



**NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MARCH 6, 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 Jessica Koenig.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting of February 6, 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. Lehigh County Executive, Phillips Armstrong gave a brief update introducing a tax rebate for volunteer firemen, Farmland Preservation, transitioning existing radios to digital will be discussed at the next COG meeting, and Mr. Armstrong also introduced the County's new Community Liaison, Yorman De La Rosa.

- Supervisor Dennis Klusaritz, inquired if the County has considered raising the cap on their Farmland Preservation contributions.
- Chairman Al Geosits, asked if the volunteer firemen's rebate was on real estate tax.
- Jim Steward, Park Ave, Neffs, explained to Mr. Armstrong that while the volunteer firemen's rebate is appreciated it doesn't necessarily cover the younger volunteers who may not be living on their own yet.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the February Treasurer's report and the register of checks # 17943 – 18001 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:

RESOLUTION 03-06-23

TROXELL/INTELISANO PRELIMINARY/FINAL

Ed Schlaffer, on behalf of Troxell/Intelisano, presented the Troxell/Intelisano Lot Line Adjustment Plan to the Board. Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board approved Resolution 03-06-23 conditionally approving the Plan as a Preliminary/Final Lot Line Adjustment Plan. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

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TOWNSHIP BUILDING RENOVATIONS

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board approved the North Whitehall Township Complex Capital Improvements Master Plan. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Rich Semmel, Clearview Dr., Coplay, inquired if the new meeting room could have two exits for security/emergency purposes and where the after-hours lock boxes would be located.
- Brian Horwith, Springfield Dr., Coplay, asked if the new vestibule was intended to have access to the Tax Collector's office while the Municipal Building was closed to Township staff. He also inquired which door to the second floor would be secure while the tax office is open and the rest of the Township Building is closed. As well as an explanation for the configuration of the new stairwell, and if the second-floor storage area door can remain sealed.
- Jim Steward, Park Ave, Neffs, commented that the door in the stairwell is pictured to swing in the incorrect direction.

RESOLUTION 03-06-23A PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS FOR FARMLAND OWEND BY CURTIS AND JANET HOFFMAN

Resolution 03-06-23A authorized the Board to proceed with negotiations for acquisition of a conservation easement for approximately 84.14 acres of the Curtis and Janet Hoffman farm at \$1,300.00 per acre which equates to \$109,382.00. This commitment will be combined with Lehigh County's 2023-2024 allocation. Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, Resolution 03-06-23A was adopted. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz yes. There were no public comments on this item.

EXONERATION OF TAXES VETERANS R.E. TAX EXEMPTION

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

RESOLUTION 03-06-23B AUTHORIZE INVESTMENT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS

Resolution 03-06-23B authorized the Director of Finance/Treasurer to open a special money market demand account with The Neffs National Bank account to pool excess liquidity in the General Fund and Special Funds for investment purposes. Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, Resolution 03-06-23B was adopted. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

- Tom VanVreede, Church Dr., Coplay, inquired if the Township would regain the penalty that was paid by the end of the current year.
- Brian Horwith, Springfield Dr., Coplay, commended Director of Finance/Treasurer, Seth O'Neill on a great presentation and asked if the funds that were in the special Money Market account was FDIC insured.

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LAND OWNER AGREEMENT

RIPARIAN PLANTING HABITAT RESTORATION

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board approved Riparian Planting Habitat Restoration Agreements between the Township and Wildland's Conservancy, Inc. for the creation of riparian buffers along the Coplay Creek in Kolapechka Park and on Township land near Ancinetta Drive; subject to any additional revisions to the Agreements as may be required by DCNR, provided that such additional revisions are acceptable to the Township Manager and Solicitor. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

RESOLUTION 03-06-23C

FEE SCHEDULE

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, Resolution 03-06-23C was adopted. Resolution 03-06-23C adopts, amends, and revises the fee schedule with regards to the permit fees, the remainder of the 2023 fee schedule shall remain as stated in Resolution 01-03-23. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

REQUEST TO CLOSE PORTION OF ROADS

A request was received from Julissa Hilbert to close the cul-de-sac portion of Black Forest Drive and Creekside Drive on Saturday May 20, 2023 between 10 AM – 2 PM for a Timberidge Community Event. Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board approved the request contingent on the property owner securing and submitting a certificate of insurance (rider) for the event. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

APPOINTMENT

RIGHT TO KNOW OFFICER

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, Jessica Koenig was appointed as the North Whitehall Township Right to Know Officer for the year 2023. Roll call: Al Geosits – yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Important Dates:
Mar. 7 Planning Commission 7 PM;
Mar. 20 Recreation Board 7 PM;
Mar. 28 Planning Commission 7 PM;
Apr. 1 Electronics Recycling Drive (Parkland High School) 9 AM;
Apr. 3 Board of Supervisors 7 PM
- Public Works has started the demolition process at Neffs Pool. The building within our limits of disturbance have been removed and the pool is starting to get filled. Drainage measures were taken at the deep end side of the pool to help the area properly drain during high water table and heavy rains.
- Registration of residents interested in our Summer Playground Program opened on March 1, 2023. The registration was completed through our new online program software called RecDesk. There were 125 spots available in the program and they filled up within the first 2 hours of registration being opened. The 8-week program will run June 12 – August 4. We are currently seeking counselors for the program.

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MANAGERS REPORT continued –

- The Township will be hosting an Earth Day beautification project at Laurys Firehouse Park on April 22 at 9 AM. There will be focus on enhancing our landscape island in the parking lots.
- We are still anticipating beginning the pickleball courts at Laurys Firehouse Park in the May, but are currently still awaiting word from the installer on when specifically, we are scheduled.
- The new LED court lights for the basketball courts at the Township should be delivered May 15.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

- Mark Hills, Old Post Rd., Coplay, asked how the Township was doing filling the open Recreation and Communications Manager position.
- Rich Semmel, Clearview Dr., Coplay, asked if we had a tentative date when the Parks and Recreation fees would be updated.
- Tom VanVreede, Church Dr., Coplay, inquired when the March planning commission agenda would be posted.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Koenig, Secretary/Deputy Treasurer