



**NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
LEHIGH CARBON COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
FEBRUARY 3, 2025**

Chairman Dennis Klusaritz called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. In attendance, were Supervisor Al Geosits, Supervisor Ronald J. Heintzelman, Township Manager Randy Cope, Township Solicitor Tom Dinkelacker, Engineer Steve Gitch, Director of Operations Jeff Mouer, Director of Grants, Preservation, and Trails Mike Kukitz, Director of Finance Seth O'Neill, Director of Public Works Rick Holtzman, 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 Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the minutes of the January 6, 2025 Board of Supervisors Reorganization Meeting were approved. Roll call: Dennis Klusaritz - yes ; Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. An executive session was held at 6:30 pm prior to the regular meeting to discuss potential land acquisition and legal advice on two potential litigation matters.
2. The Municipal Offices will be closed Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> for the Presidents' Day Holiday.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the January treasurer's report and checks. #19917 – 19973 were approved as presented. Roll call: Dennis Klusaritz - yes; Al Geosits - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

- Gene Weierbach, Woodbine St., Slatington, inquired if there was a line item in the budget for legal services.
- Dennis Atiyeh, Park Valley Rd., Slatington, asked if the Township should be going out to bid for legal and engineering services on a yearly basis.
- Tom VanVreede, Church Dr., Coplay, asked how the Township was doing on budget for the Township building renovation.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

- John Carson – Township Building Renovation Update
  - Tom VanVreede, Church Dr., Coplay, inquired how many change orders there have been so far and the amount of them.

**OLD BUSINESS:** No Old Business

**ORDINANCE:**

**ORDINANCE 2025-1**

**COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT MUNICIPAL CLAIMS**

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board approved Ordinance 2025-1, amending Ordinance 2022-6, Collection of Delinquent Municipal Claims. call: Dennis Klusaritz - yes; Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.



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**RESOLUTION 02-03-25E**

**FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENT**

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board approved Resolution 02-03-25E adopting and amending the revision of the Township fee schedule initially adopted by Resolution 01-06-25. Roll call: Dennis Klusaritz - yes; Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes.

- Gene Weierbach, Woodbine St., Slatington, asked for clarification on the zoning fees.
- Heather Skorinko, Clearview Rd., Coplay asked who was responsible for the Zoning Hearing Board continuation fees.

**RESOLUTION 02-03-25F**

**TAX COLLECTOR COMPENSATION 2026**

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, Resolution 02-03-25F was adopted. Resolution 02-03-25F established the commission paid to the elected Tax Collector pursuant to the provisions of the local tax collection law. The rate of compensation shall be \$3.50 per property bill actually collected. Roll call: Dennis Klusaritz - yes; Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes.

- Donna Kumernitsky, Mauch Chunk Rd., Coplay, asked if the tax collector position will be receiving a 1099 or w2.

**MOTIONS:**

**TIMBERIDGE LUXURY APARTMENTS**

**SECURITY RELEASE #4**

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board accepted the written recommendation of the General Planning Engineer Steve Gitch, dated January 27, 2025, and authorized reduction of \$274,227.86 from the Timberidge Luxury Apartments letter of credit. Leaving a balance of \$213,692.18 in the account. Roll call: Dennis Klusaritz - yes; Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

**AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE FUNDS**

**NOVA AMBULANCE PURCHASE**

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board authorized the release of funds in the amount of \$100,000 to Northern Valley Emergency Medical Services, Inc. for the FPG remount of Braun Job # 7686 on a 2025 Ford E350 Chassis. Roll call: Dennis Klusaritz - yes; Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

**NEW HIRE**

**TOWNSHIP PLANNER/ASSISTANT ZONING OFFICER**

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board approved the hiring of Kevin Murphy as the new Township Planner/Assistant Zoning Officer. Mr. Murphy's start date is set for February 18, 2025. Roll call: Dennis Klusaritz - yes; Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes.

- Tom VanVreede, Church Dr., Coplay, asked for clarification on if this new position was a contracted position or an employee of the Township.

**REQUEST TO USE FIRE POLICE**

**NOVA COMEDY NIGHT**

The Secretary received a request for the use of the North Whitehall Township Fire Police from Northern Valley Emergency Medical Services to assist with traffic control for NOVA'S annual Comedy Night scheduled for February 15, 2025. Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the request to use the North Whitehall Township Fire Police as mutual aid was granted. Roll call: Dennis Klusaritz - yes; Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

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**ZONING HEARING BOARD SOLICITOR**

**CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT**

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board confirmed the Zoning Hearing Board's appointment of Attorney Ashcraft as the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor for the year 2025. Roll call: Dennis Klusaritz - yes; Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

**ALTERNATE ZONING HEARING BOARD SOLICITOR**

**CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT**

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board confirmed the Zoning Hearing Board's appointment of Attorney Strack as the alternate Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor for the year 2025. Roll call: Dennis Klusaritz - yes; Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

**AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE**

**DESIGN BUILD HORSESHOE RD REHAB**

Up motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board authorized Township staff to advertise a design build for the Horseshoe Road rehabilitation. Roll call: Dennis Klusaritz - yes; Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes.

- Rich Semmel, Clearview Rd., Coplay, inquired if there was a ballpark cost on this project and if staff would consider postponing the Gristmill Road project to complete the Horseshoe Road rehabilitation.

**AUTHORIZATION TO DISTRIBUTE BUDGETED ALLOCATION**

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board authorized the Township Secretary to distribute the following 2025 budgeted allocations:

\$500.00 to the Ironton Rail Trail Oversight Commission  
\$2,600.00 to the Upper Lehigh Historical Society's Schneck House  
\$5,000.00 to the NWT ESO

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

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Important Dates  
Farmland Preservation Committee – Thursday, February 13, at 7:00 PM;  
Joint BOS/PC Zoning Ordinance Review – Monday, February 10, at 6:00 PM;  
Zoning Hearing Board - Wednesday, February 19, at 7 PM;  
Planning commission – Tuesday, February 25, at 7 PM;  
Board of Supervisors – Monday, March 3, at 7PM;
- New Township Yard Waste Site – Staff continues to work with KCE on a site layout that can be used to apply for a permit for this new site. The new site will include a streamlined drop off operation complete with appropriate fencing, stormwater management, guard house and pole barn to store the needed equipment to run the site. Staff also anticipates submitting this for land development and for Planning Commission review sometime in early spring.

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**MANAGERS REPORT CONT'D**

- Asset Management Plan (Bridges and Culverts) – Staff met with consultants from HRG this morning to review draft plans. Final edits are being made and a presentation will be given to the BOS at the march 3 public meeting.
- Tannery Road Swale – All but two easements have been secured for the project. Once those two easements are secured, staff will be soliciting bids for the project. This project is budgeted to occur in 2025 and has grant assistance.
- DCED GTRP Grant, Neffs Valley Park – Last week, we were informed that DCED awarded an additional \$250,000 to North Whitehall Township for the Neffs Valley Park Improvements. To date, the Township has secured \$550,000 to support infrastructure upgrades to the run down park. These upgrades will include new parking area, new riparian areas, and a loop trail complicated with landscaping a new pedestrian footbridge. The improvements will likely occur in late 2025 early 2026.
- 309 Betterment Project – I attended a virtual meeting on January 28 to discuss utility and conflict resolution for the 309 Betterment Project. According to the PennDOT representative, utility repairs/realignment may occur as soon as September 2025. This project will look at all intersections between Walbert Avenue in South Whitehall Township and Shankweiler Road in North Whitehall Township.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR (Non-agenda items):**

- Tom VanVreede, Church Dr., Coplay, inquired what impact the federal grant restriction has on the Township's current grants.
- Rich Semmel, Clearview Rd., Coplay, asked when the position of Fire Inspector, which is being funded by the new Fire Tax, will be filled.
- Melissa Uff, Shankweiler Rd., Allentown, asked if the Board of Supervisors has made any decisions on the allocation of funds to the pickleball courts that was discussed by the Recreation Board.
- Joanne Mertz, Lowhill Township, inquired if staff keeps past Planning Commission agendas on the website, if the independent traffic study for the Nexus 78 plan was completed yet, if there will be a Conditional Use hearing required for the Nexus 78 warehouse. She also asked if there was any way to stop this plan from going through, and if there is public water and sewer in the area of this project. Lastly, she inquired how to keep up to date with the details of the project.
- Jedd Komlos, Creekview Dr., Orefield, stated he was unable to locate on the Township website the agenda from the last Planning Commission meeting that discussed the Nexus 78 project and suggested the meetings be more widely announced. He also asked what time frame was used for the independent traffic study for the warehouse project.

**ADJOURNMENT** Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Koenig, Secretary/Deputy Treasurer