



**NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
LEHIGH CARBON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SEPTEMBER 9, 2024**

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 Supervisor Ronald J. Heintzelman, Township Manager Randy Cope, Attorney Rocco Beltrami, Engineer Steve Gitch, Director of Operations Jeff Mouer, Director of Grants, Preservation, and Trails Mike Kukitz, Director of Public Works Rick Holtzman, Director of Finance Seth O'Neill, and Secretary/Deputy Treasurer Jessica Koenig.

This meeting is being recorded. Upon approval of the minutes by the Board of Supervisors the electronic recording file will be destroyed.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board of Supervisors Meeting of August 5, 2024 and the preliminary budget meeting minutes of August 7 were approved. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - absent. There were no public comments on this item.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. An executive session was held on Thursday, August 15, 2024 at 8:00 AM for the purpose of discussing litigation matters regarding the Strawberry Acres Plan.
2. The second Board of Supervisors Budget Workshop will be held Wednesday, September 11th at 5pm located in the conference room at the Township Temporary Office at 4110 Independence Dr. Suite 100.
3. At the October 7th Board of Supervisors meeting the Board will be conducting a 7-year review public hearing wherein the Board of Supervisors will modify land within the Township's Agricultural Security Area.
4. The Township received a request to remove the following properties from the Township's Agricultural Security Area:

John Johnson	5150 Hoffmansville Rd.	83.95 acres +/-
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5. The Township received requests for the following Whitehall Township property to be added to the North Whitehall Township Agricultural Security Area:

Heather Skorinko	5439 Roosevelt St.	17.97 acres +/-
Rosita & Carl Johnson	4760 Robin St.	1.8 acres +/-
6. The Township received the following request for addition to the North Whitehall Township Agricultural Security Area:

Robert & Diane Schmidt	2831 Woodbine St.	2.424 acres +/-
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7. Township Offices will be closed Thursday September 12th for Township staff to attend the yearly Lehigh County Association of Township Officials Summer Convention.
8. Future Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and Zoning Hearing Board meetings will be held at the LCCC Lisa Jane Scheller, Community Services Center Building located at 4525 Education Park Dr., Schnecksville Building 7. Attendees should utilize parking lot F.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman , seconded by Al Geosits, the August treasurer's report and checks # 19511 – 19581 were approved as presented. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - absent.

- Brian Horwith, Springfield Dr., Coplay, asked what the net proceeds were from the bond the Township procured for the building renovation.
- Bruce Stettler, Steeple Chase Dr., Schnecksville, asked if the Township currently has a reserve fund, if the excess cash from the bond will go in the reserve fund, and how much is currently in reserve.

PRESENTATIONS: No presentations

DISCUSSION: No Discussions

OLD BUSINESS: No old business

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 09-09-24 **RIDINGS AT PARKLAND PHASE II PRELIMINARY/FINAL**

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board approved Resolution 09-09-24 conditionally approving the Ridings at Parkland Phase II Plan as Preliminary/Final. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - absent.

- Jim Wilson, Allied Utilities, explained that his company has not submitted final approval on this plan due to outstanding invoices and asked if it could be included as a stipulation that all outstanding invoices be paid before the plan is allowed to be recorded.

RESOLUTION 09-09-24A **ADOPTING A REINSTATEMENT OF QUALIFIED RETIREMENT PLAN**

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board approved Resolution 09-09-24A adopting a reinstatement of qualified retirement plan. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - absent. There were no public comments on this item.

RESOLUTION 09-09-24B **AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF GOVERNMENT 457 (B) RETIREMENT PLAN**

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board approved Resolution 09-09-24B authorizing the adoption of Government 457(b) retirement plan. Roll call: Al Geosits – yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - absent. There were no public comments on this item.

RESOLUTION 09-09-24C **FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENT**

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board approved Resolution 09-09-24C adopting and amending the revision of the Township fee schedule initially adopted by Resolution 01-02-24B. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - absent.

- Heather Skorinko, Clearview Rd., Coplay, inquired as to why it seemed like the fee schedule was being made more appealing to developers and if there was a middle ground that could be reached on the fees so that the Townships value for Farmland Preservation is still evident.

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RESOLUTION 09-09-24C

FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENT CONT'D

- Rick Semmel, Clearview Rd., Coplay, asked if the Township had been questioned on the fees that were previously being imposed.
- Brian Horwith, Springfield Dr., Coplay asked if it is against the law to generate revenue off fees imposed on developers.

RESOLUTION 09-09-24D

NOVA LSA GRANT

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board approved Resolution 09-09-24D authorizing North Whitehall Township to be the sponsoring agency for Northern Valley Emergency Services Inc. Department of Community and Economic Development Local Share Account Fund (Gaming Funds) Northampton and Lehigh Counties Grant. Resolution 09-09-24D also authorizes Township Manager Randy Cope and Township Secretary Jessica Koenig to act as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between North Whitehall Township and the Commonwealth Financing Authority. This Northampton/Lehigh County Local Share Assessment Grant in the amount of \$73,221.39 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority is to include the purchase of eleven (11) desktop PC's, one (1) laptop, speakers and amplifier for social hall, smart TV for social hall, and a generator for Northern Valley Emergency Medical Services, Inc. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes, Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes, Dennis Klusaritz - absent. There were no public comments on this item.

RESOLUTION 09-09-24E

INCREASE DENTAL AND VISION BENEFITS

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board approved Resolution 09-09-24E approving a supplemental appropriation to the health insurance account for the purpose of broadening dental and vision coverage for full time employees. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - absent. There were no public comments on this item.

MOTIONS:

NEW HIRE

RECREATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board authorized the hiring of Chloe Pauls as the New Recreation and Communications Coordinator. Chloe's first day is scheduled for September 16, 2024. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz – absent. There were no public comments on this item.

AWARD OF 9-TOWNSHIP SALT BID

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board the board awarded the 9-township contract for Sodim Chloride for the 2024/2025 season to Eastern Salt Company at their low bid price of \$81.50 per ton delivered as needed. This contract was bid in conjunction with neighboring Townships. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - absent. There were no public comments on this item.

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AUTHORIZATION TO DISTRIBUTE BUDGETED ALLOCATIONS EMS & SR CLUBS

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board ratified the 2024 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

The emergency services organizations will receive the balances of their 2024 allocations.

\$37,500.00 to Northern Valley Ambulance Corp.

\$25,668.75 to each of the four fire companies.

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

AUTHORIZATION TO ENGAGE A CONSULTANT INDEPENDENT TRAFFIC STUDY

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board authorized the Township Manager to engage HRG as a consultant to perform an independent traffic study for the Nexus 78 Route 309 Plan. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman – yes; Dennis Klusaritz - absent.

- Rich Semmel, Clearview Rd., Coplay, suggested the traffic study be conducted at 6 am and said to consider how it will affect other nearby intersections when 309 backs up in this area. He also asked if there would be any considerations for when the school is holding football games.
- Bruce Stettler, Steeple Chase Dr., Schnecksville, inquired if the HRG traffic study was being triggered by the proposed warehouse and also asked why the Township is paying for the traffic study.
- Eugene Wolfgang, Fay Dr., Orefield, asked if the Township would be able to recover the cost of the traffic study from the developer.
- Heather Skorinko, Clearview Rd., Coplay, inquired how many days physical observations would be done.
- Tom VanVreede, Church Dr., Coplay, asked that not only bus traffic for the school be considered but also car traffic for kids being driven to school.

REQUEST FOR EXONERATION FROM COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT R.E. TAXES

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board granted the recommendation of the Lehigh County Assessment Office and exonerated Portnoff & Associates and the Tax Claim Bureau from the collection of delinquent real estate taxes for tax year 2023 for the following properties due to the mobile homes being removed from the site:

1045 Dogwood St.	\$17.05
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Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - absent. There were no public comments on this item.

EXONERATION OF TAXES VETERANS R.E. TAX EXEMPTION

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by , the Board approved the notice from the Lehigh County Board of Assessment Appeals for Real Estate Tax Exemption, on behalf of David J. Anthony, for exoneration from collection of their Real Estate Property Tax Exemption, effective February 22, 2024.

3190 Jordan Rd.	\$220.74
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Roll call: Al Geosits – yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman – yes; Dennis Klusaritz – absent. There were no public comments on this item.

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MANAGER'S REPORT

- Important Dates:
 - BOS Budget Workshop – Wednesday, September 11 at 5 PM;
 - Recreation Board – Monday, September 16 at 7 PM;
 - Zoning Hearing Board – Wednesday, September 18 at 7 PM;
 - Planning Commission – Tuesday, September 24 at 7 PM;
 - Board of Supervisors – Monday October 7 at 7 PM;
- The Township Building renovation is moving along. A lot of site work is underway, and the stormwater system has been connected. The old septic tanks have been removed and the new tanks have been connected. Interior and exterior demolition is 90% complete. The footers and pad will be poured the week of 9/26 in preparation for the new addition. Staff continues to meet every 2 weeks with the architects, construction manager, and prime contractors to keep everything moving along. The project is still on schedule, and we anticipate substantial completion by June 30, 2025.
- AMS will be completing road work between September 19 – 24. After AMS has completed resurfacing, the line striping contractor will be back to complete their portion of the work.
- Landscaping at Laury's Firehouse park to eliminate erosion in parking lot beds.
- The parking lots at Levans and Kolapechka Park were seal coated and re-stripped this summer. Next year, the parking lots at Independence Park will get seal coated and striped.
- The Back to School Party in the Park at Kolapechka was a huge success. Throughout the 4 hour event, we saw a few thousand people come out and enjoy the food trucks, bounce houses, and bubble making festivities.
- The Township yard waste site is producing approximately 200 cubic yards of mulch every other week. This mulch continues to be used in our parks and is available to our residents.
- The signalized crosswalk, at Mauch Chunk Blvd, for the Ironton Rail Trail will be installed over the next few weeks. The equipment has been received, all clearances have been obtained, and Public Works is building it into their schedule for installation.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR (Non-agenda items):

- Heather Skorinko, Clearview Rd., Coplay, read a brief prepared statement commending the Township on their Ag Security and Farmland Preservation efforts and asked that when working on Ordinances and other applicable changes that the Township keep the rights of the Farmers in mind.
- Mark Hollan, Nottingham Ct, Laurys Station, thanked the Township for the nice work done at Laury's Firehouse Park but inquired if more mulch could be put on the playground because it is currently lacking. He also posed a question as to what can be done about the speeding that is done in Wynnewood Terrace. He is happy that a speed board was installed but thinks what could be used on the opposite side of the street as well. He suggested the possibility of more stop signs or the use of speed humps. He inquired what the next step was when the data was collected from the speed boards in 6 months.
- Daniel Fritzinger, Spruce St., Schnecksville, inquired if the speed boards were just a temporary study.
- Bob Allen, Donna Dr., Coplay asked if more information could be given on what was discussed in the executive session held on August 15th regarding litigation and the Strawberry Acres Plan.
- Rich Semmel, Clearview Rd., Coplay, asked if there was any update on the digital speed signs being place on Clearview Road.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Koenig, Secretary/Deputy Treasurer