
MINUTES

January 11, 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 January 11, 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 - Absent
Gerard F. Palagonia
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 PALAGONIA moved, seconded by Commissioner SNYDER to approve the minutes of the following meeting:

Regular Public Meeting – December 14, 2015

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

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

Reorganization Meeting – January 4, 2016

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

B. PRESENTATION

Mayor HOZZA acknowledged the retirement of Police Officer Todd HEFFELFINGER noting he never had any issues with him, did his job protecting the citizens and properties in the Township for over 25 years and commended his family as it is a sacrifice serving not only as a Police

Officer today but for families in public life and wished him well on behalf of the residents of Whitehall Township, the Board of Commissioners and all of the staff and noted the door is always open in Whitehall to come back and reminisce.

C. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Kevin LILLY, 3955A Mechanicsville Road, Whitehall, presented pictures and asked what can be done regarding a property at 3949 Mechanicsville Road which has stacks of mulch, soil and stone piles, some have been there over a year, does not know what the plans are for it but is an eyesore. President ARMSTRONG stated he goes by there, assumed a pool was being put in and asked if spoke with the homeowner. Mr. LILLY stated he has reached out but gets no response. Lee RACKUS stated there is nothing that would be a violation of any code at this point. Mayor HOZZA asked that the code enforcement officer check to make sure. Mr. LILLY stated there is no permit posted for the shed there. Lee RACKUS asked if he called and checked to see if there was a permit issued, with a negative response.

D. PULBIC HEARING AND VOTING ON ORDINANCES

1. BILL NO. 35-2015 (Second Reading)

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER XXVII OF THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHP CODIFIED ORDINANCES, ZONING, §27-194, DEFINITIONS, § 27-3, PURPOSES; AND § 27-41, JURISDICTION; ALL WITH RESPECT TO FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING REGULATIONS. (Legal & Legislative)

President ARMSTRONG read Bill No. 35-2015 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”. Bill No. 35-2015 was approved.

2. BILL NO. 46-2015 (Second Reading)

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO COMMUNICATIONS SITE LEASE AGREEMENT (GROUND) AND MEMORANDUM OF LEASE BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP AND AMERICAN TOWER ASSET SUB, LLC FOR A LAND LEASE ON RANGE ROAD, IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, COUNTY OF LEHIGH; AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA. (ADMIN/BOC)

President ARMSTRONG read Bill No. 46-2015 to the Board.

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

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Bill No. 46-2015 was approved.

3. BILL NO. 1-2016 (First 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.

E. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2920

TITLE: A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ALBERTA SCARFARO TO THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP ZONING HEARING BOARD. (BOC)

President ARMSTRONG read Resolution No. 2920 to the Board.

Commissioner SLONAKER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner PALAGONIA.

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 2920 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2921

TITLE: A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ALLEN SANDT JR. TO THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BUILDING CODE BOARD OF APPEALS. (BOC)

President ARMSTRONG read Resolution No. 2921 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. 2921 was approved.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 2922

TITLE: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RETIREMENT AND THE COMMENCEMENT OF MONTHLY PENSION BENEFITS TO FORMER POLICE OFFICER TODD HEFFELFINGER. (ADMIN)

President ARMSTRONG read Resolution No. 2922 to the Board.

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

Six Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 2922 was approved.

F. OTHER

1. Commissioner PALAGONIA moved, seconded by Commissioner HOWER to approve the reappointment of John BROSIUS to serve on the Whitehall Township Authority, term to expire December 31, 2020.

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

2. Commissioner SLONAKER moved, seconded by Commissioner HOWER to approve the reappointment of Jeffrey WARREN to serve on the Whitehall Township Industrial and Commercial Development Authority, term to expire December 31, 2019.

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

3. Commissioner HOWER moved, seconded by Commissioner PALAGONIA to approve the reappointment of Benn SMITH to serve on the Whitehall Township Industrial and Commercial Development Authority, term to expire December 31, 2019.

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

4. Commissioner PALAGONIA moved, seconded by Commissioner DUTT to approve the reappointment of Cara BUTZ to serve on the Recreation Commission representing the community-at-large, term to expire September 30, 2018.

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

5. Commissioner PALAGONIA moved, seconded by Commissioner HOWER to approve the reappointment of Joseph BONSHAK to serve on the Coplay-Whitehall Sewer Authority, term to expire December 31, 2020

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

6. Commissioner SLONAKER moved, seconded by Commissioner SNYDER to approve the reappointment of Donald HAYN to serve on the Civil Service Commission, term to expire December 31, 2021.

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

7. Commissioner PALAGONIA moved, seconded by Commissioner HOWER to approve the reappointment Robert LOOSLI to serve on the Planning Commission, term to expire December 31, 2019.

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

8. Commissioner SLONAKER moved, seconded by Commissioner PALAGONIA to approve the reappointment of Robert PILIGIAN to serve on the Planning Commission, term to expire December 31, 2019.

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

9. Commissioner DUTT moved, seconded by Commissioner PALAGONIA to approve the reappointment of Robert ZENTZ to serve on the Planning Commission, term to expire December 31, 2019.

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

10. Commissioner SLONAKER moved, seconded by Commissioner PALAGONIA to approve the reappointment of Joseph WILFINGER to serve on the Shade Tree Committee, term to expire December 31, 2018.

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

G. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

1. Commissioner DUTT stated this is his first meeting and asked to have the minutes posted on the website once they have been approved.
2. Commissioner PALAGONIA thanked all of those who were reappointed tonight to the various Boards for their dedication as it helps the Township a great deal, noted some get a stipend and we all appreciate what our volunteers do.
3. Commissioner HOWER stated he also appreciates all of the volunteers, if some get a stipend it is not a lot and thanked everyone who takes the time to volunteer for the community. He asked if we need to upgrade the website. Mayor HOZZA stated several firms have been in to redo the entire website, are evaluating the proposals to move forward and in the future for interactive. Commissioner HOWER asked where we are at with webcasting the meetings. Mayor HOZZA stated we are down to one and the Board will need to approve that expense.
4. Commissioner SLONAKER asked if we have gotten anywhere with the conflict attorney. Mayor HOZZA stated we have uncovered what the conflict was and if that issue comes up, have another conflict attorney to take over. Commissioner SLONAKER also thanked all of the volunteers as we really need people to come forward to be on our Boards, people think they need a certain skill but just need people who are interested in putting in a little effort to make the community better.
5. President ARMSTRONG also thanked the volunteers, have many boards where we can always use help and would appreciate anyone coming forward. He noted he thought of the Mayor as he was taking out his recycling container and remembers thinking maybe they were a little large but the Mayor said to wait a year, it is only he and his wife and they are filling it up, are recycling more, it is working and is really proud it is something we instituted in this Township.

President ARMSTRONG stated he contacted Orlando Rivera, the patient care education specialist from the Lehigh Valley Health Network and a flight nurse, who will come out and do free CPR training since with the new CPR there is no mouth-to-mouth anymore, is just chest compressions, they give everyone their own individual kit, is a new certification program and would like to set it up for our residents.

President ARMSTRONG noted next Monday is a national holiday, Martin Luther King Day, there was a famous speech “I Have a Dream”, reads about equality and how far away it is yet, noted there was a Roosevelt corollary to the Monroe Doctrine and he has the Armstrong corollary to the “I Have a Dream” speech, that it would be nice if we all got along, looking at our Congress, our State, if they could just reach out and talk to each other a little bit more and to look back to our Founders of the Constitution who had definite opposite sides of opinion but they met, talked it over, they compromised, is something that is lacking today, is very proud of this Board, passed a budget last month,

we compromised, got things done and is proud to be part of that. So just try to meet your neighbor in the middle now and then as it would make the world a little bit better.

6. Mayor HOZZA reminded everyone that the Fullerton Avenue southbound detour is scheduled to start tomorrow, entering the next phase of construction on Rte. 22 and the Fullerton Avenue Bridge and will last a year and a half. The cranes are up at the Lehigh River Bridge to start putting in the dams for the pylons for the new bridge, everything is pretty much on schedule and if residents have any questions to contact the Mayor's office and to be cautious with the new traffic patterns

H. ADJOURNMENT

1. MOTION – Commissioner PALAGONIA moved, seconded by Commissioner HOWER to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm.