
MINUTES

October 12, 2015
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 October 12, 2015, 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
Phillips M. Armstrong
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
Diane Hunsicker, Treasurer
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 past and present.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Regular Public Meeting – September 14, 2015

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

B. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Kent NEWHART, 1022 8th Street, Whitehall stated when he was appointed to the ICDA his priority was to bring jobs to Whitehall. They have had a mixed up and down plan because the Authority was just getting rejuvenated, serves as Treasurer, are trying to revive this Board, hired an executive director to get things moving, their mission statement is to provide assistance in accessing loans, financing opportunities with a goal to create jobs and enhance the community but are struggling thru the process because are spending a lot of time and energy on CRIZ, etc., trying to figure out what that does, at their last meeting the Board in general felt that wasn't necessarily their direction and yet it has a benefit to Whitehall Township. He stated they are burning thru money because their job is to make loans, the ideal situation would be to have 10 banks partnered, are down to 5 banks which reduces the multiplier effect of what they do, the cost of doing business today is significantly higher,

executive director is very important to get it going, if every dime was loaned out at a low interest rate could probably last 6 years, now probably on a 3 year downward spiral to be out of business because they have no other funding except lending the money they have, burned thru \$42K in assets in 12 months, did get \$8K from the Township for legal bills, did a bond issue and made \$50K on it, have to spend money to market, to bond attorneys, etc., trying to get anyone to place a bond with us is a difficult thing, have set up another Authority with the CRIZ, are trying to figure out how to deal with this, either the Township says you are going to run out of money and be out of business, thinks they provide a valuable service to the Township by trying to attract jobs, do not want to go out of business or do they shift costs to the new Authority because they do not feel CRIZ etc. is within their scope but have spent a lot of time and money, a lot of Howard's time pursuing these goals like blight that everyone is interested in but isn't their charge and will just burn thru assets. He is here to educate them as to where they are with the financial statements, what their losses are per year, haven't spent anything on marketing and if you kill marketing are pretty much dead because they just don't come walking thru the door, need to spend money to make money but it only comes in little chunks. His appeal is that with the budget they look to fund this Authority, is \$30K to stay in business, lesser would sustain them for a longer period of time or breaking that up between shifting some of their costs over to the CRIZ Authority.

President SNYDER thanked him for the information and noted the Board's budget meeting will be on October 27, 28 and 29 at 6:00 pm and are open to the public and would appreciate the public's input and to know where their tax dollars are being spent.

Ed YOUNG, 870 4th Street, Whitehall asked for an update on the asbestos clean-up since the Mayor stated he had three cost estimates. Mayor HOZZA stated he turned over the estimates to the Deputy Mayor, a purchase order will be issued, the company prefers to come in on a weekend and it will be done before Christmas.

Mr. YOUNG asked about the pipeline along S. Lehigh Avenue in the former rail bed. Mayor HOZZA stated the railroad from the City of Allentown up to the Race Street Bridge is under the control of the RJ Corman rail line. The Waterfront Project, under the Janidl family and Dun and Twigger, made an offer for the Corman line, UGI is upgrading the service to Hanover Township, Catasauqua Boro and the Township, going out Race Street towards the Airport you see the project for the new extension of the gas line, it will go to the south of Race Street under the Lehigh River and come out in Fullerton in the RJ Corman right-of-way, are putting the enhanced pipeline in along the RJ Corman rail line for additional service to Whitehall, Coplay, Catty, North Catty and Han-Le-Co. Mr. YOUNG asked if there will be a compressor station in the Township. Mayor HOZZA stated there is a plan for one in the area under the Pine Street Bridge but needs to go thru approvals of zoning, planning and the Township. Mr. YOUNG asked once that is completed if we are going to extend the trail to go down out of the old Ironton railroad yard. Mayor Hozza stated the federal Tiger grant submitted by the City of Allentown, Whitehall Township, Janidl Land Development and Dun and Twigger for \$33M is for the construction of Riverside Drive thru the City of Allentown and if approved, will end at the Pine Street Bridge, will include a trail to be built between the roadway and the river in Phase 1, Phase 2 would take that road and trail from that end point up to Cementon, will be 2 lanes, maybe 4 in some areas, with limited access points, one by the Wood Street playground, one by Tarkett and the other coming out south of the CWSA pumping station on Lehigh Avenue. Mr. YOUNG asked if we will lose the Wood Street

playground with the Rte. 22 construction. Mayor HOZZA stated not in this phase, Penn DOT has not made an offer to the Township for the next phase, this phase is from 2015 to 2018 and if everything works out the construction of widening will be 2020-2021. Mr. YOUNG stated he sees a lot of flags along the perimeter of the road coming up from the river. Mayor HOZZA noted they are for this phase, Fullerton Avenue needs to be bumped out in certain areas, they are marking for the utilities before they do their one calls and in this phase the Fullerton Avenue off ramp will be the same as it is now, was Penn DOT's decision.

Richard FREDERICK, 3339 Barkley Circle, Whitehall stated while plowing snow during the last 2 winters damaged the front of his curb and driveway he replaced in 2007, is seeking total replacement or reimbursement, John RACKUS has only agreed to do another repair, looks ugly, should be replaced, are four points of damage, repairs were made after the first hit, then last winter it took some more hits when they plowed in the cul-de-sac. Met with John RACKUS and Carl LAGLER who were courteous and professional in their assessment but resulted in the Township's denial for replacement, only patching of the damaged area. They stated when the snow is deep the plow operator does not know the exact location of the concrete curbs, suggested to place reflector sticks at each end of the driveway. Mr. FREDERICK stated the operators are professional with expectations to use appropriate precautions in a cul-de-sac, is a pickup truck going like crazy and striking the driveway, was going at various angles to clear it, his prior curbing never incurred any snow plow damage nor had the Township requested reflector sticks, was a good suggestion but after the fact and intends to do in the future and the crack across the curbing has split the driveway. Mr. LAGLER maintains the snow plow on a pickup truck cannot generate enough force to cause the crack, the Township does repairs to curbs damaged by plowing and his request for replacement would only result in a landslide of owners requests for the same. Mr. FREDERICK stated he is requesting the Township pay for the cost of repairs. Mayor HOZZA stated the Township will take his request under consideration.

Joni TEDESCO, 424 4th Street, Whitehall spoke on the speeding traffic on 5th Street mainly between Fairmont Avenue and Pershing Boulevard, can see from her back yard down to 5th Street, believes the speed limit is 25 mph because it is a residential area but the cars and motorcycles go a lot faster and somebody is going to get hit, believes with the construction on Fullerton Avenue it will get worse, the Township could make a lot of money if a cop would be sitting there, does see a cruiser car in the parking lot by the law offices a few times and asked if something could be suggested to Chief KULP. Mayor HOZZA stated he will make that suggestion to Chief KULP.

C. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON ORDINANCES

1. BILL NO. 36-2015 (First Reading)

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP CODIFIED ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 10, HEALTH AND SAFETY, ARTICLE V, WITH RESPECT TO PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO AMPLIFICATION SYSTEMS. (LEGAL & LEGISLATIVE)

President SNYDER read Bill No. 36-2015 to the Board.

There were no questions or comments.

2. BILL NO. 37-2015

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 15, SECTION 11 OF THE 2006 CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, ESTABLISHING A 35 MPH MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT FOR FAIRMONT AVENUE BETWEEN 5TH STREET & FULLERTON AVENUE/SR 1015 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. (DEVELOP)

President SNYDER read Bill No. 37-2015 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Bill No. 37-2015 was approved.

3. BILL NO. 38-2015

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 SPRING MILL ROAD STARTING FROM A POINT 350 FT NORTHEAST OF SUNCREST CIRLE AND EXTENDING 255 FT TO THE NORTHEAST IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. (DEVELOP)

President SNYDER read Bill No. 38-2015 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present with five voting “yes” and Commissioners PALAGONIA and GINDER abstained. Bill No. 38-2015 was approved.

4. BILL NO. 39-2015

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR PERFORMANCE OF REPAIRS TO THE PARKVIEW POOL FOR THE RECREATION BUREAU OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEHALL, BID 2015-09 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 SNYDER read Bill No. 39-2015 to the Board.

Commissioner ARMSTRONG moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER.

Commissioner GINDER questioned the amount, thought it was \$150K out of the Lafarge Fund and if they have to change the amount of the previous ordinance. Deputy Mayor MEYERS noted the total \$150,000 won't be spent this year. Mayor HOZZA stated the demolition will be done now and the rest in the spring. Commissioner GINDER stated then by that time it will be in the budget, with an affirmative response.

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Bill No. 39-2015 was approved.

D. PULBIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 2908**

TITLE: A RESOLUTION APPOINTING JOHN GULYCZ TO SERVE AS AN
ALTERNATE ON THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BUILDING CODE BOARD
OF APPEALS. (BOC)

President SNYDER read Resolution No. 2908 to the Board.

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

Seven Commissioners were present and voted “yes”. Resolution No. 2908 was approved.

E. OTHER

1. Commissioner HUNSBERGER moved, seconded by Commissioner ARMSTRONG to approve the appointment of Robert MILLER to serve on the Recreation Commission representing the Garden & Beautification Club, term expiring September 30, 2018.

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

2. Commissioner HUNSBERGER moved, seconded by Commissioner PALAGONIA to approve the reappointment of Robert ABBOTT to serve on the Recreation Commission representing the Ironton-Rail Trail Commission, term expiring September 30, 2018.

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

3. Commissioner ARMSTRONG moved, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER to approve the appointment of Douglas BOWEN to complete an unexpired term on the Whitehall Township Authority, term expiring December 31, 2017.

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

4. Commissioner PALAGONIA moved, seconded by Commissioner SLONAKER to approve the appointment of Lana SNYDER to serve on the Whitehall Township Ethics Board.

Seven Commissioners were present with four voting “yes” and Commissioners PALAGONIA, HUNSBERGER and SNYDER voted “no”. Motion carried.

5. Commissioner SLOANKER moved, seconded by Commissioner PALAGONIA to approve the appointment of Clarence KISTLER to serve on the Whitehall Township Ethics Board.

Per a question from Al RECKER, it was noted there are no term limits.

Seven Commissioners were present with four voting “yes” and Commissioners PALAGONIA, HUNSBERGER and SNYDER voting “no”. Motion carried.

6. Commissioner SLONAKER moved, seconded by Commissioner PALAGONIA to approve the appointment of Bruce MILLER to serve as an alternate on the Civil Service Commission, term expiring December 31, 2021.

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

7. Commissioner ARMSTRONG moved, seconded by Commissioner HUNSBERGER to approve the appointment of Jeffrey MACKIEWICZ to serve as an alternate on the Tax Appeals Board, term expiring December 31, 2018.

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

8. Commissioner SLONAKER moved, seconded by Commissioner HOWER to designate Friday, October 30th, 2015, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, as the official Trick or Treat night in Whitehall Township with a rain date of Saturday, October 31st, 2015.

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

F. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

1. Commissioner ARMSTRONG thanked everyone for the success of the Stroll Along the Trail, had the Ski, Art, Key and Leo clubs from the high school, Weis Pharmacy, Papa John's, the CTC booth, the Hokendauqua Branch of Trout Unlimited, Fitness Central did bike checks and fixed bikes, Historical Society was at the Prydun Farm, the IRT was at the Trailhead, is growing every year and thanked Mr. MOONEY in Recreation, Mayor HOZZA and Mrs. SWEENEY for helping to organize and set up the event, the advertising was much better this year and by next year should be in full swing.

Commissioner ARMSTRONG stated as a former history teacher was impressed with Mayor HOZZA's presentation on the Prydun Farm before the Historical Society and was nice to see Whitehall taking advantage of our own historical offering. Commissioner ARMSTRONG noted at next month's meeting will be honoring a Whitehall student. He stated the Fall Festival on Saturday was great, need to work out a few things, raised \$102.00 with the hay ride for the Whitehall Food Bank and was very impressed with the cooperation between the School District, and the Township and hopes it continues.

Mario SPAGNOLETTI, 351 Sumner Avenue, Whitehall, stated he only saw one person at the Bird Sanctuary during the stroll. Commissioner ARMSTRONG stated they had a large group by having almost everybody together between the Hokey pool and playground, so next year would like to have everybody at one spot.

2. Commissioner SLONAKER asked about the quarry that cuts across the rail trail at Church Street, when the other exit will be fully utilized and if they will ever close it or limit it. Mr. CLARK stated the other entrance onto Chestnut Street is fully operational, have instructed all their customers and drivers to use that entrance solely, are still some drivers using the other entrance to go in but cannot exit that way. Mr. CLARK stated they will be doing the restoration to the trail to make it like it was before they started to use it. Commissioner SLONAKER asked if anyone spoke to someone about where Ruchsville Road is since both signs are wrong. Mayor HOZZA noted there will be a meeting with Penn DOT this week. Commissioner SLONAKER stated he doesn't think many people get lost there but if you happen to pay attention to those signs, would have no idea of where you are going.
3. Commissioner HOWER asked if there was any progress on Chestnut Street with the quarry cutting back the brush coming out onto the road. Mayor HOZZA noted there are two property owners, the owner of the 55 and older community and Coplay Aggregates, and both have been notified.

4. Commissioner GINDER stated a few years ago ran trolley rides on the rail trail, was a success and well liked, was stopped with the Hokey Bridge construction, Ray BIEAK went to restart it but cannot find anywhere to rent that type of bus trolley that holds 20-30 people and asked if anyone knows of a company to let us know.

Mario SPAGNOLETTI, 351 Sumner Avenue, Whitehall, stated Karen GENSEY used to run that and may know of some place. Commissioner GINDER agreed she did along with Ray BIEAK and Bob ABBOTT who would give the history of the rail trail. Commissioner GINDER asked about the paving for the rail trail this fall. Mayor HOZZA stated when Public Works finishes in Cementon, they will move to do the trail.

5. Commissioner HUNSBERGER stated he had a complaint about where the handicap ramps meets the street, two years ago said it was going to get corrected to put something there so the chair doesn't lift up in the front and the wheels don't spin and knows we get grants. Mr. CLARK asked the location. Commissioner HUNSBERGER stated down along 5th and 6th Streets, have a lot of handicapped people in Whitehall Manor who go over to the Malls. Mayor HOZZA stated as he knows, all CDBG funds have been frozen for Whitehall Township by Lehigh County so there are no federal funds to repair curb cuts, is curious why residents of Whitehall Manor don't use their busing and believes the people are coming from the apartment complex. Commissioner HUNSBERGER stated he believes they are coming from both locations and there is one person who goes all over with a high antenna on his jazy. Mayor HOZZA stated he will have John RACKUS and Carl LAGLER check those streets and lips on those ADA ramps.

Jeff DUTT, 3053 Coplay Lane, Whitehall, noted there is a trolley company in Upper Black Eddy, the Bucks County Trolley Company at 610-816-6211.

6. Commissioner PALAGONIA asked Mr. SPAGNOLETTI how many years he has been a volunteer in the Township, then thanked him for his dedication of 25 years of service, is doing a great job for Whitehall and is sure Mr. WILFINGER has quite a few years as well. President SNYDER noted also Bob MILLER who has helped for many years.
7. President SNYDER repeated that October 27, 28, and 29 at 6:00 pm the Board will have their budget meetings, are open to the public to give their input and to find out how their tax dollars are being spent. President SNYDER stated there is a meeting on November 4th at 7:00 pm at the Egypt VFW and thanked everyone who did attend the last meeting, was successful but still need more people to come out.

President SNYDER stated the bridge is to open soon and promised the people on Water Street to look at the traffic. Mayor HOZZA stated he believes we told them that until the traffic flow goes back to normal, would then look at doing a traffic study which is required before any action can be taken by the Board or the Township. President SNYDER asked if you need a traffic study to place a stop sign or anything like that, with an affirmative response. Commissioner PALAGONIA stated he believes on Water Street it was either a speed bump or a one way street. Mayor HOZZA stated there is a possibility the ramp will not be done and will not open when the bridge does. President SNYDER asked if the Mayor could check into the street repairs there and did walk the bridge.

8. Mayor HOZZA stated two days ago the last tractor trailer left the Township complex after delivering the last of our recycling totter carts, 90% have been assembled, delivery to the homes starts tomorrow to Zone 1 in Hokendauqua and Stiles to be used beginning their next pick up, if recyclables are not in the totter cart, they will not be picked up by Waste Management since it is an automated system. The old milk crate carts can be brought to the

Range Road Recycling Center along with the 32 gallon yellow Rubbermaid's to be reused at our parks, pools and soccer area, other municipality recycling containers can be brought to Range Road and those municipalities will be called to pick them up. Directions will be distributed with the carts. If you don't receive a cart it could mean you have not been receiving a garbage bill but will now or was just an oversight and to call into the Township, do not call Waste Management as Toter Corporation is handling the launch. When placing the cart, the wheels are towards your home and the bar to the street. Waste Management will work with everyone the first couple of weeks, after pick up they will place your cart in the area they prefer you to place it in the future, are using a system where the mechanism for pick up is in front of the driver so he can see the material being dumped which is a more efficient system. Toter just finished launching 22,000 carts in Coventry, Rhode Island, a 95 gallon for recycling and a 65 gallon for trash which many communities are doing to force people to recycle as much as possible but the Township went with 65 gallon for recycling. We anticipate numerous calls the first month but the people from Toter have said that once the people learn to love them, try to take that cart away.

Mayor HOZZA stated we had beautiful weather for the Fall Festival at the high school on Saturday and the parade on Sunday, will have recap meetings to see what can be done to make both events bigger and better, thanked Rec Director Greg Mooney, did receive a record amount of donations for the parade and noted when you invite a high school band from another community you have to pay them, they do not come for free, so now we have a little extra funds for next year.

Mayor HOZZA noted the carts are being delivered to the front of homes because they will be recording your address to that cart and hopes everyone is abiding by the Ordinance that requires their address be visible on their home especially for emergency services. He noted the cart stays with the home as it is the property of the Township and nothing is to be written on it. This cart is green with a yellow lid and the cart for trash next year will be maroon.

Edwin YOUNG, 870 4th Street, Whitehall stated in the newsletter it states to rinse your glass and discard the lids. Mayor HOZZA stated to recycle the lids as it was a typo. There is an informational sheet with the cart and suggested writing down the serial number from the cart on that sheet so if something happens to the cart you have the serial number because if your cart is stolen you are to call the Whitehall Police. Commissioner GINDER asked how fast we could replace a stolen cart. Mayor HOZZA stated we will have a reserve at the Township.

G. ADJOURNMENT

1. MOTION – Commissioner HUNSBERGER moved, seconded by Commissioner PALAGONIA to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.