
MINUTES

August 12, 2013

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, August 12, 2013, 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
Paul F. Geissinger, Secretary
Dennis C. Hower
Clair Hunsberger
Gerard F. Palagonia
Thomas Slonaker

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL

Edward D. Hozza, Jr., Mayor - absent
John D. Meyers, Deputy Mayor
Charles Fonzone, Attorney
Frank Clark, Keystone Engineering
Lee Rackus, PZ&D
Patricia Sweney, Executive Secretary

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

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Regular Public Meeting – July 8, 2013

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

B. PRESENTATION

Celeste MURDOCK of FMA Global Insurance presented a fire prevention grant to Ann FREYMAN, Township Deputy EMA Coordinator. The grant will be used to assist with pre-fire planning with the Fire Department.

Holly EDDINGER of LVEDC spoke on a project called Envision Lehigh Valley funded by a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development with planning work to be driven by public input. Anticipate the Lehigh Valley to add 145,000 people in the next 20 years and looking to see how it will affect the urban developed Townships and the developing Townships and rural areas. She extended an invitation to attend a special session about economic development on September 12th for local governments. Commissioner GINDER asked why they just look at the cities and not at Townships like Whitehall and Upper Macungie who have more population than the City of Easton. Ms. EDDINGER stated the work they are doing is a regional

plan, there are specific projects, one in each of the three cities with the grant, and the cities continually involvement with HUD gave a lot of weight in the application but LVEDC does a lot of work with Townships and Boroughs as well but under this planning grant the implementation dollars went to the 3 cities. Commissioner GINDER stated the need to understand there are Townships and Boroughs that pay taxes and have problems too, not just in the cities. Commissioner HOWER stated they understand the regionalization philosophy but the problem is its all suppose to trickle down to the Townships and Boroughs but it never does. Ms. EDDINGER opined the Townships that are now growing get attention for new development but Townships that are already developed get overlooked. Commissioner GINDER stated this Township just like the cities are struggling to develop old properties but do not seem to get the grant money the cities are getting.

Eileen RAPE, 340 Calvert Street, Whitehall, asked if the money would be used to redevelop or develop new land because where she lives it is very crowded, very close to the Allentown border and sees an increase in crime and other issues and would fight the building of new houses but if it is to redevelop homes that are falling down, would be for it. Ms. EDDINGER stated they are not advocating building new houses but people keep moving into the Lehigh Valley and as a community need to evaluate whether to build new houses in new areas for new residents or whether to reinvest in our existing neighborhoods but the kind of housing is driven by market demand and by each municipality and this plan is to find what the balance is to the Valley. President SNYDER stated she reads the police report every month and it is not getting better, getting much worse, has been here for many years and the intensity of the crime is getting worse and needs to be taken into consideration.

C. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Joni TEDESCO, 424 4th Street, Whitehall, stated her street is being reconstructed and asked if Recon is a fly-by-night company. Deputy Mayor MEYERS stated they do full depth road reconstruction all throughout Pennsylvania, are very reputable and PennDOT allows them to do this type of work also. Ms. TEDESCO stated she told Mayor HOZZA she was not happy with the progress, told Recon about a very soft spot where they dumped stone about 3 feet deep but there are gullies, bumps, ruts and is concerned if the street will be level. Frank CLARK stated he spoke with the Public Works Director and he had an issue because when they cut up the road, there wasn't much underneath it to recycle, is budget driven so they need to see what they can do, are trying to figure out the soft spots, have tricky clay in this area, hit something they didn't expect, normally look at 5-6 inches of material to grind up, not 2 inches, then add cement to bind it to reuse, the rain storms did not help, the goal is to get everything to drain correctly without damaging anyone's property but need to start at the bottom and fix that first. Ms. TEDESCO stated her concern is because of the sinkholes in the area. Frank CLARK stated a sinkhole will occur no matter what you do or where you dig, start way underneath, can be working for hundreds of years and the only thing to do with sinkholes is react to them. Ms. TEDESCO stated when she spoke to Mayor HOZZA was appalled to hear this was being funded by federal grant money because they are in a low to moderate income area. Frank CLARK stated it is census driven, changes every 10 years according to the federal government and however they categorize something we will use it to get grant money and to save tax money.

Ms. TEDESCO stated a neighbor is feeding numerous feral cats; spoke with the woman who said they were not her cats but had them fixed and will not stop feeding them because she is an animal lover. Ms. TEDESCO stated they are doing their duty in everybody's yard, had two litters recently, understands there is not an ordinance to alleviate this problem, is hoping one can be adopted because it is unhealthy and doesn't feel it is hers or the neighbors responsible to call someone to come and trap these cats. President SNYDER stated there are groups she can contact

that may be able to help. When asked by Board members what she would like an ordinance to say, Ms. TEDESCO stated not being able to feed feral cats and doing their business in everyone's yard. Commissioner GINDER stated this has been looked at, would need to determine what is a feral cat or belongs to someone. President SNYDER stated she tried to set up a group but it failed because the Township didn't want her to do it because it was too much of a liability. Commissioner GINDER stated we cannot have Police Officers running around herding cats if we had an ordinance and is not willing to take police hours to herd cats when they need to be out putting bad people away. Commissioner GEISSINGER stated this has been discussed many times, is very difficult to have police enforcement of this issue, the Township does not license dogs, the County does and therefore cannot license cats, is out of our hands until someone comes to us with a viable way to handle this and has the same problem with tree rats (squirrels) in his area which he feels people are feeding. President SNYDER noted Coplay has a feral cat group which helped her. Commissioner PALAGONIA stated most laws on animals are formed by the State and to contact her State Representative.

Mario SPAGNOLETTI, 351 Sumer Avenue, Whitehall, stated along the rail trail by Boyko's there are big holes with water in the Parkway where the old firehouse was and asked if it will be regraded. Frank CLARK stated he would need to check with the Sewer Authority since it is their project. Mr. SPAGNOLETTI stated they have a neighbor who put a pool in, have a pile of people using it and make a lot of noise. He noted the police have been there but understands the Township doesn't have a noise ordinance. Commissioner PALAGONIA stated there is a disorderly conduct ordinance. Mr. SPAGNOLETTI asked if there is something on the number of people who can use a pool, with a negative response.

Joni TEDESCO, 424 Fourth Street, Whitehall, asked about the time concerning noise. Commissioner PALAGONIA stated the playgrounds close around 10 pm and have a disorderly conduct ordinance.

Eileen RAPE, 340 Calvert Street, Whitehall, stated there is no time specified, is whenever it is deemed by the officer to be a nuisance in the neighborhood.

Commissioner GEISSINGER noted to have a noise ordinance would require having certified people and meters. It was noted it usually falls apart in court and has gotten nowhere in other Townships.

D. PULBIC HEARING AND VOTING ON ORDINANCES

1. BILL NO. 25-2013

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR THREE YEAR LEASE OF TWO (2) RICOH COPIERS FOR THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 IN THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE. (ADMIN)

President SNYDER read Bill No. 25-2013 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present and voted "yes". Bill No.25-2013 was approved.

E. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS**1. RESOLUTION NO. 2810**

TITLE: A RESOLUTION FOR SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN REVISION FOR NEW LAND DEVELOPMENT OF KIRKPATRICK SUBDIVISION, LOCATED AT 8th AND HILLSIDE AVENUE, WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, INDEX #1765-09. (DEVELOP)

President SNYDER read Resolution No. 2810 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 2810 was approved

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2811

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE MINOR SUBDIVISION PLAN OF PINTO MINOR SUBDIVISION, LOCATED AT BRIDGE & W. COLUMBIA STREETS, WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, INDEX NO. 1836-13. (DEVELOP)

President SNYDER read Resolution No. 2811 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 2811 was approved

3. RESOLUTION NO. 2813

TITLE: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RETIREMENT AND THE COMMENCEMENT OF MONTHLY PENSION BENEFITS TO FORMER POLICE LIEUTENANT JAMES R. WAGNER. (ADMIN)

President SNYDER read Resolution No. 2813 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 2813 was approved

F. MOTION

1. Commissioner HUNSBERGER moved, second by Commissioner PALAGONIA to approve the purchase of a one-half page ad at \$300.00 for all three seasons for the Varsity W Club in the Whitehall-Coplay School District.

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

2. Commissioner GINDER moved, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER to approve after consideration and extended discussions on the various relationships between the Northampton Borough Municipal Authority and the Board of Commissioners of Whitehall Township, the Board of Commissioners grants relief to the Northampton Borough Municipal Authority from the degradation fee occasioned by the sinkhole on Mickley Road.

Commissioner GEISSINGER asked if they have the legal authority to do this because it is an ordinance. Attorney FONZONE stated he believes they do. Commissioner GEISSINGER stated than they can unilaterally change any ordinance in the Township by voting on it. Attorney FONZONE responding not necessarily unilaterally changing it if you are considering the source of the problem. Commissioner GEISSINGER stated the sidewalk ordinance says they have the legal authority to base each individual application on a vote but has a problem taking any ordinance and saying it doesn't affect this individual. Attorney FONZONE stated if a lawsuit develops out of this and there is a responsibility found for the damage, then that entity will be obligated but that hasn't happened so far. Lee RACKUS stated the degradation fee is contained in the fee schedule and there is a provision where the board can waive any fee at any time and have done it in the past most recently with Coplay and Chestnut Street. It was noted the Board asked the Mayor to negotiate with NBMA on the possibility of getting a fix on the hydrant fees. Commissioner GINDER stated he heard they would not raise the rate for 10 years. President SNYDER stated the Mayor said it to her on the phone. Commissioner GEISSINGER asked if they could have more information before voting. Lee RACKUS stated NBMA filed for a street restoration permit and is when they were informed about the degradation fee and noted this is kind of an exception in that it wasn't an intentional opening or destruction of the street. President SNYDER asked if they could include the ten years of not raising the rental fee on the hydrants. Attorney FONZONE stated he did not feel it was appropriate. Commissioner GEISSINGER asked if the area is stabilized to be fixed because a neighboring property still has an issue and water is still going into the hole. President SNYDER stated they could have a special session when the Mayor gets back and get the necessary information or they could wait until next month. Commissioner GEISSINGER reiterated he wants to make certain the street is ready to be fixed. Frank CLARK stated you can only be as certain as to what you see it in the field, could be solid this month and open up next month and can only react to these things, do not know when they will start again, could be good again for another 20 years. Commissioner GEISSINGER stated he is just looking at what PennDOT does backwards and feels the area is still sinking. Frank CLARK stated the need to get the hole stabilized to keep traffic moving, if it is going to move will feel it with the machinery, need to pave it and get it safe again, keep an eye on it and if it starts to sag, then you know you have an issue. President SNYDER asked then in a year or two whose responsibility will it be. Lee RACKUS stated there is a restoration deposit that is part of a street opening. Commissioner SLONAKER stated it could go another ten years with nothing happening and then it can get bigger than what it was. Frank CLARK stated it could have been working its way to the surface for many years. Lee RACKUS stated is hasn't been determined it was just a sinkhole; there was a huge amount of water lost there. Frank CLARK stated there are other things classified as solution cavities which might be a small hole that took all the water and the soil with it.

Jeff WARREN, 4568 Pharaoh Street, Whitehall stated the road is not ready to paved yet, the sinkholes are active inside the yard and the downspouts are still feeding the sinkholes. Frank CLARK stated our responsibility is to make the road passable and they are

stepping up to do that. Commissioner SLONAKER asked if this needs to be done tonight. Frank CLARK stated there is no issue in tabling it and wait to get clarification.

Both Commissioner GINDER and Commissioner SLONAKER withdrew their first and second to approve.

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes” to table the motion pending more information.

G. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

1. Commissioner HOWER asked about the progress of the grant. Deputy Mayor MEYERS stated it is moving forward, have the information they need.
2. Commissioner SLONAKER asked about Eastern Industries not using the other road, looks like the trucks are driving on the edge of the Rails-to-Trails. Frank CLARK he has contacted the company but hasn't heard back as yet.
3. Commissioner GEISSINGER asked about the letter of August 7th from Attorney FONZONE to Lee RACKUS regarding 4154 Roosevelt whether they aren't actively involved in it, with an affirmative response. Attorney FONZONE stated there is no mediation and if one is set up will be asked to participate

Commissioner GEISSINGER asked about the billboard issue with City of Allentown Zoning Hearing Board concerning Jordan Park. Lee RACKUS stated as a neighboring community are notified of any zoning appeals, the Mayor went to the last meeting and an individual that is a competitor owning properties in the City has challenged the City's right to enter into the agreement to allow a municipal exemption that otherwise would not be permitted in certain areas of the City. Commissioner GEISSINGER asked if billboards are permitted in that area by the City of Allentown. Lee RACKUS stated the way they are proposing it, yes, if that is found to be valid. Commissioner GEISSINGER questioned if the Township should be fighting it also since it involves a strip of land that involves the creek and in the proximity of the Township. Attorney FONZONE stated he is not sure they would have standing since the person who raised the objection has standing because he was one of the people interested in it. Commissioner GEISSINGER stated we could be affected by it and doesn't want to see billboards affecting our businesses in the area. Attorney FONZONE stated it is somewhat a close question as to whether they would have the authority on that basis to raise an objection, is willing to look at it and check to see if they have standing. President SNYDER stated then is it okay to say now if the Attorney finds we have standing give him the right to be involved. Commissioner GEISSINGER stated their meeting is on the 19th and need to nip this in the bud before it becomes an issue. Commissioner GINDER stated due to the short notice, have the Attorney investigate it and if he feels we can have standing, turn him loose. Commissioner SLONAKER agreed on the need to look into it but do they realize how expensive it could get, is not disagreeing with what they are saying is wrong but is looking at the dollars. Commissioner GEISSINGER stated he doesn't care what it costs, represent the taxpayers of Whitehall Township and it can't go up on MacArthur Road. Commissioner SLONAKER stated he does not know what is going to happen at this hearing but is not going to commit to spend untold dollars. President SNYDER stated you don't need to do that but do what we have done before where our Solicitor will make that call as far as money, then he will come back to us and we will discuss it and make a

decision. Commissioner GINDER stated they will not clean it up in one meeting especially with some of the names involved, feels it will tend to drag out, may be smart to have our Attorney attend the meeting and get a feel for where it is heading and then come back and tell us what we can or cannot do. Attorney FONZONE stated they may need a meeting in between. It was agreed to look into it.

4. Commissioner HUNSBERGER asked about the house at 3rd & Grape Streets. Deputy Mayor MEYERS stated the pre-demolition work will start on Wednesday and it looks bad because the Fire Department has been using the building for training exercises.
5. Commissioner PALAGONIA asked about the issues at National Plastics. Frank CLARK stated they are being handled thru their attorney.
6. President SNYDER read a letter from an individual looking to relocate his family from the City of Allentown into Whitehall who is concerned about the news story on WFMZ TV about Whitehall becoming a City. The letter stated his opposition to the idea, especially the creation of a Housing Authority in Whitehall, because as a lifelong resident of the City of Allentown, has seen firsthand the decline in the various City neighborhoods including his own in recent years as a result of low income rental housing thus making the City of Allentown an undesirable place to reside and raise his children and this proposal may transform the beautiful, serene and peaceful residential areas of Whitehall Township and turn neighborhoods into high crime traffic just like on the south side of the City of Allentown and has witnessed firsthand the destruction of a residential neighborhood as a result of low income housing and his current neighborhood is plagued with drugs, violence, litter and gang activity and also believes the quality of education received by the Whitehall-Coplay School District will suffer greatly as a result and the infrastructure will be severely taxed as a result of the influx of new residents into the area and asked to reconsider the proposal and is pondering withdrawing an offer on a home in Whitehall and searching for a new home in an area wishing to keep their status as a Township or Borough.

President SNYDER stated she was shocked to see the Mayor on TV announcing this plan, understands a lot of study needs to go into this, will not happen overnight, lots of questions need to be answered, the intentions to turn Whitehall Township into a City may be very admirable with the intent to recruit grant monies but what do the residents of Whitehall need to sacrifice in order to receive those grants, do we need to sell our souls. She stated it is very serious, doesn't care if it will take years, people need to be very alert to this, do we want to be unrecognizable, lived here her whole life and has given her life to Whitehall Township and does not want to see it destroyed. Some of the things referred to we are getting now but will get more and if it takes place there is no turning back, it's a done deal and may be sorry for what we wished for and hopes the people in Whitehall make their voices heard and maybe this is the most wonderful thing to happen but does not see it at this point. President SNYDER stated all you have to do is take a look around and if you want that for your Township, what they consider cities in this immediate area, for the sake of getting grant money or setting up a Housing Authority and what kind of houses will you get from that authority. She wished this place was crowded so word would get out, may be totally off the wall with this but needs these questions answered, doesn't like what she is hearing or seeing but take a look around if that is an example.

Jeff WARREN, 4586 Pharaoh Street, Whitehall, stated he believes it was brought up by Lee about creating a Housing Authority within the ICDA numerous times and he has approached the Board about the advantages/disadvantages of the Township becoming a

City and before blanket statements are made, need to consider the apartment complexes we have and chances are we already meet those quotas and thinks it is a statement to our State and Federal officials to have the same passion to speak out when Harrisburg passes legislation that benefits the cities. President SNYDER stated they do, but no one listens and have tried to get them involved in many various things. Mr. WARREN noted the gaming revenue of \$4.5M to Allentown, \$8.5M to Bethlehem, \$450,000 to Easton and zero to Whitehall because we aren't a city. President SNYDER stated to remember what you might get though and take a look around. Mr. WARREN stated it's a fact finding mission with Envision Lehigh Valley getting \$3.4M for a pilot project in each of the cities but the Lehigh Valley Dairy, one block out of the city limits doesn't qualify for any of that funding. President SNYDER stated maybe it doesn't but she wouldn't want to sacrifice the residents of this Township for the Dairy or for anything else he is talking about and will fight it and do whatever she has to do if those answers don't come back correctly and can do it as a resident not just as a Commissioner. Mr. WARREN stated it would be a shout to Harrisburg. President SNYDER stated how many times they have tried to shout to Harrisburg and to look at the report Lee RACKUS got telling us our zoning ordinance doesn't meet what they want and what they are trying to force us to do to make those funds available for the people here. It's a disgrace, we will be run out of town, that is what is going to happen and you will want to run.

Eileen RAPE, 340 Calvert Street, Whitehall, stated she grew up in Breinigsville and now there are tons of million dollar houses that are foreclosed because of the market. She wants her kids to go outside and not tell them they can't go out of the yard because she knows there is a drug dealer living on 5th Street; they threaten people, litter and don't cut their grass. Ms. RAPE stated she doesn't know the difference between a Township and a City, if it is a population issue, Whitehall has it, does not want to see Whitehall developed like Breinigsville because on her street they built a cul-de-sac with nine town homes all purchased by people from New York, six by one family, they speed on a dead end street, they tried to hit us with their car and were told the cops cannot do anything because there is no posted speed limit. Understands we may want the money but would have fought it if she had known what was planned there.

President SNYDER stated the money is not worth sacrificing everybody in the Township and if that is the case than don't take the money. Ms. RAPE stated she encourages residents to fight development, helps out in PTO and can tell which kids have just moved into the district, they are rude, disrespectful, most of them live off the system and there are so many apartment buildings here. President SNYDER stated when they say a city, take a look at what is in the area and is that what you want to get a couple bucks into this Township and look at all of the studies that have to be done. Ms. RAPE asked what the difference is. President SNYDER stated she thinks they base a lot on population. Commissioner GINDER stated he wants to calm this nonsense down as it is way out of control. President SNYDER stated it isn't nonsense. Commissioner GINDER stated at an L&L meeting last month, where we are constantly looking at the different ways of doing things, is where this concept was brought up as to why are we losing out as a Township when the cities are getting, nobody was pushing for city status or anything else and need to remember for anything to happen it has to go on a referendum in front of the voters and the only way it can get on a referendum is passed the Board of Commissioners. He stated the need to talk about these things because it is a way of finding out if we are doing what we should be doing and not just whisper in the closet about them, need to get out and see who is getting what, who isn't and why we aren't and are just trying to get answers on why the cities are getting things and we can't and don't need to yell fire since all we are trying to do is get some facts. President SNYDER stated

she isn't yelling fire but the Mayor was on TV and he said this is what he wanted and the people should be made aware of it. Commissioner GINDER stated he is just trying to stop an epidemic that could tear this Township apart.

Ms. RAPE stated she feels they are starting to lose the whole concept of solidarity here because when she came to Whitehall it was a very close knit community, everybody knew everybody, used to joke around, helped everybody and looked out for our neighbors but now our older ones are dying off, there are new people moving in, have their own way of doing things, they built the nine townhomes but each one except for two of them have turned over at least 4 times in the last six years with the lawyer being stabbed, a drug bust with heroin and this is increasing. President SNYDER stated an informed public, is an educated public and is not hollering fire but will if it gets to that point. Commissioner HOWER stated he was at the same meeting, had a conversation about grant money, the County gets money and divides it up and we get certain amounts for certain grants, there are some politics being played at the County level and the way to bypass that is if you are a City, was just an off-handed conversation and was stunned that it was on the WFMZ website. He stated at L&L talk about a ton of things in addition to what is on the agenda, is not saying he is in favor or against because we need to get a lot more information, have six things on the L&L agenda for Wednesday and changing from a Township to a City isn't on it and doesn't see it being on it for a long time, if ever. Ms. RAPE stated she doesn't care what we call ourselves, just wants to know why we aren't getting the money. Commissioner GINDER stated when somebody runs for State Senator or State Representative, pay some attention to whom you vote for, are they really qualified to go out there and push for the Lehigh Valley and our needs or are we just filling seats and to take a minute and think about who you are sending to Harrisburg, to Washington and here in the Township because we get nothing in the Lehigh Valley and need to get good qualified Lehigh Valley people out in Harrisburg pushing for Lehigh Valley issues. Commissioner GINDER stated don't vote because you know this person, think about what they are going to do about some of these very serious issues because they are the ones who change the ordinances that we deal with. President SNYDER stated Commissioner HOWER was accurate with everything he said, was discussed at L&L, a meeting where you throw things out and the consensus was negative and she was surprised when she got a call from WFMZ asking what she thinks about changing Whitehall to a City and told them it was news to her, doesn't want to be included in the article because she can't answer the question, doesn't know enough but if something like that would take place, we would need to approve it to become a referendum. She stated the Board should have been told this discussion was going to take place on TV because we are asked questions, would have been nice to have a public meeting and seeing what the Board thinks. Ms. RAPE asked if you get the name City based on population. Commissioner HOWER stated it is not the driving factor since we have more residents than the City of Easton. Ms. RAPE stated than naming yourself a City just gets you a little more recognition. Commissioner HOWER stated there are downsides to that recognition. President SNYDER agreed and stated we all know what the downside is.

Joni TEDESCO, 424 4th Street, Whitehall, asked where the Mayor is. Commissioner GINDER stated on vacation, he deserves it, everybody deserves time off. Ms. TEDESCO stated she agrees with President SNYDER, would not like to see Whitehall Township become the City of Whitehall and why change it to can get more funding since the love of money is the root of all evil. President SNYDER responded that to some people, their God is money. Ms. TEDESCO stated to bring in these other folks and run down these neighborhoods is a disgrace to the community here. Commissioner GINDER stated no one is bringing anyone in, people are making choices to move into Whitehall,

it's an open country, and people can come/go where ever they want. Commissioner GEISSINGER stated no one is bringing them in. Ms. TEDESCO stated all these people are coming into the Township and the gentleman in the back said he would like to see this become the City of Whitehall. Mr. WARREN stated that is not what he said but something to look into. Ms. TEDESCO stated it is a concept to look into but feels a lot of people would not be in agreement with it, has a lot of illegal activity coming into her area, is not getting any better and can only get worse. Commissioner GEISSINGER stated it is not just her neighborhood, is his also and all over the Township and is getting worse everywhere and they have the same issues in other Townships and communities and cities, is not unique to her neighborhood. President SNYDER stated if we are forced to change our zoning ordinances if we would become a city, look out. Commissioner GINDER stated the federal government is trying to force us to look at their way of thinking as a Township now, leave the city out of it. President SNYDER stated it will be a 100 times worse if you make the change. Commissioner GINDER stated it doesn't matter what we are, the federal government is trying to tell us what we have to do. President SNYDER stated like was said to speak to our representatives but how many years are we trying, never helped us with anything. Commissioner GINDER stated they don't even come to our public meetings, when was the last time they came and asked how they can help us.

Lee RACKUS asked the Board, at the request of the Planning Commission, to consider the appointment of another member. Commissioner GINDER suggested to Ms. TEDESCO and Ms. RAPE to apply because with the Planning Commission you get to see everything coming, have your input as to why you think it should be, need to follow our ordinances, is a recommending board, work with Ms. RACKUS, meet once a month, is a ton of reading but when they send things up to this board, it is usually ready to go.

H. ADJOURNMENT

1. MOTION – Commissioner HUNSBERGER moved, seconded by Commissioner PALAGONIA to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.