

**NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
OCTOBER 3, 2022**

Chairman Al Geosits called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. In attendance were Supervisors Ronald J. Heintzelman and Dennis Klusaritz, Attorney Thomas Dinkelacker, Engineer Steve Gitch, Administrative Assistant Jess Koenig, Secretary/Treasurer Brenda Norder, and Zoning Officer Jeff Mouer.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting of September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 were approved. Roll call: Al Geosits – yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Township Office's will be closed Monday October 10<sup>th</sup> for the Columbus Day Holiday.
2. The Board will hold a Special Budget Meeting Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 5:00 PM at the Municipal Building.
3. Township trick or treat night will be held on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM. In the event of rain, trick or treat will be rescheduled to the following day, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM.
4. The 2021 fiscal year draft audit has been received and is currently under review.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the September Treasurer's report and the register of checks #17522 - 17632 were approved as presented. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz – yes. There were no public comments on this item.

**OLD BUSINESS:** No Old Business

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 10-03-22**

**IMPLEMENTING ACT 57 OF 2022**

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, Resolution 10-03-22 was adopted. Resolution 10-03-22 amended the Local Tax Collection Law and requires the Tax Collector to comply with the provisions of Act 57 for tax years beginning on or before January 1, 2023. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

**RESOLUTION 10-03-22A**

**DCNR GRANT SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION**

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board adopted Resolution 10-03-22A. Resolution 10-03-22A authorizes the Township Manager to execute the grant agreement with DCNR if awarded. With this grant DCNR will match funds with the Township to complete the Laurys Firehouse Park Rehabilitation and Development Improvements. Roll call: Al Geosits – yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

**AWARD OF 9-TOWNSHIP WINTER SALT BID**

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board ratified the award of the 9-township contract for the Sodium Chloride for the 2022/2023 season to Morton Salt, Inc, at their bid price of \$83.38 per ton delivered as needed. This contract was bid in conjunction with neighboring municipalities and awarded by Lowhill Township.

Roll Call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

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**PENSION REQUIREMENT ESTIMATE FOR 2023**

Treasurer Brenda Norder presented an estimate of the minimum municipal obligation for the North Whitehall Township Retirement Plan for the year 2023 to be \$67,404. Income from State Pension Aid is projected to be \$91,591. At total estimate of \$158,995 is projected in pension expenses for budgetary figures. There were no public comments on this item.

**REQUEST FOR HIDDEN DRIVEWAY SIGN**

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board authorized the Secretary to contact PADOT requesting permission to erect road signs announcing a hidden driveway. Resident Dorothy Vanderdrift requested the sign sighting safety concerns exiting her driveway. She is requesting the sign be placed at Neff Laurys Road and Route 145 South.

Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

**REQUEST TO REDUCE SPEED LIMIT**

Township Secretary, Brenda Norder, received a letter requesting the Township to reduce the speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph on Copeechan Road. The letter also included a request to explore more speed control options such as: speed hump installations, additional signs for school bus stops and children's warnings along with the reduction. Township Engineer Steve Gitch noted that there will be speed studies done on Township roads as early as this fall but if not by spring of 2023. The Board will reconsider this matter after the speed studies are completed. There were no public comments on this item.

**WELL ISOLATION DISTANCE EXEMPTION & GROUNDWATER STUDY WAIVER REQUEST**

Sewage Enforcement Officer, Steve Gitch, submitted a letter dated September 27, 2022, to the Board, requesting a well isolation distance exemption and groundwater study waiver for Megan Sorensen, 2842 Pacific Avenue, Orefield, be granted. Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, The Board granted the well-sewage system isolation distance exemption and groundwater waiver request. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz- yes.

- Jim Steward, Park Ave, Neffs, inquired if the Township was liable for any issues if we provide the waiver.
- Jeanene Bauer, Jordan Rd., inquired if this waiver was only specific to this property.

**AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT FOR APPOINTMENT OF CPA FIRM**

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board authorized the Secretary to advertise a notice that the North Whitehall Township Board of Supervisors intends to appoint a certified accounting firm to conduct the North Whitehall Township Fiscal Year 2022 Audit. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Brian Horwith, Springfield Dr., Coplay, asked if the Township was doing a Request for Proposal for the CPA.

**AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE EASEMENT AGREEMENTS**

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board authorized the Manager to execute easement agreements for Gristmill Road and Clearview Road upon the completion of the agreements by the Solicitor. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Tom VanVreede, Church Dr., Coplay, inquired if the easement on Clearview Road will address the flooding issue on Clearview Road.

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**MANAGERS REPORT:**

Mr. Cope reported on the following:

- Upcoming meetings and events are scheduled as follows:
  - Board of Supervisors Budget Workshop – Wednesday, October 12, at 5:00 PM
  - Farmland Preservation, Thursday, October 13, at 7:30 PM
  - Planning Commission, Tuesday, October 25, at 7:30 PM
  - IRT Fall Historical Walk, Saturday, October 22 from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
  - Trick-or-Treat Night, Friday, October 28 from 6:00 PM – 8:00PM
- Reviewed three conceptual design sketches with the architects working on the potential future township building renovations.
- Reviewing structure of our newsletter and considering to on-board an advertising company that would sell the ads, design and print the newsletter.
- Met with representatives from LCTI to see if they would like to assist with the Neffs Pool Demolition.
- Continuing to review drainage issues throughout the township.
- Met with Regional Advisor to discuss the Laurys Firehouse Park renovations and preparation for a grant application to offset costs.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Atty. Dinkelacker gave an update on zoning and code issues he's been working on with Township Zoning Officer Jeff Mouer including 5477 Mauser Street, blighted properties, and preparing necessary easements. As well as working with the Planning Commission on reviewing the SALDO Ordinance.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR (Non-agenda items):**

- Tom VanVreede, Church Dr., Coplay, asked if the dollar amount across all funds stated in the treasurer's report was to the expectation of the Board.
- Rich Semmel, Clearview Rd., Coplay, inquired what the status was of filling in the tractor path and Engineer Steve Gitch reviewing the ice issue on Clearview Road.
- Administrative Assistant, Jessica Koenig, received an email requesting sewer relief from Township resident Mark Badalmenti, Red Maple Dr., Coplay. The Board will review the issue.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Al Geosits, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Koenig, Administrative Assistant and

Brenda Norder, Secretary/Treasurer