



**NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
JUNE 5, 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, Thomas Dinkelacker, Manager Randy Cope, Director of Planning and Zoning Jeff Mouer, Engineer Steve Gitch, Director of Finance/Treasurer Seth O'Neill and Secretary/Deputy Treasurer Jess Koenig.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman seconded by Al Geosits, the minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting of May 1, 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. The Municipal Offices will be closed Tuesday, July 4th for the Fourth of July Holiday.
2. An executive session was held June 5, 2023 at 6 PM to discuss personnel matters and possible litigation.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Al Geosits, the May Treasurer's report and checks # 18177 – 18260 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:

NEW BUSINESS: No Old Business.

RESOLUTION 06-05-23

**ACCEPTING LANDS LOCATED IN WHITEHALL
TOWNSHIP IN NWT AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREA**

Donna Wright, Lehigh County Farmland Preservation, presented an explanation of the Resolution to the Board. Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, Resolution 06-05-23 was approved. Resolution 06-05-23 approves accepting lands located in Whitehall Township to be part of the Agricultural Security Area in North Whitehall Township pursuant to the provisions of the Agricultural Security Area Law 3, Purdon's Statutes 901 Et Seq. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

RESOLUTION 06-05-23A

BECKER LOT LINE ADJUSTMENT FINAL PLAN

Jared Becker, on behalf of the Becker Lot Line Adjustment Plan, presented the plan to the Board. Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board approved Resolution 06-05-23A conditionally approving the Plan as Final. 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 06-05-23B GREENLEAF FIELDS AT PARKLAND PRELIMINARY/FINAL

Attorney Joe Piperato of Eastburn and Gray PC, on behalf of the Greenleaf Fields at Parkland Plan, presented the plan to the Board. Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board approved Resolution 06-0523B conditionally approving the Plan as Preliminary/Final. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - abstain; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Karen Osmun, Greenhill Circle, Schnecksville, inquired if the specialty street signage that was previously discussed for this area would still be implemented.

RESOLUTION 06-05-23C BUDGET TRANSFER AUTHORIZATION

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board approved Resolution 06-05-23C authorizing a request for a General Fund budget transfer to rebalance the recreation accounts in accordance with Recreation Program priorities for 2023, and another General Fund Transfer request moving funds from Capital Transfers to Computer Services in order to obtain an automated purchasing system. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz – yes. There were no public comments on this item.

**RESOLUTION 06-05-23D MODIFICATION OF AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREA
WAGNER FARM**

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Al Geosits, Resolution 06-05-23D was approved. Resolution 06-05-23D approves the following member shall be added to the Agricultural Security Area created by Ordinance 1990-1, 1993-2 and Ordinance 1996-2:

Mary Ann Wagner 2652 Neffs Laurys Rd. 61.367 acres

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

**RESOLUTION 06-05-23E MODIFICIATION OF AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREA
LOOMIS FARM**

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Al Geosits, Resolution 06-05-23E was approved. Resolution 06-05-23E approves the following member shall be added to the Agricultural Security Area created by Ordinance 1990-1, 1993-2 and Ordinance 1996-2:

Jayne E. Loomis 4879 Peach Bottom Rd. 47.5 acres

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

RESOLUTION 06-05-23F 537 PLAN COST SHARING AGREEMENT

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, Resolution 06-05-23F was approved. Resolution 06-05-23F authorizes the Township Manager to execute the 537 Plan Cost Sharing Agreement. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

PSATS SUPERVISOR REIMBURSEMENT OF LOST WAGES

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board authorized the full reimbursement of lost wages to Chairman Al Geosits, for a total of 16 hours lost, for attendance of the PSATS convention April 24, and April 25, 2023. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

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SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Thomas Dinkelacker presented a Right to Know case law update to the Board. Under the updated law Fire Companies are now considered local Right to Know Law reporting agencies. He recommended all four of the Township's volunteer fire companies choose a Right to Know Officer to handle the potential record requests.

- Brian Horwith, Springhill Dr., Coplay, asked Attorney Dinkelacker of he could provide an example of a record request topic that might be submitted to the fire companies.
- Ronnie Roth, Route 309, Schnecksville, inquired if this case law change was in any way related to the New Tripoli Volunteer Fire Fighters that lost their lives earlier in the year while responding to a fire.
- Jim Osmun, Greenhill Circle, Schnecksville, remarked that he is concerned that overloading our volunteers with additional tasks like this will make it even more difficult to recruit new volunteers.
- Jim Steward, Park Ave, Neffs, commented that this is not new to the Fire Companies. The possibility of Fire Companies being considered local agencies has been discussed for quite a number of years prior to this change.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Important Dates:
Schnecksville Community Fair – June 20 – 24;
Ironton Rail Trail Meeting – Tuesday, June 20, at 7 PM;
Zoning Hearing Board – Wednesday, June 21, at 7 PM;
Planning Commission – Tuesday, June 27, at 7 PM;
Board of Supervisors – Monday, July 3, at 7 PM;
- The grass is starting to grow at the Neffs Park project where the pool was filled in. Neff's Fire Company has been assisting the Township in keeping the area watered. The week of June 5 and June 12 Public Works will be rebuilding the trail that was damaged during the project.
- The new park entry way signs have been ordered. As of now the installation date is still slated for July, but that will be depend on when the signs are shipped.
- There has been continued progress on the Shady Lane project. Keystone Engineers has turned over information for the easements, and Norris McLaughlin's office is in the process of drafting these easements. Once all of the documents are signed the Township will be going out to bid.
- The Township's 1st Movie in the Park at Laury's Firehouse Park on May 12th was a success. There were approximately 75-100 people in attendance. The next movie is scheduled for July at Levan's Park.
- The Park Valley Road Bridge project is making progress. We have the bid specs and Norris McLaughlin's office is currently reviewing them. Due to redoing the design of the bridge allows us to stay in the Township Right of Way and will save money for the Township. We hope to advertise bids for this project in June and award a contract at our August Board of Supervisors meeting.
- Quotes were received for the sealcoating/stripping of the parking areas at Laury's Firehouse Park and the work will be scheduled for July. Quotes have also been received for a new shed and electric for the park at the NWT campus as well as for the flagpole at Kolapechka Park.

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MANAGERS REPORT continued...

- A Stormwater story map is being finalized and will be uploaded to the new Community Portal on the Township's website. This story map will outline what stormwater is, where it goes, and what the Township's MS4 permit responsibilities are. There will also be a link where residents can submit illicit discharge information.
- The Summer Playground Program is set to begin Monday, June 12 at 9 am. Courtney has done a great job working with the other Townships to plan a great summer for the children.
- The IRT Locomotive was moved away from the Portland Street parking lot and is currently being sandblasted and painted. The locomotive will be relocated to the Levans Road trail head within the next few weeks and placed on the new pad that the Public Works department installed last week.
- The newsletter was mailed out to the community, and we will begin working on the fall/winter newsletter edition next month.
- There is currently one vacancy on the Planning Commission, which was advertised. Nine applications were received and the Planning Commission Chair and Director of Planning & Zoning will be interviewing the candidates over the next several weeks and providing a formal recommendation to the Board at the July 3, 2023 meeting.
- Finance Director/Treasurer, Seth O'Neill as well as Township Manager Randy Cope attended a webinar to expand and strengthen the Township's procurement efforts. The Township will soon be implementing requisitions, purchase orders, and encumbrances.
- A reminder that the Township is now accepting online payments for sewer bills. So far, approximately 25 % of sewer customers have taken advantage of online payments and we anticipate that number to grow with each billing cycle.

- Supervisor Dennis Klusaritz inquired if there was a Public Works Department report for the month and if we had a start date for the yearly road projects. He also inquired if there was any progress made on the Route 309 clean up project.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR (Non-agenda items)

- Ronald Roth, Route 309, Schnecksville, issued a formal thank to the Volunteer Fire Departments that responded to the fire at his home. He also expressed concern for the possible round about that is going to be implemented in Schnecksville as well as the proposed projects for the area.
- Scott, Bertsch, Shawnee Blvd, Schnecksville, presented an issue to the Board in work that was done on Shawnee Blvd by a company that Lehigh County Authority contracted.
- Jim Steward, Park Ave, Neffs, announced that the Weather Service is close to issuing a Red Flag warning for our area.
- Ron Stahley, Shawnee Blvd, echoed Scott Bertsch's concern for the road work that was done on Shawnee Blvd by the company that was contracted by Lehigh County Authority.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned 8:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Koenig, Secretary/Deputy Treasurer