
MINUTES

December 12, 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, December 12, 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
Joseph J. Marx, Jr.
Linda K. Snyder

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL

Edward D. Hozza, Jr., Mayor
John D. Meyers, Deputy Mayor
Charles Fonzone, Attorney
Sarah Jolly, Attorney
Frank Clark, Township Engineer
Michael Marks, Police Chief
Patricia Sweeney, Executive Secretary

The meeting was formally opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, a moment of silence for our troops and for two Township Public Works employees Robert “Rupp” Kocher and Jerome “Jerry” Bednar who passed away last week.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Regular Public Meeting – November 14, 2016

Seven Commissioners were present with six voting “yes” and Commissioner HOWER abstained. Motion carried

B. PRESENTATIONS

Police Chief Michael MARKS stated Mark NEDEROSTEK is an 18 year police veteran with the patrol division, is one of the leading crash investigators in Lehigh County, a foremost authority on commercial vehicle inspections as well as traffic enforcement, has served numerous terms on the department’s association board, was promoted to the rank of Corporal on November 20, 2016, will be assigned as a shift supervisor on the night shift platoon and knows he will continue to service this Township with integrity and distinction. Mayor HOZZA presented the badge of office to Corporal NEDEROSTEK and noted his professional work ethic, is looking forward to having a traffic division in the Police Department and expressed his congratulations to him and his family.

Chief MARX introduced the three young men who graduated with honors from the Allentown Police Academy on December 1, 2016, will now be assigned to field officer training program in the Township and will conduct themselves with integrity, accountability and character to further the trust established with this community thru the generations of Whitehall Township Police Officers. He noted the scrutiny of Police Officers is at an all-time high and they must never betray the oath they are about to take. The profession they have chosen is not always easy, comes with built in sacrifices, many a weekend will be missed as well as Christmas, other holidays and events but will always have the support they need as they are joining the Whitehall Police family.

Police Officers Christopher LONGO, Mark NICOSIA and Nicholas SQUIRES were sworn in by Notary Public Patricia SWEENEY. Mayor HOZZA presented the badge of office to each officer.

C. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

No one signed in for courtesy of the floor.

D. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON ORDINANCES

1. BILL NO. 26-2016

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING THE 2017 ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATING SPECIFIC SUMS ESTIMATED TO BE REQUIRED FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES OF THE TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT, HEREINAFTER SET FORTH, DURING THE 2017 FISCAL YEAR. (ADMIN)

President ARMSTRONG read Bill No. 26-2016 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Bill No. 26-2016 was approved.

2. BILL NO. 27-2017

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING A FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE COLLECTION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL (ADMIN).

President ARMSTRONG read Bill No. 27-2016 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Bill No. 27-2016 was approved.

3. BILL NO. 28-2017

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE REAL ESTATE TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 2017. (ADMIN)

President ARMSTRONG read Bill No. 28-2016 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Bill No. 28-2016 was approved.

4. BILL NO. 29-2017

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 15, SECTION 11 OF THE 2006 CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, ESTABLISHING A 25 MPH MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT FOR FORNACIARI DRIVE BETWEEN MACARTHUR RD/SR 145 AND MAIN ST/SR 329 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. (BOC)

President ARMSTRONG read Bill No. 29-2016 to the Board.

Commissioner SNYDER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DUTT. It was noted this affirms the signage that has been up for years.

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Bill No. 29-2016 was approved.

E. PULBIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2953

TITLE: A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (2017-2020), SPECIFICALLY FOR THE 2017 FISCAL YEAR. (ADMIN)

President ARMSTRONG read Resolution No. 2953 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. 2953 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2954

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL REAFFIRMING AND REENACTING THE REALTY TRANSFER TAX, THE EARNED INCOME TAX, THE PER CAPITA TAX, THE LOCAL SERVICES TAX, AND THE BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX (ADMIN)

President ARMSTRONG read Resolution No. 2954 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 2954 was approved.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 2955

TITLE: A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT BILL NO. 26-2016, ADOPTING THE 2017 ANNUAL BUDGET, AND APPROPRIATING SPECIFIC SUMS ESTIMATED TO BE REQUIRED FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES OF THE TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT, IS AN EMERGENCY ENACTMENT AND MAY TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY. (ADMIN)

President ARMSTRONG read Resolution No. 2955 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 2955 was approved.

4. RESOLUTION NO.2956

TITLE: A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT BILL NO.27-2016, ESTABLISHING A FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE COLLECTION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE, IS AN EMERGENCY ENACTMENT AND MAY TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY. (ADMIN)

President ARMSTRONG read Resolution No. 2956 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 2956 was approved.

5. RESOLUTION NO. 2957

TITLE: A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT BILL NO. 28-2016, FIXING THE REAL ESTATE TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 2017, IS AN EMERGENCY ENACTMENT AND MAY TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY. (ADMIN)

President ARMSTRONG read Resolution No. 2957 to the Board.

Commissioner MARX moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner HOWER.

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 2957 was approved.

6. RESOLUTION NO. 2958

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE
MUNICIPAL RISK MANAGEMENT WORKERS' COMPENSATION
POOLED TRUST (ADMIN)

President ARMSTRONG read Resolution No. 2958 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present and voted "yes". Resolution No. 2958 was
approved.

E. OTHER

1. Commissioner DUTT moved, seconded by Commissioner HOWER to approve the accounting firm of Reinsel, Kuntz, Leshner, LLP as the Township Auditor for the review, analysis and reporting of the Township financial records for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016.

Seven Commissioners were present and voted "yes". Motion carried.

2. Commissioner GINDER moved, seconded by Commissioner HOWER to approve the appointment of Deborah HAMSHO to serve on the Whitehall Township Ethics Board.

Seven Commissioners were present and voted "yes". Motion carried.

3. Commissioner SLONAKER moved, seconded by Commissioner GINDER for the Board of Commissioners to approve the Conciliation Agreement and Voluntary Compliance Agreement under the Fair Housing Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act between the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, PathStone Housing Corporation of Pennsylvania, the Township of Whitehall, and the Whitehall Zoning Hearing Board and the Settlement Agreement and Release by PathStone Housing Corporation of Pennsylvania.

Commissioner GINDER noted this is one of the hardest "yes" votes he ever made.

Seven Commissioners were present with five voting "yes" and Commissioners HOWER and MARX voted "no". Motion carried.

G. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

1. Commissioner SNYDER wished everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, to have good health and to remember the ultimate sacrifices our veterans made on December 7th at Pearl Harbor.
2. Commissioner GINDER thanked the Police and Fire Departments, Administration, Department Heads, all employees and volunteers, people on the boards and commissions,

had a good year, met the budget numbers, doing better than expected, were over the top on legal bills but feels we did fine and wished the best of holidays and health for everybody in the New Year.

3. Commissioner SLONAKER asked about having rules being posted in the Parkway as he saw individuals with an open fire by the parking lot off of Church Street. Mayor HOZZA stated that is not allowed and the ordinance regarding open burning would apply but may have been the Fire Department doing clean-up from the Haunted Parkway. Commissioner SLONAKER suggested posting a notice in one of the kiosks and wished a safe Merry Christmas and a fantastic New Year to everyone as it can only get better.
4. Commissioner HOWER wished Happy Holidays and New Year to the staff and workers who did a fantastic job once again, came in under budget which takes a lot of hard work. Congratulated the new recruits and Corporal NEDEROSTEK, expressed his sadness on the loss of the two Public Works employees, noting he met Mr. BEDNER years ago when he worked for UPS and feels horrible he didn't get to enjoy his retirement since he only retired a few months ago and expressed his condolences to both families.
5. Commissioner DUTT wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, thanked the Board since it was his first year on the Board for their help and support and thanked all the Township employees and volunteers for all they do for the Township. Commissioner DUTT stated on Tuesday, April 4 at the West Catty Playground building will have a grand opening for our Whitehall Township Active Senior Lifestyle Center, will have sign-ups for different activities from 10 am to 12 noon with the first activity to start on May 2nd, also asked for volunteers to help, have been working on this for 1½ years and is looking forward to it. Also, the Recreation Commission over the next year will be looking over our programs to make them better and to streamlining some things.
6. Commissioner MARX thanked the Mayor and Public Works for furnishing signs for the Tom Cat at the Egypt VFW, also the staff and administration for a great year and thanked the Board for appointing him, is enlightening and learning a lot, is honored to serve and wished everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday and New Year.
7. President ARMSTRONG thanked the Board for their cooperation over the past year during his first year as president, has been an honor, is proud of the things they have accomplished and thanked Commissioner SNYDER for her help as her experience has been invaluable to him. Congratulated the staff on a great year, for coming under budget again and noted they held their promise to the community on reducing the garbage bill in 2017 and is proud they will be doing what they said they would do which is a rare occasion in today's government. President ARMSTRONG thanked the volunteers who come forth and provide the community with so many different things like the Fall Festival which raised \$500 for the Hunger Initiative and the Lions Club holding the Duck Derby along with the Stroll Along the Trail and raising over \$5,000 for a visual enhancement machine that was dedicated last Saturday at the Township Library and is the only machine like it in the entire area. Have a wonderful system in Whitehall because of the wonderful people who help out and make this a great place to live. President ARMSTRONG stated the Student Government Day will be Monday, May 1st, will be the third year, gets better each year and is a great cooperation between the Township and the School District.
8. Treasurer HUNSICKER wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

9. Mayor HOZZA stated he could not hold his position without the support of the Board, Tax Collector, Deputy Mayor, Attorney's, Engineer, Staff and Department Heads and all the volunteers. He noted it has been a world wind year, managed to get a lot accomplished with more to be done in 2017, will need to be vigilant with the economy as we don't know what will happen with the new regime and does not want the Township to ever again go into a financial downturn like what happened in 2008 but are well poised and much better off than we were in 2008. He noted the CTC and Hunger Initiative have moved into the human services with the snack pack buddy program at the School District, sends food home with those children on long holiday breaks because they would not have anything to eat. Thanked the volunteers that help beautify the Township like the Christmas trees in the lobbies, the work done in the Parkway and along the Rail Trail. The key is we work together well, our paid staff and volunteers and could not do it without everyone working as a team. Mayor HOZZA wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year, a Happy Hanukkah and health in the New Year.

H. ADJOURNMENT

1. MOTION – Commissioner HOWER moved, seconded by Commissioner DUTT to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.