



**NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
APRIL 3, 2023**

Chairman Al Geosits called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Manager Randy Cope, Engineer Steve Gitch, Director of Finance/Treasurer Seth O'Neill and Secretary/Deputy Treasurer Jess Koenig.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting of March 6, 2023 and the bid minutes of March 29, 2023 were approved. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. A request for bids for In-place road projects was advertised on March 30th. Bids will be publicly opened on April 19th at approximately 9 AM.
2. We have been notified that our 2023 State Liquid Fuels allocation will be \$653,467.01.
3. An Executive Session was held March 20, 2023 at 6 PM to discuss a possible real estate acquisition and April 3, 2023 at 5:45 PM to discuss litigation matters, personnel, and real estate acquisition.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Al Geosits, the March Treasurer's report and the register of checks # 18002 – 18117 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:

Supervisor Geosits recessed the regular meeting and turned the proceedings over to Attorney Dinkelacker in order to conduct a Public Hearing to hear comments on the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

- Diana Celmer, Maple St., Coplay, expressed her concerns with the future plans for Kolapechka Park. Particularly based around the proposed skate park being so close to the neighboring residential properties.

Attorney Dinkelacker closed the Public Hearing regarding the Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan and Supervisor Geosits resumed the regular meeting.

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RESOLUTION 04-03-23

**COMPREHENSIVE PARKS, RECREATION,
AND OPEN SPACE PLAN ADOPTION**

Resolution 04-03-23 is a resolution amending the North Whitehall Township Comprehensive Plan adopted by Resolution 02-06-23A at the February Board of Supervisors meeting. Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Plan was adopted. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

RESOLUTION 04-03-23A

EAST PENN SELF STORAGE PRELIMINARY/FINAL

Paul Szewczak, of Benchmark Engineering, on behalf of the East Penn Self Storage Plan, presented the plan to the Board. Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board approved Resolution 04-03-23A conditionally approving the Plan as a Preliminary/Final Plan. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

RESOLUTION 04-03-23B

**LAUDENSLAGER ANNEXATION LOT LINE ADJUSTMENT
PRELIMINARY/FINAL**

Dan Graybill, of Berks Surveying Engineering, on behalf of the Laudenslager Annexation Lot Line Adjustment Plan, presented the plan to the Board. Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board approved Resolution 04-03-23B conditionally approving the Plan as a Preliminary/Final Plan. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

RESOLUTION 04-03-23C

AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE THE REIMBURSEMENT AGMT

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board authorized the Township Manager to execute the Reimbursement Agreement with PennDOT for the \$70,000 TASA Grant the Township received in support of signalized crosswalk intersections on Mauch Chunk Road and Quarry Street. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

RESOLUTION 04-03-23D

BUDGET APPROPRIATION POLICY

Resolution 04-03-23C authorized the implementation of the Budget Control Policy for 2023, and, as part of the budget control process for the remainder of 2023, for transfers of \$3,500.00 or less between certain accounts in the same fund, not to exceed \$35,000.00 in the aggregate, to be approved by the Director of Finance and Township Manager, without official action. Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board approved Resolution 04-03-23C. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

RESOLUTION 04-03-23E

INVESTMENT AUTHORIZATION

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board approved Resolution 04-03-23E authorizing the Director of Finance to transfer the 2023 ARPA funds to the General Fund, and for the remainder of the APRA funds to be invested until appropriated in the 2024 budget. 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 04-03-23F

INVESTMENT POLICY

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Ronald Heintzelman, the Board approved Resolution 04-03-23F. Resolution 04-03-23F authorized the implementation of North Whitehall Township's Investment Policy. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

AWARD OF BID

LEASED AGRICULTURAL LAND

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz seconded by Al Geosits, the rental of farmland at the Johnson Ponds of +/- 3.5 acres, for a 3-year lease, was awarded to Greg Heintzelman at the bid price of \$40.00/acre. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - abstain; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

EXONERATION OF TAXES

VETERANS R.E. TAX EXEMPTION

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board approved the notice from the Lehigh County Assessment Appeals Office, on behalf of Walter Cannady for exoneration from collection of their Real Estate property tax, as qualified applicants for Veterans Real Estate Property Tax Exemption, effective July 1, 2023. Roll call: Al Geosits – yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

APPOINTMENT

RECREATION BOARD

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, Jedd Komlos was appointed to the Recreation Board until December 31, 2024 to fill the unexpired term of Tim O'Brien. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Brian Horwith, Spring Hill Dr., Coplay, commented the Recreation Board was very lucky to have the addition of Jedd.

MANAGERS REPORT

- Important Dates:
 - Apr. 13 Farmland Preservation 7 PM;
 - Apr. 17 Recreation Board 7PM
 - Apr. 18 Ironton Rail Trail Meeting 7 PM;
 - Apr. 19 Zoning Hearing Board 7 PM;
 - Apr. 22 Earth Day – Laurys Firehouse Park Cleanup 9 AM;
 - Apr. 25 Planning Commission 7 PM; and
 - May 1 Board of Supervisors 7 PM
- Public Works is finalizing the grading of the Neffs Pool. The area will be seeded and strawed by the end of April.
- The new Township website is now live. It includes the Community Portal which is backed up to the county GIS system and shows boundary lines and other important property information. There are also options to review the FEMA Floodplain, and Zoning districts/uses. This tool is beneficial for staff, residents, and businesses.
- The Township is now accepting sewer payments online as well as credit card payments in person. The information was announced on the latest bill run and can be easily accessed on the homepage of the new website.
- A seasonal employee will be going around the Township to start inventory of all of our storm water inlets and street signs so we can input this information in our GIS system and prioritize needed inspections/repairs.

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MANAGERS REPORT continued –

- Residents and park users will notice volunteers planting riparian buffers at Kolapechka Park on Thursday, April 6 and at Ancinetta Pond on Thursday, April 13. Over 400 trees/shrubs will be planted at the two locations and will help with flooding, cleaner waterways and enhancing wildlife habitat.
- The new parky entryway signage is currently under design and nearing completion. The design should be finalized this week and then we will begin getting quotes and will target a summer installation at all park locations.
- We are making progress on the Shady Lane drainage project. There was a meeting held with the property owners Tuesday March 28, 2023 to review the plan and survey results. A site visit will be completed April 4, 2023 to fine tune a few things and will then turn over the details to the solicitor to begin drafting easements.
- We are still awaiting signatures from the property owners for the Grist Mill Road culvert replacement. The solicitor is currently reviewing the insurance and indemnification language in the bid package and once the signed easements are returned, we will go out to bid.
- There have been multiple meetings held regarding the Recreation Impact Fee ordinance amendment and we hope to have this ready for advertising at the May meeting.
- The hiring process for the Summer Playground Program counselors is going well and we have approximately 20 applications. We hope to open the program for an additional 25 participants in the next few weeks. Currently, we have 125 participants registered and over 60 on the waiting list.
- Construction on the new pickleball courts at Laurys Park will begin in lay May or early June.
- The 1st draft of the new Township newsletter is anticipated to be able to view this week. We hope to have these mailed out to residents within the next week or two.
- Our Movies in the Park schedule has been released is available on the Township website. The 1st movie will be held at Laurys Firehouse Park on Friday, May 12. Hotel Transylvania 4 will begin at dusk.
- Our planning department is making progress on our Zoning Ordinance update and we are scheduled to meet again next month.
- The Township received a \$38,000 grant to create an Open Space Plan which will act as a follow up to our Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Comprehensive Plan. The plan will be preparing GIS mapping of existing features like: existing land use/zoning, agricultural properties, geology, slopes, woodlands and soil. It will also create a checklist and procedure for evaluating, ranking and prioritizing open space properties for preservation.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

- Tom VanVreede, Church Dr., Coplay, inquired about an email that was sent out regarding a discrepancy in the communicated hours of operation for the Township Yard Waste Facility.
- Dave Ackerman, Schneck Rd., Schnecksville, thanked the Township Supervisors and staff for the exemplary service that was provided to him regarding an issue he is dealing regarding speeding on the street that he lives on as well commending the Township on the development of new financial policies that are being put into place.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Koenig, Secretary/Deputy Treasurer