked where the Township stands with this agreement. Attorney Jason ULRICH explained that after reviewing the agreement further w/PennDOT, it appears that any structural changes would be at PennDOT’s cost. Commissioner WARREN noted that the Township fought for the 10ft wide multi-modal sidewalk for the proposed bridge. Commissioner HOWER stated that the safety of the residents is the most important part to consider. Mayor HAKAKAL advised that CDBG funds could be obtained if and when upgrades would be required. Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 3069 was approved.

***E. OTHER***

1. MOTION – to approve the appointment of Thomas Waters to serve on the Whitehall Township the Recreation Commission-Community at Large, term expiring December 31, 2021.

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

2. MOTION – to approve the appointment of John Hudock III to serve on the Whitehall Township Planning Commission, term expiring December 31, 2021.

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

3. DISCUSSION ITEM – LVIA Freight Study

Lee RACKUS advised what transpired at the last meeting. PennDOT hired a consultant to do a specific study for the airport area. The Township was invited to meet with other communities that are affected with the warehouse development. The Township provided comments on issues that Whitehall will be faced with (traffic and truck parking issues). The draft study will be released shortly.

***F. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS***

Commissioner WARREN shared the military background of his father which instilled a sense of service in himself. He explained that his comment made on election day wasn't meaningful but it was hurtful and apologized and was contrite the next day. He hopes over time he will be forgiven.

Commissioner CLARY applauded the 2 gentlemen who were appointed this evening. Also wanted to note that a pa system is needed during the Memorial Day ceremonies.

Commissioner SLONAKER noted the passing of Stephen Spaits. Also noted the Clair Hunsberger Building Dedication at Fullerton Playground.

Commissioner GINDER also noted the Clair Hunsberger dedication. Asked everyone to think about the men and women serving our Country and to be grateful for their service.

Commissioner FREYMAN stated that a fantastic job was done on the building dedication for Clair Hunsberger. Also noted that Cementon Fair will be from June 24<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> and to please come out and support all the departments involved.

Commissioner MARX announced that the Whitehall Senior Center is hosting a fundraiser on July 8<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm to 9 pm at Keystone Pub, Grape Street, Whitehall. All proceeds benefit the Senior Center.

Commissioner HOWER described his father's military service and his upmost respect for those serving. Assurance was given that Commissioner WARREN's comments were his own and not reflective of the Board. Commissioner HOWER stated that the veterans will always full support of the Board.

Mayor HAKAKAL asked the veterans to know that the Township honors and fully supports them. The administration is truly grateful for their service.

The MAYOR also noted that there is discussion on possibly having the Recycling Event twice a year. He also advised that the LV Dairy is still moving forward. He also was honored to be apart of and speak at the Hunsberger Dedication. Mayor also announced receiving a \$70,000 grant for a pavilion at the Parkway. Submission has taken place for another grant in the approximate amount of \$90,000.

President HOWER advised that an Executive Session will be held regarding a legal matter.

***G. ADJOURNMENT***

MOTION – Commissioner MARX moved, seconded by Commissioner CLARY to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.