
MINUTES

JANUARY 13, 2025

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 13, 2025 held at the Whitehall Township Public Meeting Room, with the following in attendance:

COMMISSIONERS

Thomas Slonaker, President
Jeffrey J. Warren, Vice President
Randy Atiyeh, Secretary
Alberta Scarfaro
Ken Snyder
Elizabeth N. Fox
Robert Piligian

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL

Joseph J. Marx, Jr., Mayor
John D. Meyers, Deputy Mayor
Jack. Gross, Esq., Township Solicitor
Mark Bilder , Fire Chief
Michael Marks, Police Chief
Frank J. Clark, Engineer, KCE
Lee Rackus, PZ&D
Tina J. Koren, Tax Collector
Larissa Bruder, Executive Secretary

The meeting was formally opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence for the troops overseas.

President SLONAKER read the statement on fair housing as required.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner SCARFARO moved, seconded by Commissioner FOX to approve the Minutes of the following meeting:

Regular Public Meeting – December 9, 2024

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

B. LEHIGH COUNTY EXECUTIVE PHILLIPS ARMSTRONG

Executive ARMSTRONG noted that this is his farewell speech as this year ends his last term in office. He thanked the Board, Mayor and Administration for their cooperation over the years and he will continue to work hard for the constituents the remainder of the year. Board members thanked him for his many years of service as County Executive, as well as a past Township Commissioner. Executive Armstrong noted that his State of the County address will be February 20th at Coca Cola Park and all are welcome to attend. He also noted that he will remain on the Board of County Executives of America.

Commissioner WARREN stated that he hopes the County continues to do the heavy lifting that the

municipalities can't do on their own.

C. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

LoriAnn Fehnel of 3107 N. 3rd Street stated her concerns regarding the Water Street tragedy and what steps will be taken to ensure this does not happen again.

Ron Reaman of 929 5th Street noted concerns of the BP tax being handled by Berkheimer and the garbage bidding process.

Scott Slingerland 1935 W. Broad Street is a representative of the Coalition for Appropriate Transportation which is a Lehigh Valley Non Profit Organization that advocates for bicycling walking, ADA access and public transit. He is here to honor the Memory of Edward Tomcics and support the Tomcics Family and also to share ideas so that a tragedy such as this does not happen again.

Joni Todesko of 4424 4th Street stated her displeasure of Commissioner Snyder & Slonaker's actions during the December Board meeting. Has concerns with union contract and protection of employees. Lastly, the legality of the current Mayor remaining to serve on the Coplay Water Sewer Authority Board. Attorney Jack GROSS advised that there is nothing in the law that states he cannot serve in both capacities. Mayor MARX listed his accomplishments during the years of serving on the CWSA Board.

Barb Tomcics of 3248 Water Street, wife of Edward Tomcics who was tragically killed by a motorist pleaded with the Board to do something to control the speeding issue that occurs on Water Street. Mayor MARX has already started looking into the possibility of making Water Street a cul-de-sac by closing off the lower section.

Tony Jeszick of 3273 Water Street stated his concerns with the situation on Water Street and likes the Mayor's proposal.

Marsha Pacchio of 3243 Water Street stated her concerns with Water Street and added that there is no bus stop, the children having to walk up to 2nd Street to get the bus.

Dawn Saganowich of 3123 Sodl Lane voiced her displeasure with Commissioner Snyder, Slonaker & Piligian during the December Board meeting and also the Union.

Ashley Koren of 418 McKeever Lane voiced her displeasure with the treatment of her mother, Treasurer Koren.

Diana Fleming of 3277 Water Street voiced her concerns with the Water Street traffic/speeding situation.

Renata Brosky of 3224 Water Street voiced her concerns with the Water Street traffic/speeding issues.

Rick Reigle of 3237 Water Street voiced concerns with the Water Street issues and is in favor of

the cul-de-sac proposal.

Nilsa Martinez of 3285 Water Street agreed with all who spoke previously on Water Street and asked that this administration does something to protect the residence of Darktown.

Guillermo Fernandex of 2631 Halleck Drive stated his concern with a noise issue behind the MacArthur Towne Center. Trucks idling for long periods of time in the early hours of the morning.

Jim Foose of 3244 Water Street stated how greatly the Water Street tragedy has affected the residents of Darktown and hopes that the Township will finally come up with a solution.

Anthony Kopack of 3363 Dogwood Drive noted that the guiderail on Pine Street still has not been fixed or pulled off the sidewalk.

D. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON ORDINANCES

1. BILL NO. 1-2025

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2026 MACK TANDEM AXLE DUMP TRUCK FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 IN THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE. (PUBLIC WORKS)

President SLONAKER read Bill No. 1-2025 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SNYDER.

SEVEN Commissioners were present and all voting "yes". Bill No. 1-2025 was approved.

2. BILL NO. 2-2025 (FIRST HEARING)

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 27, ARTICLE IX SCHEDULE OF PERMITTED, ACCESSORY, SPECIAL EXCEPTION AND CONDITIONAL USES, SECTION 2-76 R-5A, HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL WITHOUT APARTMENTS, AND SECTION 27-75 HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL OF THE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

President SLONAKER read Bill No. 2-2025 to the Board.

No action required on this item.

E. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3355

TITLE: A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING LOUIS JANY TO SERVE AS A REGULAR MEMBER ON THE WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP ZONING HEARING BOARD. (BOC)

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3355 to the Board.

Commissioner PILIGIAN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SCARFARO

SEVEN Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3355 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 3356
TITLE: A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING FRANK KREMPASKY TO SERVE ON THE
WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BUILDING CODE BOARD OF APPEALS. (BOC)

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3356 to the Board.

Commissioner SCARARO moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner WARREN

SEVEN Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3356 was approved.

E. OTHER

MOTIONS

1. MOTION – to approve the appointment of Lane Donatelli to the Whitehall Township Planning Commission, term expiring 12/31/26.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Motion passed.

2. MOTION - to approve the reappointment of Joseph J. Marx, Jr. to serve on the Coplay Whitehall Sewer Authority, term expiring December 31, 2029.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Motion passed.

3. MOTION - to approve the reappointment of Jeffrey Mackiewicz to serve on the Whitehall Township Tax Appeals Board, term expiring December 31, 2027.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Motion passed.

4. MOTION - to approve the reappointment of Stanley Wimmer to serve on the Whitehall Township Authority, term expiring December 31, 2029.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Motion passed.

5. MOTION – to approve the appointment of Monica Chibber to the Whitehall Township Environmental Advisory Council, term expiring 12/31/26.

This item was tabled at the request of Deb Rosene, President of the EAC.

6. MOTION – to approve the appointment of Lane Donatelli to the Whitehall Township Planning Commission, term expiring 12/31/26.

Seven Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Our Charter and Code Review (K.Snyder) Committee formed – Areas he is interested in looking at
1) Treasurer - 2) Operations Director and the one year hiatus a Commissioner must take before being a candidate for Mayor position.
2. Treasurer Referendum (K Snyder) – after discussion it was dropped from moving forward.
3. 2025 Goals (K Snyder) – Comprehensive Recreation Plan, Beautification of MacArthur Road, Holiday Lights for the Parkway, Charter Review.
Commissioner WARREN added – Township Project Manager
4. Consideration of the Ordinance Establishing the Salary for the Treasurer for the Years 2026-2029.
(J Meyers) Deputy Mayor MEYERS advised that the Board needs to set the amounts by February, March at the latest.

F. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Commissioner FOX attended Firefighter Grim’s funeral service. She also attended the Firemen’s Banquet. She asked that everyone be kinder going forward.

Commissioner SCARFARO thanked the residents who came and voiced their concerns.

Commissioner ATIYEH extended his condolences to the Tomcics Family and the Darktown Community.

Commissioner WARREN also extended his condolences to the Tomcics Family and the Darktown Community. He suggested that two additional streetlights are needed on Water Street. He is also concerned that there is not a bus stop close by for students that live in this community. One of his goals is to obtain a multimodel grant for sidewalks on Mickley Road – specifically the area between Olympic Gardens and MacArthur Road. Another noted concern is Chestnut St. ponding water between the quarry access road and the bridge. The water does not drain and becomes a hydroplane problem. He suggested that a cut-in in the right of way easement will drain the water.

Commissioner ATIYEH noted that the members who attend the School Community Council meeting can address the bus stop concern in Darktown.

Commissioner PILIGIAN also extended his sympathies to the Tomcics Family and the Darktown Community. He noted that he attended the December 19th EAC meeting and they believe that the Parkway is for passive recreation and that be kept in mind for any future enhancements. There was no IRT or Recreation Meeting in January. He thanked Mayor MARX for correction made to many street lights that he had noted were a problem.

Commissioner SNYDER attended the CWSA, WTICDA & Zoning Hearing Board meetings.

Treasurer KOREN submitted her report to the Board. Commissioner SNYDER verified that the 2024 garbage revenue not received was \$266,000. She indicated that was the amount reported to Portnoff. Commissioner SNYDER hopes that a system will put in place to get the habitual offenders to pay. Treasurer KOREN noted that she believes the online payment system is helping and she took personal checks till the end of the year to make it easier for residents to pay. She noted that credit card readers will

hopefully be installed soon and continues to look for more ways to make payments easier.

Mayor MARX submitted his report to the Board. He noted that the Morning Call did a great article on the garbage fees. There was a lot of misinformation on social media and as explained numerous times the bidding process was done per the legal guidelines. He hopes that there will be more civility and honesty going forward.

G. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Commissioner SCARFARO moved, seconded by Commissioner FOX to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 PM.