

**NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2017**

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 Steve Pany, and Mark Hills, Attorney Lisa A. Young, Manager Jeff Bartlett and Secretary/Treasurer Brenda Norder.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Steve Pany, the minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meetings of August 7, 2017 were approved. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Steve Pany - yes. No public comments on this item.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The annual Senior Appreciation Day will be held September 14th at the Union Evangelical Lutheran Church in Neffs.
2. Lehigh County will be conducting a Household Hazardous Waste Event on October 28th at Coca Cola Park, in east Allentown, starting at 8:00 AM. All county residents wishing to participate must pre-register online at www.lehighcounty.org. They will not register residents over the phone. This event is for residential materials only and they will not accept electronics.
3. Supervisor Heintzelman announced that the PA turnpike will be closed between the Lehigh Valley Interchange #56 and Pocono Interchange #95 for bridge replacement on September 29, 9:00 PM to October 2, 4:00 AM.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Steve Pany, the August Treasurer's report and checks # 12329-12424 were approved as presented. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Steve Pany - yes. No public comments on this item.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

AUTHORIZATION TO DISTRIBUTE BUDGETED ALLOCATIONS EMS & SR. CLUBS

Supervisor Heintzelman made a statement noting that he would abstain from voting due to a potential conflict, as he is a member of one of the fire companies.

Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Steve Pany, the Treasurer was authorized to distribute the 2017 budgeted allocations to the Emergency Service Organizations and the Senior Citizens Clubs as follows:

Schnecksville Senior Citizens	950.00
Laurys Station Keen-agers	700.00
ESO	4,500.00

The emergency services organizations will receive the balance of their 2017 allocation pending receipt of their required reports.

\$26,750.00 to Northern Valley Ambulance Corp,
\$16,750.00 to each of the four fire companies.

Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - abstain; Steve Pany - yes. No public comments on this item.

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AWARD OF 8-TOWNSHIP WINTER SALT BID

Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Steve Pany, the Board awarded the 8-township contract for Sodium Chloride for the 2017/2018 season to Cargill Inc., at their bid price of \$ 53.15 per ton delivered as needed. This contract was bid in conjunction with neighboring municipalities. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Steve Pany - yes. No public comments on this item.

PLUMLEE LOT LINE ADJUSTMENT

Ed Schlaner and Joseph Carl presented the Plumlee Lot Line Adjustment Plan to the Board. Upon motion by Steve Pany, seconded by Mark Hills, the Board approved the Plan 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 August 21, 2017.
2. Developer shall comply with all of the recommendations contained in the letter from the Sewage Enforcement Officer dated August 8, 2017.
3. The Developer shall comply with all of the recommendations contained in the letter from the Zoning Officer dated August 15, 2017.
4. The Developer shall comply with all of the recommendations of the Planning Commission Meeting of August 22, 2017.

Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Steve Pany - yes. No public comments on this item.

MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr. Bartlett reported on the following:

- The MS4 application has been completed and will be submitted to DEP for review in order to grant us a 5-year permit.
- Summer projects are still being completed.
- The annual Senior Day is Thursday, September 14th.
- He would like to convene a second Board meeting on October 16th for the sole purpose of 2018 budget discussions.
 - Supervisor Mills asked for an update on the Paranchok house demolition and the installation of a new LED township sign.
 - Dan Linchuk, Shady Lane, Orefield, inquired if the Roberts Road project was on private property.

DISCUSSION – TAX RELIEF FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS

The Board discussed the options provided in Act 172 which allows municipalities to offer tax credit for real estate and/or earned income to active members of volunteer fire companies and emergency medical services. It was noted that the fire chiefs need to participate by helping to define the criteria required to determine who is considered an active member.

MOTION - Upon motion by Steve Pany, seconded by Mark Hills, the Board authorized Mr. Bartlett to draft a tax relief ordinance with a 20% real estate rebate and an EIT rebate up to \$500.00 to active volunteers in fire and medical services, meeting the established criteria, and to determine the tax impact to the township.

Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Steve Pany - yes.

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Discussion continued . . .

- Gene Wolfgang, Faye Drive, Orefield, asked if this program included fire police.
- Joann Coppola, Skyline Drive, Schnecksville, asked if there was an issue of recruitment.
- Brian Horwith, Springfield Drive, Schnecksville, inquired how it would impact the revenue stream and wanted clarification on the tax rebate structure.

DISCUSSION – REZONING

The supervisors discussed the rezoning of two sections of the township in the Orefield area.

MOTION - Upon motion by Steve Pany, seconded by Mark Hills, the Board authorized Mr. Bartlett to start the rezoning process for the area of Kernsville Road between Hoffmansville and TriClover roads from AR (agricultural/residential) to LI/B (light industrial/business) and along Route 309, north of Orefield Road to Magnolia road from SR (suburban/residential) to LI/B (light industrial/business).

Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Steve Pany - yes.

- Jeanene Bauer, Jordan Rd., Orefield, commented that Hoffmansville Road was only 2 lanes and she was concerned about increased truck traffic if it is rezoned industrial.
- Dick Getz, Mauch Chunk Rd., Coplay, asked what kind of light industrial the Board is talking about.
- Gene Wolfgang, Faye Drive, Orefield, asked the Board to consider expanding the LI/B zone to include his parents' property just north of the former Wehr farm stand.

SUPERVISOR HILLS – PARKING ORDINANCE

Supervisor Hills suggested amending the township's parking ordinance to prohibit commercial vehicles from parking in residential areas.

MOTION - Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Steve Pany, the Board authorized Mr. Bartlett to investigate amending the parking ordinance regulations. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Steve Pany - yes.

- Gene Wolfgang, Faye Drive, Orefield, advised that the amendment should include a weight class and length so that it does not include smaller commercial trucks belonging to trades such as plumbers or roofers.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – No report.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR (Non-agenda items):

- John Coppola, Skyline Drive, Schnecksville, asked if the resurfacing of Skyline Dr. and Sunset Dr. has been completed.
- Doug Olmstead, DEPG, announced that Mary Ann's Plaza is moving ahead and will be submitting plans next week for review. They are also working on a developer's agreement and wished to be placed on the October agenda.
- Dan Linchuk, Pat Carl and Charles Hoover, all of Shady Lane, Orefield, gave examples and pictures of the extreme erosion, property damage and water runoff, from Woodlea Rd., onto Shady Lane. They expressed their frustration with the lack of attention they feel has been given to this problem.
- Ed Rau, Elmhurst Dr., Schnecksville, inquired why the Board hasn't visited the site.

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- Matt Parr, Loral Lane, Orefield, commented that his property also receives the water runoff from Woodlea and that he has seen the township's engineer on the site taking pictures. He inquired if the engineer's report has been given to the Board.
- Jeanene Bauer, Jordan Rd., Orefield, asked if this runoff affected the MS4 application and should the Conservation District be involved in this issue.
- Pat Carl, Shady Lane, Orefield, also inquired why the building on the corner of Rt. 309 and Kernsville Rd. is allowed to be in its current condition.
- Tim Bennett and Mark Reimer, Carriage Path Drive, Schnecksville, gave examples and pictures of the problem of running bamboo in their development that is invading other properties and attracting birds to roost and produce an extreme amount of bird droppings and stench. They asked the Board to consider creating an ordinance prohibiting future plantings of bamboo in the township and requiring existing bamboo to be cut back and retained, as they feel this is a noxious and invasive plant.

MOTION - Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Steve Pany, the Board authorized Atty. young to draft an ordinance to address this issue.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Norder, Secretary/Treasurer