

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA-MINUTES October 7, 2020

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

As this is a virtual GoTo Meeting, Township Manager Renee Bickel took a Roll Call for attendance purposes as follows:

Commissioner Wolk: HERE
Commissioner Mobilio: HERE
Commissioner Kelly: HERE
Commissioner Setton: HERE
Commissioner Morgan: HERE

Attendees: Commissioner Christina (Tori) Morgan, President

Commissioner Diane Kelly, Vice President Commissioner Michael Wolk, Assist. Secretary

Commissioner Joe Setton

Commissioner Matthew Mobilio

Joseph A. Zator, Twp. Solicitor, Zator Law Offices

Anthony Tallarida, Twp. Engineer, The Pidcock Company

Renee Bickel, Township Manager

Randy Cope, Director of Twp. Operations

Herb Bender, PW Superintendent

Mike Elias, PW Utility & MS4 Coordinator

Steve Carr, Director of Finance

Chief Glen Dorney, SWT Police Department

George Kinney, Director of Community Development

Tracy Fehnel, Executive Assistant - Absent

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. NOTIFICATION: All Public sessions of the South Whitehall Township Board of Commissioners are electronically recorded, filed, and posted on BoardDocs for the Public's access.

*(boarddocs.com; USERNAME: swhitehall; PASSWORD: swtpublic)

President Morgan advised for the record that the Board of Commissioners did meet in Executive Session prior to the start of this meeting to discuss legal matters.

4. MINUTES

a. September 16, 2020 - BOC Meeting Minutes

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kelly, which was seconded by Commissioner Setton to approve the September 16, 2020 BOC Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call Vote as follows:

Commissioner Wolk: AYE
Commissioner Mobilio: AYE
Commissioner Kelly: AYE
Commissioner Setton: AYE
Commissioner Morgan: AYE

Motion carried.

5. PRESENTATIONS: None.

6. **ORDINANCES**:

a. Permission to Advertise - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 336, Article IX (Snow and Ice Emergency) of the Codified Ordinances of South Whitehall Township to Designate Additional Streets as Snow Emergency Routes Where Snow and Ice Control is Performed by the Township, to Provide for a Repealer Clause, a Severability Clause and an Effective Date

Randy Cope, Director of Township Operations, explained that this ordinance is before the Board, for permission to advertise. This ordinance outlines the State routes the Township is responsible for plowing and salting during winter season. Does not encompass any road improvements. This is strictly winter maintenance only. Proposing to add Walbert Avenue to the list of streets we plow/salt. Currently, the Township is not allowed to plow Walbert Avenue. The other State routes we currently plow/salt are Whitehall Avenue, Cedarbrook Road, and Pirma Avenue. We will get reimbursed approximately \$6,000 per winter season by the State for the addition of Walbert Avenue; additionally, we feel the Township will do a better job cleaning this road. This addition has been approved by the State. At the next October 21st meeting, we would bring it back to the Board for a vote, immediately following a Resolution by the State to sign the new updated Winter Services Agreement, which is a five-year Agreement, for which we are reimbursed a total of approximately \$11,000, for the four roads mentioned. This will be approximately \$60,000 over the term of the five-year Agreement.

All questions answered for Board/Public.

MOTION made by Commissioner Kelly, which was seconded by Commissioner Wolk, to move forward with the advertising of said ordinance as explained above.

Roll Call Vote as follows:

Commissioner Wolk: AYE
Commissioner Mobilio: AYE
Commissioner Kelly: AYE
Commissioner Setton: AYE
Commissioner Morgan: AYE

Motion carried.

7. RESOLUTIONS:

a. Resolution Extending the Conditional Preliminary/Final Approval Granted to a Minor Plan Entitled "John Jaindl"

George Kinney, Director, Community Development Department, explained that this was a lot line adjustment which was approved by the Board October 16, 2019, via Resolution 2019-52, with seven conditions for approval. Condition #7 permitted 12 months (deadline October 16, 2020) to satisfy conditions. Applicant has provided written request for extension—a four-month extension. Applicant was in attendance to explain request for extension.

Mark Leuthe, Lehigh Engineering, was in attendance, as representative for David Jaindl, Applicant. History—there is a Township line between the properties. The property was developed so that the home was situated in North Whitehall Township, the driveway sits in South Whitehall Township. Several meetings were held, with certain things being agreed to for North Whitehall Township and certain things agreed to for South Whitehall Township. He did not realize that we were agreeing to a Recreational Fee, which is the stumbling block. Applicant explained the \$2,500 is being paid to NWT—the home is taxed in NWT. The owner of this home would not have the same benefit as a SWT resident to the recreational facilities in SWT. Mr. Leuthe said he is here to ask for an amendment or change to the resolution of the recreation fee for this particular lot. There is a recreational fee currently being paid to NWT for where the home is. The only improvements that are in SWT is a driveway. On behalf of his client, asking for a decision on this matter of recreation fee, but still need a bit of an extension to wrap up the plan, and have it recorded.

President Morgan explained that at a previous meeting it was decided that Applicant go back and speak to NWT to see if it would be possible to split the \$2,500 fee and/or find out what the status was.

Mr. Leuthe said as a group they talked and feel they owed the recreational fee to NWT. His suggestion is would SWT be willing to waive fee if they went to NWT and NWT refused to give up/negotiate the \$2,500? He said his opinion is that the taxing body should get the recreational fee. He said he would go and ask NWT to reduce their fee, keeping in mind they are a resident paying 100% of their taxes to NWT. He is willing to go, with the idea that if it does not happen, would SWT be willing to drop the fee? Mr. Leuthe feels it is a matter of principle and doing what is fair. The Board was in agreement that Mr. Leuthe should approach NWT on this matter as discussed above. Mr. Leuthe said he will do so for the benefit of everyone and report back to the Board.

George Kinney said that the satisfying of conditions does expire October 16, 2020. Just a reminder that we do need to keep the extension in mind.

There was no Public comment on this agenda item.

George Kinney said that one of Staff's aspirational goals of 2021 is to create a policy that would basically prorate those fees for properties like this.

Attorney Lisa Pereira explained that we would have to have an amendment to the Resolution of approval to identify the waiver of the fee. This would have to be a separate Resolution to be considered.

Attorney Pereira asked, is it the desire of the Board to vote on an extension right now, for a plan recordation, to give them time to go to NWT? President Morgan said—Yes; but if NWT says—No, are we going to come back and do this all over again or are we going to waive the fee? Attorney Pereira said—If the issue of the fee is still a concern of the developer, then Yes. In order for them to record the plan, they either have to pay the fee or they would have to obtain a waiver from the Board. We would have to come back with a subsequent resolution if they are still requesting a fee and it is the inclination of the Board to grant them the waiver from that fee. You can vote on it this evening, and we can have the resolution prepared for signature at the next meeting. President Morgan clarified that we would still ask for the extension. Attorney Pereira confirmed—Yes.

President Morgan said that we have a Resolution on the floor to grant an extension. She suggested that we add to that extension—as agreed upon by Mr. Leuthe, he will go back to NWT, and will record/document any changes he can get to the fee to see if some of it could come back to SWT. However, should they not be able to get any of that fee, it would be my recommendation that, based on the fact that we recognize we need to make modifications to this process, so that we are not hitting any individual/developer—anybody, twice for the same fee in two different townships, we would waive this fee in SWT for this particular project.

President Morgan said we have a MOTION on the floor with a modification to it. Commissioner Morgan made this motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Setton.

Roll Call Vote as follows:

Commissioner Wolk: AYE
Commissioner Mobilio: NO
Commissioner Kelly: NO
Commissioner Setton: AYE
Commissioner Morgan: AYE

Motion carried as modified above.

b. A Resolution Approving Sewer Planning Module for 4741 Chapmans Road-Flex Warehouse

Mike Elias, PW Utility & MS4 Coordinator said that Griffin Industrial Realty, Inc. intends to construct a single-story warehouse at 4741 Chapmans Road. As per Land Development approval, a sanitary sewer low-pressure force main extension is required to service the new building, as well as the seven adjacent properties. The Developer is requesting 2,100 gpd or 9.4 EDUs of sewer allocation for the Flex-Warehouse, as well as 2,230 gpd or 10 EDUs of allocation for the seven adjacent properties. Kevin Horvath, Keystone Consulting Engineers, who represents the Developer, said that this has been signed, sealed, and approved by LCA. All supporting documents are complete. They are just looking for a resolution of approval by the Board this evening in order to forward on to PA DEP for final processing and approval.

There were no questions by BOC/Public at this time.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kelly, which was seconded by Commissioner Mobilio, Approving Sewer Planning Module for 4741 Chapmans Road-Flex Warehouse.

Roll Call Vote as follows:

Commissioner Wolk: AYE
Commissioner Mobilio: AYE
Commissioner Kelly: AYE
Commissioner Setton: AYE
Commissioner Morgan: AYE

Motion carried.

c. Resolution Authorizing President of Board of Commissioners to Sign the Electronic Access Agreement for Pennsylvania Crash Information Tool, Entered into with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation

Chief Glen Dorney explained this is just another procedural process in order to work on the DUI and Traffic Grants we receive from PennDOT. This is the first year all grants have been consolidated. They have taken all the aspects of the PennDOT grants to include the seatbelt grant, the pedestrian grant, aggressive driving and DUI enforcement grants—they have been consolidated under one umbrella, and have one fiduciary agency to manage that. This will give us the ability to enter the data into this electronic system so they can do their research that will give us the information that we can target areas to utilize for the enforcement on the grant details.

All Board/Public questions were answered at this time.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kelly, which was seconded by Commissioner Morgan, Authorizing President of Board of Commissioners to Sign the Electronic Access Agreement for Pennsylvania Crash Information Tool, Entered into with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation.

Roll Call Vote as follows:

Commissioner Wolk: AYE
Commissioner Mobilio: AYE
Commissioner Kelly: AYE
Commissioner Setton: AYE
Commissioner Morgan: AYE

Motion carried.

d. Resolution Authorizing President of Board of Commissioners to Sign Lehigh County Regional Traffic Safety Program Grant

Chief Glen Dorney explained that this is the actual grant process we applied for through PennDOT. This will be a two-year grant for a total of \$432,367.18. SWT would be the manager of this grant. This is money that goes in and out of PennDOT. Chief recommends that we do sign up for this grant again, as we have done in the past. Sergeant George Hummel did a great job putting this together.

All Board/Public comments made and questions answered at this time.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kelly, which was seconded by Commissioner Setton, Authorizing President of Board of Commissioners to Sign Lehigh County Regional Traffic Safety Program Grant.

Roll Call Vote as follows:

Commissioner Wolk: AYE
Commissioner Mobilio: AYE
Commissioner Kelly: AYE
Commissioner Setton: AYE
Commissioner Morgan: AYE

Motion carried.

8. MOTIONS

a. Permission to Proceed with Advertising a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Master Site Development Plan for the Kohler Ridge Park Project

Mr. Mike Kukitz, Parks & Recreation Manager, explained that they are looking to proceed with the RFP for the Kohler Ridge Park Master Site Plan. Recently obtained some property which totals up to 25.7 acres and will end of being the Township's second largest park when done. This will be a long process from start to finish. The master plan will include public participation, a resource analysis, two design alternatives, a pre-final master plan, and a final master plan that will identify active and passive recreation opportunities and specific sustainability and green design considerations. Furthermore, a cost and implementation analysis will be completed to identify fundraising needs and an achievable development plan.

Staff is seeking permission to advertise an RFP for a one-time contract to perform consulting services work involving a Master Site Development Plan for the Kohler Ridge Park Property located at Brickyard Road. We are respectfully requesting the Board of Commissioners to provide permission to proceed with this project. This project is being funded 50% by a PA DCNR grant and 50% by Township funds which have been budgeted in the 2020 capital fund.

Mike Kukitz explained that this Master Plan will be the guiding document for the years to come with regard to this project. Township Manager Renee Bickel explained that as part of the budget process, Mike will give a report which will include information on the Township Parks.

Information will be provided to commissioners regarding when and how we purchased this land. Staff will do research and report back with details to Commissioners. However, it was not purchased via open space funds.

It was discussed that fund raising should be looked at during the front end of the project so that we know where we are financially—how much will we need to fund raise, etc.

Commissioner Kelly asked if a 501(c)(3) has been established? Mike said he would be happy to get this ball rolling; this will involve legal advice to go through this process, which could take as long as a year to get this set up. Other considerations are—Will someone champion

this? How will this look for the Township? This is something that the Board should revisit and might be able to use as a potential resource moving forward, however, cannot be relied on solely to get the parks up to date and keep in good working order.

Commissioner Wolk – Regarding each of the parks—documentation, overall goals, projects anticipated, projects in place, along with where does funding come from for each project, what is timeline – this information would help Board to get an overall understanding of the Parks. Feels it would also assist when review of the P&R Budget takes place.

Township Manager Renee Bickel explained that this is part of the budget process. Mike Kukitz will present this information as part of his budget presentation. Mike reiterated that the Kohler Ridge Master Plan will be the guiding document for this project.

Vistas Project – Mike Kukitz said the Township did receive a \$200,000 Grant from DCNR toward the Vistas Project.

All Board/Public questions were answered.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kelly, which was seconded by Commissioner Wolk, to granting Permission to Proceed with Advertising a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Master Site Development Plan for the Kohler Ridge Park Project.

Roll Call Vote as follows:

Commissioner Wolk: AYE
Commissioner Mobilio: AYE
Commissioner Kelly: AYE
Commissioner Setton: AYE
Commissioner Morgan: AYE

Motion carried.

b. Street Moratorium Exemption Request from PennDOT with Regard to the <u>Tilghman</u> Interchange Project

Herb Bender, Superintendent of PW, explained this is part of the 309/Tilghman Street Interchange Reconstruction Project. The street moratorium request is for Broadway, Parkway Road to Hausman Road. The Engineer for PennDOT, Joshua D. Golomb is looking to do nine test pits along Broadway. They are asking for an exemption of the maintenance escrow of \$1,000, inspection escrow of \$250, 5-year moratorium, early opening of street fee \$1,000 and milling and paving of Broadway.

George Kinney wanted to clarify that there are two projects that are happing on Route 309. The Betterment Project is the one going from Walbert Avenue, going North to Orefield. The project we are talking about is the Interchange Project which is south, and includes the Tilghman Street Interchange.

Design Engineer, for PennDOT, District 5, Joshua Golomb, was in attendance. They are looking to drill test pits—seven on Broadway and two on Windsor. They are within the roadway. The bid letting for this project is planned October 2022. Both Broadway and Windsor will be reconstructed. Windsor as part of that intersection will be removed due to the interchange ramp. This is a critical part of the project process, and Mr. Golomb said they

do not have funding to pay for the fees associated with the permit. We are looking to get the permit and then proceed with the test pits as this is critical information for the depth of the utilities and the types of utilities, in order to get utility clearance and move forward with the design. Construction should begin early 2023. PennDOT has agreed to a 50/50 cost share of utility relocation.

Herb Bender explained that he is not in favor of opening up the road, due to the fact that this road was just paved September 20, 2019. He feels that if they do open up the road, it would have to be milled and repaved.

Township Manager Renee Bickel clarified that PennDOT is seeking a motion to waive the fees—the maintenance and escrow fees on Windsor and Broadway. Staff would recommend against the waiver of the milling and paving of Broadway, because of the street moratorium. Herb Bender confirmed this is correct.

Per Mr. Golomb, everywhere the test pits are going, the road will be reconstructed.

Solicitor Zator offered the following consideration--given Herb's concern regarding possibility of project being delayed and the overlay not having been necessary if the project doesn't move forward. Rather than granting a waiver with regard to the mill and overlay, perhaps you would consider a deferral for "X" number of months, and handle this like a resolution you would do for a development—a deferral of the mill and overlay for "X" number of months, and if the PennDOT Project has not moved along at that point in time, PennDOT has the obligation to do the mill and overlay. And, just like any other development, there would be a requirement of Acceptance of Conditions by signed by the appropriate PennDOT representative before it becomes effective. Same can be said for the patches that will be placed over the test pits, if necessary along the way. Mr. Golomb said this sounds reasonable, and will take this to his Project Manager—he doesn't believe he will have a problem with this. Solicitor Zator asked Mr. Golomb to check with his people at PennDOT and then get back in touch with Herb Bender, assuming this is agreeable, we can have the resolution ready for action at the next Board meeting. Solicitor Zator reiterated that there will be an Acceptance of Conditions which will have to be signed, as part of this resolution.

The Board was in agreement with Solicitor Zator's recommendation. President Morgan said we will therefore TABLE this motion and come back to this at the next meeting.

9. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

a. Green Advisory Council

President Morgan explained that they met on September 21st. Will be talking with Advanced Disposal regarding recycling guidance, with educational items to be distributed to Public. Planning an electronics/recycling event. Single-Use Plastics Committee working with Penn Environment on some draft language for consideration by the BOC regarding Ordinance which would ban single-use plastics. Stormwater Subcommittee working on drafting literature for residents' water quality, home flooding issues, etc. Some Parkland High School Students now participating on the GAC in order to bring more value/new ideas to this Council.

Commissioner Kelly – Regarding the Ordinance the GAC is working on regarding single-use plastics for future consideration, process-wise, because they are an advisory board, is that something we would discuss as a Board should legal fees be incurred? President Morgan said, absolutely, since they are an advisory board. Any ordinance they work on would come back to the BOC for discussion/review, and would also have to go through a full legal review.

b. Heroes Fighting Hunger Event

Township Manager Renee Bickel explained that Regan Kinney is running this event, which we are participating in. She is working with the Travis Manion Foundation on this community service event. The goal is to see which branch of armed services collects the most for this food event—Food will go to Parkland Cares Pantry. Food will be collected on October 31st, 10A-1P at Covered Bridge Park and November 7th, 10A-1P. Commissioner Kelly suggested that when we have various events at the Township, that we support Parkland Cares Pantry and take up collection for them at various community events.

c. Trick-or-Treat Event

Mike Kukitz said goal is that everyone follows the CDC guidelines. Suggestion is that candy be placed in a bowl outside. If people do not want to participate, keep porch light off. Prewrapped candy only. Also, a Township Trick-or-Treat Event is scheduled—a one-stop event at Covered Bridge Park, which will be held same day/time(6-8:00 p.m.) as Trick-or-Treat. Also, discussed 5P-8P time change—starting one hour earlier. Board was in agreement with this change. Will post on social media and our website. It is up to individuals if they want to participate or not, and this will offer more flexibility. Chief Dorney said Officers will be out and hit hot spots to assist. Chief feels like in the future, it would be a good idea to continue with the 5P-7P.

10. <u>DIRECTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS</u>:

a. Advertisement of Volunteer Positions –

Commissioner Kelly feels it would be a good idea to advertise vacancies as they occur on our website, so as to keep Pubic/Board more informed. She referenced the way Lower Macungie does it—listing of volunteer position available, explanation of that role, and application attached. Feels we could do a better job with this. President Morgan explained that anyone who is interested in serving on any board/commission is encouraged to submit an application at any time, and when a vacancy occurs, they will be called. She is eager to see the new website and how we might be able to expand on all this.

Commissioner Wolk would like to see information on this process—he shared an email sent to Township Manager Renee Bickel on this. President Morgan explained that she and Matt (as members of the interview committee) have met twice on this matter. We are working currently to put it into a format for the entire Board. Some of the boards/commissions have not met for years. Looking at--Do all these boards have a purpose, so that individuals on these boards can actually conduct some business and really be a part of different actions in the Township. Looking at--Would it be better to consolidate some of these boards/commissions. This is well underway and hoping to have something to you soon.

These things would be a decision of the entire BOC, and as part of this learning curve, will present all that information to the BOC.

- **11. OLD BUSINESS** Township Manager Renee Bickel touched on the following:
 - **a. Wehrs Dam Status:** Township Manager Renee Bickel said permit status has not changed—still with PA DEP. No news.
 - **b. Campus Renovation Project Status:** This project continues on schedule—a lot of progress going on and still within the budget. Budget update at next meeting. Goal is to be back in the building end of January.
 - c. Credit Cards Status: Date continues to be October 31st.

12. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

a. Attorney Blake Marles. Topic – Update on Macungie Manor Project.

President Morgan said that several meetings ago the Board did agree that the direction was to go through the process with this project, since as presented, conceptually the project seemed to make sense. Attorney Marles said the PC wants to punt this back to the CP (which is approximately 18 months), which won't work if you want this in SWT. Therefore, Attorney Marles said what they are asking for is the BOC to give them the opportunity to move this project forward, with an adverse PC recommendation, and to bring it back here (to BOC) for a formal hearing, which is when the Public has the opportunity to comment as it chooses. President Morgan said that he should continue on through the process so that he/client can come back and present to the full Board with all the details. Commissioner Wolk added onto this by saying we need more definitive information before we as a Board can consider this. In closing of this item, President Morgan said she appreciated everyone coming back to find out what their next steps are with regard to this project, and the Board looks forward to hearing the details in the near future.

b. Brian Hite, 1273 Eck Road. Topic – Installation of "No Parking Signs" northbound direction of Eck Road.

Installed in southbound direction, but not the northbound direction. Herb Bender explained they have spoken to Bluerock, who have ordered new signs to be put up on the north side, and have guaranteed that as soon as they come in, they will be installed. Randy Cope said that we are also working with Tom Harper our Code Enforcement Program Manager to see if there is anything else we can do out there. Chief said that we will also be getting some code enforcement up there.

c. Shawn Grozier, 2828 Walbert Avenue. Topic – Status of Construction on the Dollar General, Walbert Avenue.

Are they on any kind of deadline? George Kinney explained that once plan is recorded, typically there is an 18-month maintenance period to round out the project, which we are still in. Township Manager Renee Bickel said that if there are weed issues, etc., that is

something we can turn over to Code Enforcement. George said he will touch base with our Code Enforcement people and have them get out there tomorrow morning.

d. Attorney Joe Bubba. Topic – Representing Jeras Corporation.

Was in attendance to talk about the Jeras property as it relates to the CP working its way through the process. Knowing the Township's preference in holding off on any type of changes, they had two choices—not to say anything publicly about the Jeras properties and wait for the CP to play itself out, and then come to you with things we want to talk about; or come to you now, no action required, and just let you know of some things that will begin to percolate up over this process. He discussed things he felt were significant that the Township, Residents, and Jeras could collectively work on which would create significant mutual benefits. Charlie Schmehl, Senior Planner, Urban Research & Development Corporation, was also in attendance and said they would like to share some of their ideas in more detail with Township Staff, work through the CP process, propose some ideas and mutually beneficial adjustments to some of the current development policies as they relate to the Jeras lands, and then to bring back those ideas to the Commissioners.

President Morgan thanked the gentlemen for presenting this evening and encouraged them to get involved in the CP as soon as possible, work with Staff, and start the process in this way. This was a great start in sharing some information with the Board.

13. PAYMENT OF INVOICES:

a. Invoices and Purchasing Requisitions have been reviewed by the Township Manager and the Director of Finance, who authorize that checks be issued to pay bills as tabulated.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Kelly, and seconded by Commissioner Mobilio, to approve the payment of all invoices. All in favor; none opposed.

Roll Call Vote as follows:

Commissioner Wolk: AYE
Commissioner Mobilio: AYE
Commissioner Kelly: AYE
Commissioner Setton: AYE
Commissioner Morgan: AYE
Motion carried.

- **14. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** No executive session after this meeting.
- **15. ADJOURNMENT:** At 10:29 p.m. a MOTION was made by Commissioner Setton, which was seconded by Commissioner Kelly, to adjourn. All in favor; none opposed.
- **16.** <u>APPROVED</u>: On October 21, 2020, a MOTION was made by Commissioner Kelly, which was seconded by Commissioner Mobilio to approve the October 7, 2020 BOC Meeting Minutes as amended.

Roll Call Vote as follows:

Commissioner Wolk: AYE
Commissioner Mobilio: AYE
Commissioner Setton: AYE
Commissioner Kelly: AYE
Commissioner Morgan: AYE

Motion carried.