

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC MEETING

AGENDA-MINUTES

January 18, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Commissioner Diane Kelly, President
Commissioner David M. Kennedy, Vice President
Commissioner Monica Hodges, Assist. Twp. Secretary
Commissioner Brad Osborne
Commissioner Jacob Roth
Joseph Zator, Solicitor, Zator Law
Anthony Tallarida, Twp. Engineer, The Pidcock Co.

Tom Petrucci, Township Manager
Herb Bender, Dir. of Twp. Operations
Mike Elias, PW Utility & MS4 Coordinator
Tricia Dickert, Director of Finance
Glenn Dorney, Chief, PD
Dave Manhardt, Director, Community Development Dept.
Chris Stroehler, Long-Range Planner, CD Dept.
Gregg Adams, Planner, Community Development Dept.
Chris Kiskeravage, Twp. Fire Commissioner *
John Frantz, Fire Marshal, Building Code Official *
Tom Harper, Code Enforcement Program Manager *
Rob Fehnel, IT Projects Manager *
Tracy Fehnel, Exec. Assistant
Absent* **Attended Virtually ****

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. **All Public sessions of the South Whitehall Township Board of Commissioners are electronically recorded, filed, and posted to the website for Public access.**
- b. **Public/Virtual Meeting Rules**
- c. **Board of Commissioners Met in Executive Session on the following date(s) to discuss Legal and/or Personnel Matters: January 18, 2023.**

4. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR: Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: NONE.

5. MINUTES:

a. January 4, 2023 – Board of Commissioners Minutes

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kennedy, which was seconded by Commissioner Roth, to approve the January 4, 2023, BOC Minutes as presented. All in favor; none opposed. Vote was 5:0. Motion carried.

b. December 13, 2022 – Comprehensive Plan Workshop Minutes

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Hodges, which was seconded by Commissioner Kelly, to approve the December 13, 2022, Comprehensive Plan Workshop Minutes. All in favor; none opposed. Vote was 5:0. Motion carried.

6. PRESENTATIONS:

- a. **New Employee – Introduction of Lynn Matula, Parks & Recreation Manager**

Township Manager Tom Petrucci introduced Lynn Matula to the Board/Public at this time, giving a brief overview of Lynn Matula's extensive background/experience, and said we look forward to her successful career here at the Township.

7. **ORDINANCES:**

- a. **Motion to Advertise - An Ordinance Of The Township Of South Whitehall, County Of Lehigh, And Commonwealth Of Pennsylvania, Amending Part I ("Administrative Legislation"), Chapter 17 ("Boards, Commissions, Councils And Departments"), Article II ("Park And Recreation Board") Of The Codified Ordinances Of South Whitehall Township To Amend And Restate In Its Entirety The Park And Recreation Board Ordinance Of South Whitehall Township, And Providing For A Repealer Clause, Severability Clause And Effective Date**

Township Manager Tom Petrucci explained the Board did take previous action on this item; however, prior to advertising the Solicitor's Office did have some comments, although they did not need official action, he wanted to make sure the BOC was aware of the final text prior to being advertised. Additional revisions are to ensure the text of ordinance is consistent w/requirements of First Class Township Code. Everything previously discussed regarding composition of the Board, how members are appointed, and the reporting that will take place is exactly the same. Mr. Petrucci is seeking a motion to approve advertising of said ordinance.

Side note: The Regular meetings of the P&RB will be kept flexible and to held as needed. This is not a statutory requirement when you hold a meeting, but more of an administrative question. These will be advertised at the start of each year, which is a requirement.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Roth, which was seconded by Commissioner Kennedy, to approve motion to proceed with advertising of said Ordinance as explained by Township Manager Petrucci. All in favor; none opposed. Vote 5:0. Motion carried.

8. **RESOLUTIONS:**

- a. **Direction/Discussion of Revised Resolution - A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of South Whitehall Township to Adopt a Formal Policy Entitled "South Whitehall Township Appointment Policy for Advisory Boards, Committees, Commissions and Councils"**

Township Manager Tom Petrucci explained no official action is requested from Board this evening. Input/feedback is requested from the governing body on the draft policy to ensure that the policy is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Board. Revisions were based on feedback received from the BOC during the January 4, 2023, BOC meeting.

An executive summary of the key provisions of this draft policy is provided as follows:

1. Provides for maintaining a database of current members of Advisory Boards, Committees, Commissions and Councils (referred to as "Citizen Advisory Boards" for ease of reference).
2. Provides for maintaining a database of applicants to Citizen Advisory Boards.

3. Establishes the notification process for expiring and/or vacant Citizen Advisory Board positions on an annual basis.
4. Establishes that all expiring and/or vacant Citizen Advisory Board positions will be advertised for notice of availability in order to promote the principle of inclusion and afford opportunities to other potential applicants.
5. Clarifies that incumbent members of Citizen Advisory Boards need not submit a new application for consideration of reappointment, but will be required to interview before the Board of Commissioners.
6. Confirms that all interviews of applicants will be conducted during public regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners and utilize a panel interview format.
7. Establishes suggested minimum criteria for the selection, nomination, and appointment of applicants.

Noted for the recorded is that the BOC has developed this comprehensive policy in order to ensure that the appointment process for all Citizen Boards is *open, transparent, and inclusive for all interested applicants*.

Also, under the Sunshine Law, you cannot exclude anyone from attending a meeting whether virtually or in-person. All meetings must be conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law.

Township Manager explained that he would come back to the next meeting with this revised resolution for a Motion to Approve.

No action taken this evening on this item.

b. A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, Authorizing the Acceptance of the Real Property Identified as a .335 Acre (14,574 Square Feet) Portion of Lehigh County Parcel Identifier Number 547749593101-1

Township Manager Tom Petrucci respectfully requested that this item be TABLED pending receipt of additional information from the Township Engineer, as well as communicating with the property owner.

Commissioner Kelly made a MOTION to TABLE per the request of Mr. Petrucci. The Board was in agreement. All in favor; none opposed. Vote 5:0. Motion carried.

c. A Resolution Of The Board Of Commissioners Of South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania Authorizing The Partial Release, Discharge And Termination Of A Deed Of Dedication For Access To A Water Meter Pit In Favor Of The Commonwealth Of Pennsylvania Department Of Transportation To Accommodate Road Widening In Connection With The Ridge Farm Project And Further Authorizing Its Execution And Delivery Of Said Document By The Township Manager

Herb Bender, Director of Township Operations, explained the following:

- o Kay Walbert, LLC previously purchased land from The Grandview Cemetery Association for the development of a mixed use project called "The Ridge" around the Cedar Crest Blvd and Walbert Ave. intersection.
- o Continuing to move forward with the project and HOP plans the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDot) requires partial releases be filed to transfer clear title to the right of way being

deeded to them. South Whitehall Township currently possesses an interest over and through the land to access a water meter pit. This access is recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds.

Mr. Bender went on to say that the reason we are only doing a partial release is because the other half of the easement is owned by the cemetery. We will contact them. We no longer need this easement at all. Looking to abandon the entire easement there. The water meter pit that was there has already been removed.

Staff is requesting permission to execute release in order to clear the ROW for dedication. This does not impact any rights the Township may have to the remainder of the encumbered area identified in the respective agreements.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kennedy, which was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. All in favor; none opposed. Vote 5:0. Motion carried.

d. A Resolution Approving Sewer Planning Module - Parkland School District Operations Center

Mike Elias, PW Utility & MS4 Coordinator, explained that PSD is proposing the construction of a 39,500 square foot operation center. The project site is located east of Orefield Middle School in SWT. The proposed operations center will serve as storage, maintenance shops, and administrative offices.

They are requesting 1.6 EDUs or 350 GPD of allocation. PSD owns its own sewage treatment plant. This request will not affect South Whitehall's allocation for the Kline's Island treatment plant. Our 537 plan still requires the Township to process the Planning Module and submit to PA DEP for approval.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Roth, which was seconded by Commissioner Hodges, approving 1.6 EDUs of sewer allocation for PSD Operations Center as explained by Mr. Elias above. All in favor; none opposed. Vote 5:0. Motion carried.

9. MOTIONS:

a. Motion to Proceed with Adoption of Civil Service Promotional Lists for Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain

Chief Glen Dorney explained that the PD has conducted CS promotional testing for the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain. All aspects of the testing process have been completed to include the written examination (Sergeant and Lieutenant only) and oral examination. The CSC certified the eligibility list on Wednesday, January 11, 2023. Chief is before the BOC this evening to request a Motion to adopt the newly certified CS promotional lists for Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kennedy, which was seconded by Commissioner Kelly, to adopt said CS Promotional Lists for Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain, as explained by Chief Dorney. All in favor; none opposed. Vote 5:0. Motion carried.

b. Motion Requesting Approval of 2023 Blanket Purchase Order Listing

Township Manager Tom Petrucci explained that Donna Zackeru-Lagonia put together the Blanket Purchase Order Listing for 2023 per the SWT Purchasing Policy, which is an annual requirement. The amounts stated were requested by the departments are approximate amounts to coincide with approved budgeted funds. These purchase orders are not sent to the vendors, and therefore would not be considered contractual obligations. Staff is requesting approval from the Board to complete the purchase orders for the 2023 budget season.

Staff will be reviewing this policy to see if this is a necessary requirement to come back to the board every year. However, ultimately, that decision is up to the Board.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Osborne, which was seconded by Commissioner Roth, granting approval of 2023 Blanket Purchase Order Listing as presented. All in favor; none opposed. Vote 5:0. Motion carried.

c. Motion Requesting Permission to Proceed with Change for Refuse Collection Time to 5:00 a.m. on Route 309 and surrounding roads.

Township Manager Tom Petrucci explained that this situation was brought to his attention by Sergeant Grozier. He is seeking a Motion from the Board to effectuate a schedule change to 5:00 a.m. for Residential Solid Waste/Recycling Single Hauler Collections on State Route 309 (and surrounding side streets), if the Board is so inclined.

The SWT PD has been receiving reports on Wednesday mornings (~6:30 AM during the morning rush hour commute) in SWT where State Route 309 is backed up due to solid waste/recycling collection activities by Waste Management. The traffic congestion is fairly lengthy. South Whitehall officers have directly observed that traffic gets backed up all the way to Schnecksville. This is becoming a public safety issue. Residents will be notified of said change via door hangers, website, and Nixle. Mr. Petrucci will work with Waste Management to confirm and implement the change, if approved. Chief Dorney said there have been no other complaints with regard to traffic related to garbage pickup.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Roth, which was seconded by Commissioner Kennedy to approve the change for refuse collection time to 5A on Route 309 and surrounding roads as explained by Mr. Petrucci. All in favor; none opposed. Vote 5:0. Motion carried.

d. Motion Authorizing Staff to Provide Comments to North Whitehall Township Board of Supervisors with Regard to NWT Draft Comprehensive Plan AND NWT Draft Parks & Recreation Plan.

Chris Strohler, Long-Range Planner, CDD, explained they received a draft copy of the NWT Comprehensive Plan; they (NWT) is also working on a draft Parks & Recreation Plan. SWT Staff have reviewed both of these plans.

Action Requested:

Staff in the Community Development Department has reviewed the draft plan and requests that the Board submit the following comments related to Chapter 5: Future Conditions:

- The proposed industrial land use along the southern boundary of North Whitehall Township (in purple on the map) conflicts with the goals and priorities of adjacent future land uses for South Whitehall Township. The predominant land use category proposed for the northern boundary of South Whitehall Township is referred to as the "Jordan Valley". (See map attached to this set of minutes.)
- The goal of the Jordan Valley land use category (in green on the map) is to Preserve the rural and historic character of the Jordan Valley through the following:
 - o Preserve natural resources and important landscapes through incentives and cooperation with landowners
 - o Enhance crossroad villages with attention to the surrounding landscape
 - o Encourage the continuation of active agriculture by allowing uses consistent with operations of working farms
 - o Incentivize the utilization of Conservation Subdivisions for future land developments
- Understanding North Whitehall Township's need to preserve existing property rights and strengthen economic development where possible, South Whitehall Township encourages continued coordination on potential developments along the Township boundary that may significantly impact the character of the Jordan Valley.

Mr. Stroehler said these comments would be sent in during the formal comment period, and then we would look to see what NWT does following the formal comment period (45-days). After that we would reach out to them. This is just to encourage continued conversation, as we have had in the past. Dave Manhardt said this is an opportunity to have open dialog. This is an important step to get to multi-municipal cooperation or planning.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kelly, which was seconded by Commissioner Roth, to authorizing staff to provide comments to NWT as explained by Mr. Stroehler. All in favor; none opposed. Vote 5:0. Motion carried.

e. Motion to Authorize Township Solicitor to Prepare an Amendment to the Improvements Agreement to Eck Road and Crackersport Road (Expires January 24, 2023)

Dave Manhardt, Director, CDD, explained that this is the Crackersport Road Warehouses between Chapmans and Eck Road. The Improvements Agreement expires later January. In order to extend the Agreement, we thought it appropriate for developer to provide an updated timeline, which would help in the decision of granting an extension. Applicant is in attendance this evening.

Applicant, Jim Murray, Managing Director with Ares Management Corporation, explained that Black Creek Group was the name when we were initially pursuing this approval. Black Creek was purchased by Ares. The entities that the approvals run to has not changed. (Solicitor Zator did confirm this fact.) The two remaining items open are the Eck Road Chapmans Interchange and the Norfolk Southern Crossing. With the Norfolk Southern

Crossing, they are close to having an agreement. It is a tri-party arrangement between them, the Township, and Norfolk, which has taken quite a bit of time to get through. We have done all the work up to the ROW. Offer letter going back and forth between SWT and Norfolk Southern. We'll wrap that up, get Norfolk Southern paid for the small taking of the ROW. At the intersection of Eck and Chapmans, when we started this project, we inherited an HOP for the work at this interchange. Lengthy negotiations with Mr. Houser, which were associated with the HOP. Mr. Houser pursued some changes, and we were all able to get to a conclusion. A tri-party agreement between us, Mr. Houser, and the Township. Although it has taken a long time to get there, it is actually a better outcome for all, and being on the same page. We have already submitted revisions for the HOP, to work along the lines of negotiating with Mr. Houser. We'll get the HOP permit, there's an LCCD permit associated with that—they are all Norfolk Southern Agreements, and then we can get everything wrapped up. The work on Norfolk Southern is a 2-3 week timeframe. The work on the Eck-Chapmans Interchange is a 3-4, maybe 5-6 week timeframe. Therefore, we are requesting an extension to that agreement. We fully intend to do these improvements. We are here to get them done.

Mr. Murray apologize to Mr. Hite for lack of communication on their end, and said they will definitely try to do better. He said Mr. Hite has been a good neighbor through this entire process. Mr. Murray said they are committed to finalizing all the work. He said he appreciates all of Mr. Hite's comments. Mr. Hite responded that they have also been a good neighbor, with the exception of the flooding issues.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Roth, which was seconded by Commissioner Kelly, which authorizes Township Solicitor to Prepare an Amendment to the Improvements Agreement to Eck Road and Crackersport Road with a one-year extension. All in favor; none opposed. Vote 5:0. Motion carried.

f. Motion to Authorize a Purchase Order with Glick Fire Equipment Company, Inc. for a 2025 Pierce Manufacturing Pierce Enforcement Midmount Tower Aerial Fire Truck in the amount of \$1,985,000.00 (COSTARS Contract #13-E22-242)

Herb Bender, Director of Township Operations explained that after meeting with all the FDs, it was determined the next apparatus that needs to be replaced was the ladder truck. Quotes were solicited for; three were received. It was determined that the Pierce Enforcer Ascendant Midmount Tower Aerial Truck from Glick Fire Equipment Company, Inc. is the best fit for SWT, for a cost of \$1,985,000. This truck does have a build time of 36 to 42 months.

Herb Bender said we are looking to use \$1M of the ARPA Funds for this purchase. We are presently double checking to make sure that this is a legitimate use of the ARPA Funds. We will not sign any agreement until we have confirmed this fact regarding the ARPA Funds being a qualified purchase.

Currently we have \$651,234 in the Apparatus Fund, and this year's payment of the \$200,000 from the General Fund and the \$200,000 from the Fire Tax that is budgeted to go into the

Apparatus Account in 2023. After you take the \$1,985,000.00 out of that, that will leave us with a balance of \$66,234 in the Apparatus Fund.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kennedy, which was seconded by Commissioner Kelly, authorizing a purchase order with Glick Fire Equipment Company, Inc., contingent upon the ability to use the ARPA Funds (\$1M) as explained by Mr. Bender. All in favor; none opposed. Vote 5:0. Motion carried.

President Kelly on behalf of the Board thanked Staff and all who were involved, and made it possible to be able to present this to the Board this evening.

10. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

a. **Current Vacancies on Boards/Commissions AND Upcoming Meetings (Public Meeting Notices Attached).**

CURRENT VACANCIES ON BOARDS/COMMISSIONS

1. Civil Service Commission - 1 Alternate Vacancy
2. Environmental Advisory Council - 3 Vacancies
3. Green Advisory Council - 2 Vacancies
4. Landscape Shade Tree Commission - 1 Vacancy
5. Parks & Recreation Board - 1 Vacancy
6. Zoning Hearing Board - 3 Alternate Vacancies

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Details posted on website.

- Thursday, January 5th, 7P - Zoning Hearing Board
- Monday, January 9th, 7P - Public Safety Commission
- Monday, January 9th, 7P - Parks and Recreation Board
- Wednesday, January 11th, 10A - Civil Service Commission

b. Status: Three (3) Alternate Zoning Hearing Board Positions – Deadline for this was 4P on Monday, January 16th. Township received one application. Interview will be scheduled in the near future. This is a time-sensitive appointment.

11. OLD BUSINESS

a. **Wehr's Dam – Explanation by Herb Bender, Director of Twp. Operations.**

Herb Bender explained, making great progress down at Wehrs Dam. The north side, gabion baskets are now completed. Contractor getting ready to start the south side of the creek. If weather is bad, will wait to Friday to rip the old ones out/putting new ones in. Looking to wrap this project up in one or two weeks. Friday PW will be down there to make a repair which will be done in-house to help save costs to the dam. Then we will get PA DEP down there to do their inspection.

b. **Comprehensive Plan Update - Explanation by Dave Manhardt, Director, Community Development Department**

Dave Manhardt explained, there will be an open house tomorrow, 5-7P, before the Planning Commission Meeting begins. Intent is to have informational boards out; discuss the process,

as well as goals and objectives, and to answer any questions. Have received some comments through the website, with varying degrees of usefulness. Comments being categorized, which will in return be responded to in a category. As of yet, have not heard from any of the neighboring municipalities, LVPC, or PSD. The 45-day period will then close that first full week in February. Hopefully will have all the comments by then.

12. **DIRECTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

a. **Direction/Discussion for Possible Ordinance - Response to Public Safety Concern Regarding Closing of Eck Road/Chapmans Road to Truck Traffic while improvements are being made.**

Township Manager Tom Petrucci said we are not requesting any action at this point on this item. This item is in response to a recent resident inquiry regarding whether or not the Township is inclined to implement a temporary truck traffic restriction on Eck Road until such time that the planned intersection upgrades at Eck Road—a local road, and Chapmans Road—a State route, are completed. A temporary truck traffic restriction would involve the Township BOC exercising the police powers of the Township, an ordinance would need to be adopted in his opinion, to effectuate the temporary truck traffic restriction.

Comments from Township Engineer Tony Tallarida are as follows:

The Chapmans Road HOP improvements facilitate the turning movement from Eck Road onto Chapmans Road. While these were elective since they were offsite, these improvements were included in the resolution to be completed by the developer and were anticipated as part of the traffic analysis presented during the Conditional Use approval process.

While the intersection alignment has not yet been modified from its existing condition, there is increased truck traffic from this development through the intersection. Based upon our review of the turning templates, the trucks would appear to enter the westbound lane of Chapmans Road while making a right-hand turn from Eck Road. Due to this conflict, we could support a truck restriction on Eck Road, north of the northern driveway of the Warehouse Development. If approved by the Township, we could determine the appropriate locations for the 'Truck Restriction' signage. While this would be a temporary restriction until the intersection is fully constructed, we note the following:

- 1. The traffic study split traffic from the warehouse development into northern trips and southern trips. The 2 warehouses north of the railroad tracks are intended to enter/exit through a northbound direction, and the southern warehouses uses a southbound direction for enter/exit movements. Restricting all trucks to only enter/exit from the south would increase traffic at the Crackersport/Ridgeview/Rt. 309 intersection, which could cause additional delay;*
- 2. The Norfolk Southern Eck Road crossing construction has not been completed to date. A northern truck restriction would increase truck traffic over the tracks, into the construction zone, when the work commences. We would recommend coordinating the timing of construction with any truck restrictions; and*
- 3. The restriction may also impact the existing businesses on Eck Road (Banko Beverage, K&P Auto Parts).*

Township Manager Tom Petrucci said that he and Herb Bender, Director of Township Operations were discussing this and have another concern with respect to timing. If we have to order signage, and go through the adoption process for an ordinance, by the time that is all completed, we may be in a position where the Houser improvements are completed. The long-term fix is the intersection improvements. We do not know how long this process is going to take. It's hard to know what the impacts will be to the property owners and the

businesses. We do not have enough information at this point as to whether this will be a positive thing for everyone. Mr. Murray said the law of unintended consequences often follows traffic/truck restrictions like this—i.e. someone is pushed to travel farther down Chapmans, only to turn around in a residential driveway, etc. Mr. Murray said he believes there is one tenant out of the three who has truck traffic going up through Chapmans. They are willing to contact that tenant and advise them that is not the best route for them to go. They could handle this internally with the tenant first. Perhaps give a handout/map to the drivers, showing them the quickest way to get out to 309. Put information on our site. Drivers who are repeat or company controlled, they can be controlled better and sent back to Crackersport Road.

Township Manager Tom Petrucci said that we can bring this back to the Board—he said the Township should first exhaust such options as Mr. Murray mentioned he can do, before the Township proceeding with something that will cost the Township taxpayers money, time, and effort. Mr. Petrucci asks that Mr. Murray get back to the Township once he has reached out as he indicated above. We will in turn reach back out to the residents on this matter.

b. Update Following January 9th Public Safety Commission Meeting - Traffic Calming for Trexler Boulevard and Highland Street

Township Manager Tom Petrucci said that on Monday January 9, 2023, at the PSC Meeting, a powerpoint presentation was given. A number of the residents who live in the vicinity of the Trexler Boulevard corridor were invited to attend the public meeting and provide feedback to the PSC and Township officials. The meeting was well attended. Did received comments on possible traffic calming measures. *(Presentation will be attached to minutes.)*

Key Takeaways from the meeting are as follows:

- Speeding is an acknowledged problem along Trexler Blvd.
- The Township needs to explore other locations closer to the 3800 block intersection and 3330 block (there are reported multiple instance of speeding along those locations and impacts to residents) including the home located at 33rd St and Trexler Blvd.
- In lieu of speed humps, some residents would still prefer stop signs. However, stop signs are not recommended by PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) to be used as speed control devices.
- The Township needs to conduct a traffic study along Highland St and discuss the data gathered with the Local Technical Assistance Program to receive technical recommendations concerning possible additional traffic calming measures for Highland Street (similar to the process that was undertaken for Trexler Blvd).
- Residents are concerned that any traffic measures installed on Trexler Blvd will impact Highland Street (whereby motorists will bypass Trexler Blvd to get to Springhouse Rd). Township staff acknowledges this concern and will follow up by obtaining the necessary data from a traffic study and report back to the Board of Commissioners.
- The Township needs to conduct additional research on the proposed traffic calming measures and come back with a finalized plan to be reviewed by the Township Engineer and finalized by the Board of Commissioners. Exercising the police power of installing new traffic control devices would likely require an ordinance for the authorization of the installation of speed humps-75 Pa. C.S. §6109. As traffic control devices, speed humps are specifically authorized by Sections 6109(a) (2) and 6122(a) of the Vehicle Code. 75 Pa. C.S. §§6109(a) (2), 6122(a)

As a side note, Commissioner Roth asked that as the Township is reviewing Highland Street, to please take a look at Congress Street as well. Brian Hite, LTAP, said that they had already discussed internally that in addition to looking at Highland, they would also look at Congress, and Springhouse Roads. He concurs with Commissioner Roth.

c. Animal Control Contract – 2023

Township Manager Tom Petrucci said in reviewing the current contract for animal control which the Township had utilized for 2022, the Township had contracted with the Sanctuary at Haafsville for stray animal service. The services provided currently are stray dog and cat intake and TNR. The Township re-evaluated the cost of these services and asked Haafsville for a dog intake only contract in which they will charge the Township \$270/dog, double the per dog charge than previous contracts.

Costs for last five years are as follows:

2022	\$4,170 (4Q billing not received)
2021	\$6,660
2020	\$6,560
2019	\$6,560
2018	\$6,770

Donna Zackeru-Lagonia reached out to Lehigh Valley Humane Society and received a quote of \$3,500/year for dog intake and up to 20 cats per year. This is a significant cost reduction. Both organizations have been assessed and the LV Humane Society is also a no kill shelter. Staff feels the LV Humane Society could provide the animal services to the Township, but the Board has final discretion over these matters. Looking to receive Board input and approval on this matter.

d. Grant Funding Announcement - Commonwealth Community Assistance and Economic Development Program - Public Safety Exercise

Township Manager Tom Petrucci announced that the Township has received a Commonwealth Community and Economic Development Grant through the Commonwealth in the amount of \$50,000 to provide for a public safety exercise slated to occur in Summer of 2023. Cost of exercise is \$52,000, split between PSK and SWT. (Final cost would therefore be \$1,000 SWT and \$1,000 PSD.) As the grantee for this program, SWT will need to administer the grant and serve as the lead agency. Unless there are any questions, Township Manager will proceed with the execution of the Grant Agreement.

13. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR: Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – NONE.

14. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF INVOICES & DISBURSEMENTS:

a. Invoices and Disbursements

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Roth, which was seconded by Commissioner Kennedy, to approve the payment of all invoices. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried. Vote 5:0.

15. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

16. **ADJOURNMENT:** At 8:30 p.m. a MOTION was made by Commissioner Hodges, which was seconded by Commissioner Kelly to adjourn. All in favor; none opposed.

Attachments:

9-D. Map Attachment

12-B. Presentation given at PSC Meeting

17. **APPROVED:** February 1, 2023

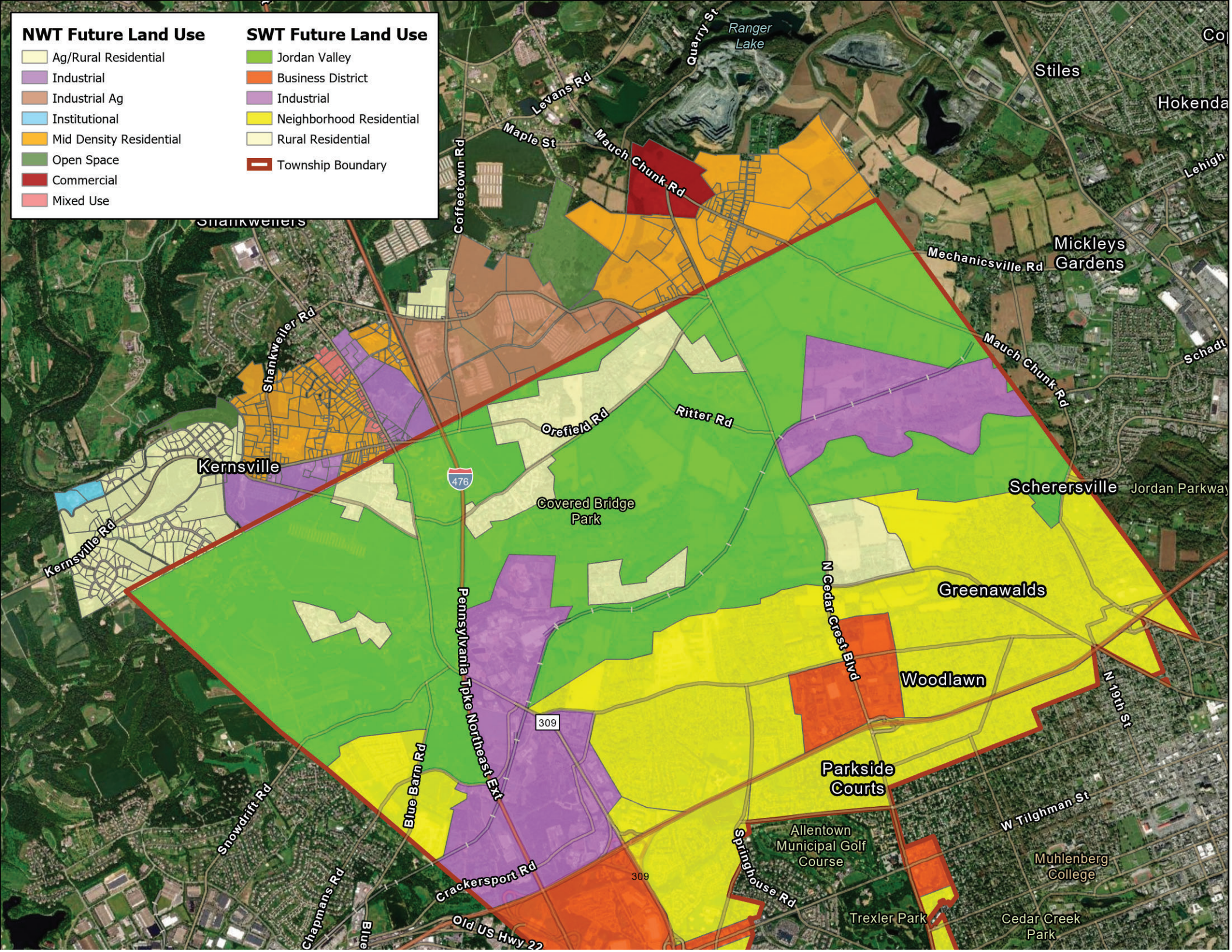
A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kennedy, which was seconded by Commissioner Roth, to approve the January 4, 2023 BOC Meeting Minutes as presented. All in favor; none opposed. Vote 5:0. Motion carried.

NWT Future Land Use

- Ag/Rural Residential
- Industrial
- Industrial Ag
- Institutional
- Mid Density Residential
- Open Space
- Commercial
- Mixed Use

SWT Future Land Use

- Jordan Valley
- Business District
- Industrial
- Neighborhood Residential
- Rural Residential
- Township Boundary





Traffic Calming

Trexler Boulevard



Trexler Boulevard

- Speeding is an identified concern along Trexler Blvd.
- It is the understanding of the Township that residents would like to see reduced speeds along Trexler Blvd.
- Traffic calming measures would need to be implemented along the roadway to result in quantifiable speed reductions.

“Traffic Calming”

- The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) define Traffic Calming as:
 - *The combination of mainly physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior, and improve conditions for non-motorized street users.*
- Traffic calming measures are mainly used to address speeding and high cut-through traffic volumes on neighborhood streets. These issues can create an atmosphere in which non-motorists are intimidated, or even endangered, by motorized traffic. Additionally, high cut-through volumes become an increased concern when larger commercial vehicles are involved.
- Along with the additional amount of traffic generated within the neighborhood, cut-through motorists are often perceived as driving faster than local motorists. By addressing high speeds and cut-through volumes, traffic calming can increase both the real and perceived safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, and improve the quality of life within the neighborhood.





PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)

- Technical assistance and training program offered through PennDOT
- Provides technical information and proven technology to deal with roadway maintenance and safety
- All LTAP services are FREE to municipalities

LTAP Report

PennDOT Publication 383 suggests that the 85th percentile speed should be 10 MPH over the posted speed limit. For traffic volume, Publication 383 suggests that volumes should be over 1,000 vehicles per day. **Trexler Boulevard meets these thresholds.**

These are suggested thresholds and may differ from actual thresholds the Township establishes in its traffic calming policy. Recent research shows that many communities in the USA use an 85th percentile speed of 5-7 MPH over the posted speed limit as a threshold.

Potential Traffic Calming Options

For its assessment of Trexler Blvd, LTAP used the traffic calming options in Publication 383 for consideration. Traffic Calming options considered as possible options include the following:

1. Curb Extensions
2. On-Street Parking
3. Traffic circles
4. Raised intersections
5. Raised crosswalks
6. Speed humps/cushions
7. Roadway striping/traditional methods

Trexler Blvd

1. Curb Extensions

Since there are no sidewalks/curbs along Trexler Blvd, curb extensions are not a viable solution.

2. On-Street Parking

Given the existing width/configuration of Trexler Boulevard, adding on-street parking is not a viable option.

3. Traffic circles

Traffic circles are probably not appropriate for Trexler Boulevard, because of the limited width.

4. Raised intersections

Raised intersections are a possibility, but the Township determined that raised intersections may interfere with stormwater drainage patterns.

5. Raised crosswalks

With the lack of sidewalks and pedestrian infrastructure, these are not a viable option.

6. Speed humps/cushions

The Township prefers to utilize a speed hump/cushion option for Trexler Blvd. The Township can install this solution using local forces, the anticipated impact to emergency response vehicles is less, and studies show that deploying a series of speed humps/cushions along a street can reduce speeds by 4-5 MPH, as per PennDOT Pub 383. Speed humps are preferred at the conceptual stage due to the lack of ROW along Trexler Blvd and the constraints created by the topography (noting the proximity of the Allentown Municipal Golf Course).

7. Roadway striping/traditional methods

Roadway striping is typically used to make a road appear narrower than it is. Township officials noted that Trexler Blvd is already fairly narrow.

Trexler Blvd

1. Why Not Stop Signs?

From the *PennDOT Traffic Calming Manual*:

A common request made by citizens is to use multi-way stop sign control as a means of slowing traffic. However, multi-way stop sign control should only be installed in accordance with the warrants listed in Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. If installed where not warranted:

- Traffic rarely comes to a full stop.
- Motorists increase their speed between stop signs to make up for lost time.
- Residents may gain a false sense of security.

The use of unwarranted stop signs can create disrespect for stop sign control at other locations where it is truly needed. As the volume disparity increases between opposing traffic flows at an intersection, the stop control is increasingly disobeyed by the motorists on the higher volume street. Unwarranted multi-way stop controls are particularly dangerous where vehicle speeds through the stop sign are greater than 10 mph.

2. Why Not Make Trexler Blvd One-Way?

- Limits emergency access.
- Would likely increase speeds if not done in conjunction with other traffic calming measures.
- Potentially would shift traffic to Highland (not a good alternative for through traffic).

Speed Hump Example

- Chapel Ave, Allentown
 - Advanced Signage
 - Striping



Speed Hump Example

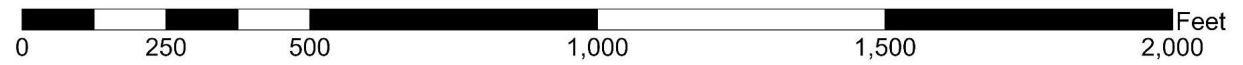
- Chapel Ave, Allentown
 - Easily constructed
 - Low maintenance





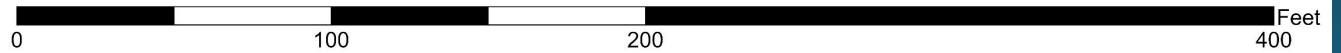
TREXLER BOULEVARD TRAFFIC CALMING PLAN

★ Speed Hump Locations





TREXLER BOULEVARD
SPEED HUMPS 1 & 2



Photometry, EagleView, Lehigh County GIS/IT

Location 1

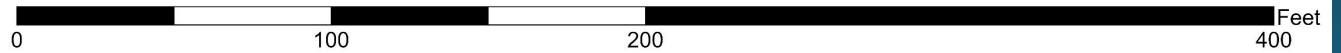


Location 2





TREXLER BOULEVARD
SPEED HUMP 3

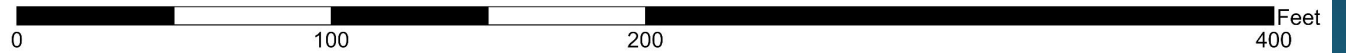


Location 3





TREXLER BOULEVARD
SPEED HUMP 4

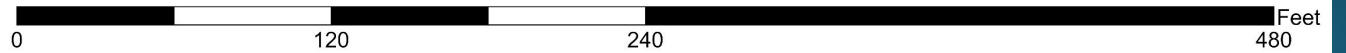


Location 4





TREXLER BOULEVARD
SPEED HUMP 5



Location 5



Questions/Comments?