

**NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
FEBRUARY 7, 2022**

Chairman Al Geosits called the Meeting to order at 7:30 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Supervisors Ronald J. Heintzelman and Dennis Klusaritz, Manager Chris Garges, Attorney Lisa A. Young (via Zoom), Engineer Steve Gitch, Administrative Assistant Jess Koenig and Secretary/Treasurer Brenda Norder.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the minutes of the Board of Supervisors' Organizational Meeting of January 3, 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. The Municipal Offices will be closed Monday, February 21st for the Presidents' Day Holiday.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the January Treasurer's report and the register of checks #16783-16866 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:

SEWER CHARGES

REDUCTION REQUEST

As reported at the January 3, 2022 meeting, Mr. Garges had received a request from a Holly Drive resident to reduce their sewer bill due to a leaky toilet. They were seeking a reduction of \$700.00 off a \$1,400.00 bill. Mr. Garges noted to the Board that the Township had to pay for the sewer discharge related to that leak and that account is experiencing overages and did not recommend a reduction. Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board approved a \$560.12 allowance to homeowner. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Brian Horwith, Springfield Dr., Coplay, questioned the total cost involving NBMA.

NEW BUSINESS:

FOLLWEILER/FREY LOT LINE ADJUSTMENT

PRELIMINARY/FINAL

Bob Hoppes presented the Follweiler/Frey Lot Line Plan to the Board. Upon motion by Al Geosits, 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 dated January 31, 2022.
2. The Developer shall comply with all of the recommendations contained in the letter from the Zoning Officer dated January 17, 2022.
3. The Developer shall comply with all of the recommendations of the Planning Commission Meeting of December 28, 2021.
4. The Developer shall comply with all of the provisions contained in the Planning Administrator's checklist letter dated January 13, 2022.

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

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RESOLUTION 02-07-22

DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board adopted Resolution 02-07-22. Resolution 02-07-22 appointed Jonathan Kumernisky as Deputy Tax Collector for North Whitehall Township. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Brian Horwith, Springfield Dr., Coplay, asked if a deputy tax collector was vetted the same as the tax collector.
- Leonard Nuss, Old Post Rd., Coplay, questioned if the township checked the background of the deputy tax collector.

RELEASE OF ESCROWS FOR LEGAL & ENGINEERING

DANIEL LOCH ET AL

After consultation with the Solicitor and the General Planning Engineer, Treasurer Brenda Norder recommended the following escrows for legal and engineering be returned:

Daniel Loch Et Al \$ 6,429.00

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board authorized the Treasurer to return the escrow balances. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item

AUTHORIZED ADVERTISEMENT FOR ROUTE 309 TURNING LANE BID

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board authorized advertisement for the Route 309 turning lane bid construction, in the vicinity of Independence Drive. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item

GREENLEAF FIELDS AT PARKLAND, LLC

EXTENSION OF TIME

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board accepted the extension of time offer until April 30, 2022, in order for the Board of Supervisors to review the Plan. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - abstained; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item

HINCAPIE BICYCLE RIDE REQUESTS FIRE POLICE

Hincapie Events LLC in partnership with Discover Lehigh Valley and PA Americana Region are hosting a bicycle ride on June 4, 2022. A portion of this ride will take place in North Whitehall Township and they are requesting the use of the Township's Fire Police. Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board approved the use of the Township Fire Police contingent on receipt of insurance certificate and authorized the Secretary to contact the fire police as to their availability of personnel for this event. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item

REVISED BOARD REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, Supervisor Geosits was appointed as the Board of Supervisors representative to the Recreation Board for the year 2022, and Supervisor Klusaritz was appointed as the Board of Supervisors representative to the Ironton Rail Trail Commission for the year 2022. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

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AFFIRMATION OF IRONTON RAIL TRAIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board affirmed the appointments of the following alternates to the Ironton Rail Trail Committee: Ron Bealer, Carl Gillikin, and Mark Hills. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

AUTHORIZATION TO DISTRIBUTE BUDGETED ALLOCATIONS

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Treasurer is authorized to distribute the following 2022-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.

\$31,500.00 to Northern Valley Ambulance Corp,
\$20,168.75 to each of the four fire companies.

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

AUTHORIZED ADVERTISEMENT FOR ORDINANCE 2022-1

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board authorized to advertisement of the proposed draft Ordinance 2022-1, Craft Beverage Production Ordinance. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Mark Hills, Old Post Road, Coplay, asked if these businesses have to be licensed by the state.

JOHNSON PONDS WINTER ACTIVITIES DISCUSSION

Discussion regarding the public safety aspect of people using the Johnson Pond for skating, ice hockey and ice fishing was discussed. In addition, suggestions of banning the activities or securing additional insurance coverage was weighed. Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board decided to table the issue until additional information is submitted for review. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Tom Van Vreede, Church Drive, Coplay, inquired if allowing activities on the small pond would make a difference.
- Leonard Nuss, Old Post Rd., Coplay, asked if the ponds freeze enough during the season.
- Brian Horwith, Springfield Dr., Coplay, suggested not allowing people on the ponds.
- Jim Steward, Park Ave., Neffs, offered instances of emergency services calls at the ponds.
- Gene Wolfgang, Faye Dr., Orefield, state that multiple signs would be needed at the ponds.

AUTHORIZATION TO OBTAIN A REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board approved moving forward to obtain a real estate appraisal. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Rich Semmel, Clearview Rd., Coplay, inquired about the property location.

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MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Garges reported on the following:

- American Rescue Plan update. The US Treasury released new allowable uses for the ARP funds and the township staff is preparing to draft an expenditure plan.
- SWT/UMT/NWT summer youth program. The townships met to discuss the joint summer youth program and the pending intermunicipal cooperation resolution.
- NWT/Wildlands/LCCD Shady Lane update. Grant preparations to mitigate the drainage project was discussed. The engineering firm is finalizing a draft sketch. Discussions also involve DCED and Dep.
- PENNDOT meeting regarding Route 309 Betterment Project was tabled and will be rescheduled.
- Portnoff sent the township a 2021 collection update and summary report.
- Geigers Covered Bridge will be closed for repairs until June of 2022. Detours are posted.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Atty. Young announced the following:

- An executive session was held January 25, 2022 for personnel issues.
- An executive session was held February 7, 2022 for personnel & real estate issues.
- The resolution for the joint township summer youth program will be on the March 7th agenda.
- The Craft Beverage Ordinance will be on the Planning Commission's February agenda for review and on the Board of Supervisors' agenda in April.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR (Non-agenda items):

- Gene Wolfgang, Faye Dr., Orefield, inquired about a proposed electronics recycling event.
- Jim Wilson, Allied Utilities, asked for a waiver to appear before the Planning Commission.
- Carl Schaller, 4741 Route 309, Schnecksville, and Phyllis Buskaritz, 4743 Route 309, Schnecksville, appeared before the Board to request relief from civil fines imposed by the magistrate resulting from property maintenance violations.
- Lynnette Allen, 5016 Donna Dr., Coplay, and Rich Semmel, Clearview Rd., Coplay, reported to the Board about the icy road condition around 1341 Clearview Road due to water runoff.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Norder, Secretary/Treasurer, and

Jessica Koenig, Administrative Assistant