

**NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
FEBRUARY 5, 2018**

Chairman Ronald J. Heintzelman called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. In attendance were Supervisors Mark Hills and Dennis Klusaritz, Attorney Lisa A. Young, Manager Jeff Bartlett and Secretary/Treasurer Brenda Norder.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meetings of January 2, 2018 and January 10, 2018 were approved. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Municipal Offices will be closed Monday, February 19th for the Presidents' Day Holiday.
2. Tires will not be accepted for recycling until April 1st, 2018.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the January Treasurer's report and the register of checks # 12755-12869 were approved as presented. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

OLD BUSINESS:

RUCH LOT LINE ADJUSTMENT

PRELIMINARY/FINAL

Bob Hoppes presented the Ruch Lot Line Adjustment Plan to the Board. Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Plan was approved as a Preliminary/Final subject to the following conditions:

1. The Developer shall comply with all of the recommendations contained in the letter from the General Planning Engineer November 10, 2017.
2. Developer shall comply with all of the recommendations contained in the letter from the Sewage Enforcement Officer dated November 22, 2017.
3. The Developer shall comply with all of the recommendations contained in the letter from the Zoning Officer dated November 22, 2017.
4. The Developer shall comply with all of the recommendations of the Planning Commission Meeting of November 28, 2017.
5. The Developer shall comply with all of the provisions contained in the Planning Administrator's checklist letter dated December 12, 2017.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

DEBRIS DISPOSAL BAGS

Supervisor Heintzelman reported that he has noticed several Waste Management debris disposal bags that have not been collected and are being used in place of a regular trash hauler. He suggested the idea of amending the recycling ordinance to ban these bags. Discussion ensued among the Board members. It was also suggested that the Zoning Officer cite residents who do not call Waste Management for proper and timely disposal.

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MARY ANN'S PLAZA

LOT CONSOLIDATION

Jeffrey Beavan, Maryanne Wagner and Atty. Christopher McLean presented the Mary Ann's Plaza Lot Consolidation Plan to the Board. Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board approved the Plan subject to the following conditions:

1. The Developer shall comply with all of the recommendations contained in the letters from the General Planning Engineer dated January 19, 2018 and February 5, 2018.
2. Developer shall comply with all of the recommendations contained in the letter from the Sewage Enforcement Officer dated January 18, 2018.
3. The Developer shall comply with all of the recommendations contained in the letter from the Zoning Officer dated January 22, 2018.
4. The Developer shall comply with all of the recommendations of the Planning Commission Meetings of January 23, 2018.
6. The Developer shall comply with all of the provisions contained in the Planning Administrator's checklist letter dated January 26, 2018.

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

REFUND OF TAXES

Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board authorized the Treasurer to refund Township taxes based on revised 2017 assessments, on the following properties:

4519 Peters Ave	\$ 10.10	1806 Rockdale Rd	\$106.25	2445 Bellview Rd	\$ 5.14
5350 Rt 873	\$178.85	1021 Neffs Laurys Rd	\$130.59	2115 Briarwood Dr	\$ 5.20
3752 Rt 309	\$ 15.19				

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

BANK REQUIRED NAMED CHECK SIGNERS

Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, Supervisors Ronald Heintzelman, Mark Hills, and Dennis Klusaritz, Manager Jeff Bartlett and Treasurer Brenda Norder are authorized to sign checks drawn on accounts of North Whitehall Township; a minimum of two (2) signatures are required on all checks, one being the Treasurer's. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

AUTHORIZATION TO DISTRIBUTE BUDGETED ALLOCATIONS

Supervisor Heintzelman note that he would abstain from voting due to a potential conflict as he is a member of one of the fire companies. Supervisor Klusaritz also declared he is a life-time member of all the fire companies but he would vote.

Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Treasurer is authorized to distribute the following 2018-budgeted allocations:

\$500.00 to the Ironton Rail-Trail Oversight Commission,
\$2,600.00 to the Upper Lehigh Historical Society's Schneck House,

The emergency services organizations will receive ½ of their allocation. The other half will be distributed later in the year after receiving required reports.

\$27,418.50 to Northern Valley Ambulance Corp, \$17,168.75 to each of the four fire companies.

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

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MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Bartlett reported on the following items:

- All vehicles must be removed from Township roads during a snow event.
- The farmhouse at Kolapechka Park has been demolished and the barn was re-sided. The Township is applying for a grant to construct bathroom facilities at the park.
- The Township is applying for a mini grant to repair and re-vegetate stream banks along the Coplay Creek.
- The search for a Public Works Director has been narrowed to 8 candidates.
- Two pickup trucks will be posted for sale through Municibid.
- The Township has received an appeal to the Zoning Hearing Board's decision regarding a heliport. The applicant is appealing the decision to the Lehigh County Court.
- Negotiations on the Public Works union contract have been completed.

MOTION CONTRACT APPROVAL

Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board approved the signing of the new contract contingent to the union members' approval of the contract. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Jeff Barber, Manchester Place, Slatington, inquired about the cost of the contract to the township.
- Sue Travis, Manchester Place, Slatington, asked if there were any salary increases and if all benefits are funded.

Supervisor Mark Hills reported that the Manager was asked by the Board of Elected Auditors to compose an updated job description for working-supervisor Heintzelman. He read the revised description aloud. Supervisor Klusaritz objected to the description, commenting that the 2 other Board members should have composed it, not the manager.

MOTION REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION

Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board approved the new job description for the working supervisor. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - no. Motion carried.

- Dan Linchuk, Shady Lane, Orefield, stated that the website is outdated and missing information.
- Pat Carl, Shady Lane, Orefield, noted that several items seemed trivial.
- Rich Semmel, Clearview Rd, Coplay, commented on Supervisor Klusaritz' comments.
- Lee Creyer, Riverview Rd, Slatington, asked who supervises the road crew.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Atty. Young noted that an Executive Session was held on January 10th to discuss personnel issues. Atty. Young announced she was contacted by the Attorney for Mr. & Mrs. Sell regarding the Apple Blossom escrow. She requested the Board approve the release of the escrow balance once final billing has been completed.

MOTION RELEASE ESCROW

Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board approved the escrow release based on completion of all billing.

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

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Supervisor Hills asked Atty. Young for a status update on the Property Management Ordinance and the amended Burning Ordinance. Atty. Young presented an update on both and requested the Board authorize Mr. Bartlett to make changes to the proposed burning ordinance, distribute draft copies to the Board and arrange for advertisement for the March Board meeting.

MOTION AUTHORIZE MANAGER TO PROCEED WITH BURNING ORDINANCE CHANGES

Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board approved the request of the Solicitor and authorized the Manager to proceed with the new burning ordinance. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Blaine Bauer, Jordan Rd, Orefield, asked what changes were being made.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

- Carl Gillikin, Stahley Dr, Schnecksville, inquired about the type of work proposed along the Coplay Creek.
- Jim Morris, Riverview Rd., Slatington, reported on a pot hole on Red Hill Rd. which is deteriorating and should be hot patched. He also voiced his concern about the method used by the road crew when mowing the shoulders of the roads. He feels the mower scalps too much of the vegetation which results in severe erosion.
- Sue Travis, Manchester Place, Slatington, asked for clarification on when a supervisor should or should not abstain from voting on an issue.
- Diane Gillikin, Stahley Dr, Schnecksville, requested the Board consider passing a resolution, at their next meeting in March, stating that the Board does not support gerrymandering and does support a citizen's commission for redistricting.
- Lee Creyer, Riverview Rd, Slatington, commended the road crew for a good job during winter weather. He asked the Board to consider some type of signage to prohibit trucks from traveling on Riverview Rd, which is a partial dirt road. Mr. Creyer brought to the attention of the Board that a township employee wiped out half of his shrubs while mowing and he intends to invoice the township for the replacements. He also voiced his concern about water runoff from the roadway.
- Joan Strong, Red Maple Dr, Coplay, voiced her support for the requested resolution against gerrymandering. Supervisor Hills instructed Mr. Bartlett to send a letter to Rep. Gary Day regarding this issue.
- Dan Linchuk, Shady Lane, Orefield, and Pat Carl, Shady Lane, Orefield, spoke to the Board regarding the continuing problem with water runoff causing erosion and silt damage to their properties. They contend it is the responsibility of the Township to fix the problem as they feel the water is runoff from township roads. Discuss ensued.
- Jeff Barber, Manchester Place, Slatington, asked what the cost would be to the township to fix the problem and stated it would probably be cheaper for the township to fix the problem then to have it drag out in court. He also suggested a new engineering study be conducted.
- Sue Travis, Manchester Place, Slatington, stated it makes sense for the township to deal with the water runoff.
- Eric Nuebauer, Abbey Rd, Coplay, asked Mr. Linchuk why he hasn't tried to meet the township halfway on this issue.
- Gerry Kula, Juniper Dr, Coplay, suggested an independent engineer should do a new study of the problem.

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- Kristie Wilk, Dir. of Administration for NOVA, updated the Board on the following items from the ambulance corps: Dave Tretter was named Assistant Chief; Jonathan Yeager was appointed Medical Director; the corps will be hosting a comedy night and cherry pie sale for February fund raisers.
- Nick Felegy, Tri Clover Rd., Orefield, asked Mr. Bartlett the enforcement status of the property line issue with East Penn Trucking. He stated he has been waiting for 2 years and nothing has transpired.
- Ron Stahley, Schnecksville Fire Co. Fire Chief, gave an update on the progress of the rebuilding of the company's social hall.

Supervisor Klusaritz asked Mr. Bartlett about the time frame to approve a building permit and stated he wanted to revive the Farmland Preservation Board, making it a 7-person board. He suggested an article be placed in the next newsletter seeking applicants for the board.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Norder, Secretary/Treasurer