

**NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
DECEMBER 17, 2008**

Chairman Ronald E. Stahley called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and roll call. In attendance were Supervisors Ronald E. Stahley, Terry P. Stoudt, Ronald J. Heintzelman, Attorney Lisa Young and Secretary/Treasurer Brenda Norder.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Terry P. Stoudt, the minutes of the following meeting were approved as presented: 1. December 3rd Board of Supervisors Minutes. Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The close out meeting for 2008 will be held on December 29th, 2008 at 7:00 PM. All vendors are asked to have year-end bills into the business office by December 22nd, 2008 in order to be paid in 2008. Invoices received after December 22nd will be processed in the New Year.
2. The Township Supervisors' Organization Meeting is scheduled for January 5th, 2009 at 7:00 PM. This organization meeting will replace the regular meeting night of January 7th.
3. The Township Auditors' Organization Meeting is scheduled for January 6th, 2009, 6 PM.
4. Township offices will be closed Thursday, December 25th & Friday, December 26th for the Christmas Holiday and Thursday, January 1st for the New Years Day Holiday.
5. The Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission will hold a Special Joint Meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2009, at 7:00 PM. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss soil remediation plans for the NW Commercial Center with Wal-Mart representatives.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Ernie Atiyeh, Allentown, announced that the next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held on January 18th, 7 PM at the Schnecksville Fire Company.

Dennis Klusaritz, 2123 Rising Sun Road, Slatington, noted that the Zoning Hearing Board will also be meeting at 7:30 PM on December 29th.

Joe Budinas, 4474 Valley Green Dr., Schnecksville, expressed his irritation over the issue of the Supervisors receiving employee pay while performing supervisor business.

Ronald Roth, 5353 Route 309, Schnecksville, expressed his support for the supervisors and questioned why the solicitor or auditors did not discover this municipal code violation.

For the record, Atty. Young noted that this practice was established prior to her tenure as solicitor.

Joe Vargo, 5516 Roberts Road, Schnecksville, requested the Township contact DCED to do a study regarding a police force and was of the opinion that a local or regional police force was affordable and the State Police coverage is inadequate.

MOTION - Upon motion by Ronald E. Stahley, seconded by Terry P. Stoudt, the Board approved contacting DCEC to request a feasibility study for a police force.

Ronald Roth, 5353 Route 309, Schnecksville, expressed his disagreement of Mr. Vargo's statements about the State Police.

Ernie Atiyeh, Allentown, stated that the Neighborhood Watch Group is researching alternatives to a police force.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon motion by Terry P. Stoudt, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Treasurer was authorized to disburse General Fund checks # 1716-1785. Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

OLD BUSINESS:

EPA UPDATE

Supervisor Ronald Stahley presented an update on the soil and water issues, noting that an EPA newsletter has been posted on the Township's website and that EPA has posted Pollution Report #6 on their website.

Ronald Roth, 5353 Route 309, Schnecksville, stated he was under the assumption that once contaminated soil has been sealed by macadam, sod or structures the problem is resolved.

Samantha Neas, 4410 Route 309 Schnecksville, explained how development miles away can affect underground water and that aquifers can shift.

LEAF PICKUP

Supervisor Stoudt informed Michael Kondravy, 3615 Levans Rd., Allentown, that his leaves were picked up but requested that in the future the Township would like them placed closer to the edge of the road.

REQUEST FOR STRUCTURAL REPORT

Supervisor Stoudt reported that the house on the corner of Route 309 and Orefield Road was inspected for structural problems.

Jeff Johnson, 5474 Old Mile Hill Road, Orefield, noted that the garage behind the Hotel property also needs an inspection.

RELOCATED OLD PACKHOUSE ROAD CURBING

Supervisor Stahley announced that, after conferring with the contractor, the curbing will be installed using project funds.

PADOT SMART TRANSPORTATION GRANT

Supervisor Stahley announced he has applied for five grants under this program for the following projects:

1. A study for the Route 309 and Kernsville intersection;
2. The creation of a Kernsville Road Management Plan with Heidelberg and Lowhill Townships to address the issue of rerouting traffic when a Heidelberg bridge is closed;
3. Additional funding for the Routes 329 and 873 intersection;
4. Funds to study Route 145 Corridor from Clearview Road and Treichler's Bridge; and
5. Additional fencing along relocated Old Packhouse Road.

Charles Knauss, 3525 Apple Road, Orefield, inquired about the status of the Route 309/Sand Spring Road intersection.

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NUSS ENTERPRISES

EXONERATION REQUEST

Nuss Enterprises submitted a written request dated December 4, 2008, to be exonerated from the street light tax on Lot 79, Section I for the years 2007 and 2008. Lot 79 is a detention basin. Upon motion by Terry P. Stoudt, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board denied the request. Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes.

Samantha Neas, 4410 Route 309 Schnecksville, stated she has to pay an assessment for a street light she doesn't want and that the light in question might provide a safety factor for the detention pond area.

PARKLAND POINTE

REDUCTION OF IMPROVEMENTS ESCROW

Upon motion by Ronald E. Stahley, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board accepted the written recommendation of the General Planning Engineer Stephen Gitch, dated December 12, 2008 and authorized the release of \$ 61,200.00 from the Maintenance and Improvements Letter of Credit for Parkland Pointe, leaving a balance of \$269,604.00. Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

PARKLAND HOLLOW

REDUCTION OF IMPROVEMENTS ESCROW

Upon motion by Ronald E. Stahley, seconded by Terry P. Stoudt, the Board accepted the written recommendation of the General Planning Engineer Stephen Gitch, dated December 15, 2008, not to release funds from the Maintenance and Improvements Letter of Credit for Parkland Hollow. Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

REFUND OF HOLDING TANK ESCROW

BUCKMAN METAL

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Terry P. Stoudt, the Board accepted the written recommendation of the Sewage Enforcement Officer Scott Bieber, and authorized the release of the sewage holding tank escrow for Buckman Iron & Metal, Inc. The holding tank was abandoned because public sewer was extended to the property. Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

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

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Ronald E. Stahley, the Board granted the request of the Lehigh County Tax Claim Bureau and exonerated them from the collection of the delinquent real estate taxes for the following property:

3464 Cougar Circle 2006 \$11.17 and 2007 \$ 11.17

Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

ADOPTION OF THE 2009 BUDGET & TAX RESOLUTION 12-19-07

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Terry P. Stoudt, the Board adopted the proposed budget & tax resolution for 2009. The budget includes Tax Resolution 12-17-08. Tax Resolution 12-17-08 establishes the 2009 rate as follows:

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2009 Budget & Tax Resolution 12-19-07continued

1. Real Estate to be 1 mill or \$1.00 for every \$ 1,000.00 of assessed valuation;
2. Street Light Assessment will be based a flat rate of \$35.00/residential and \$1,500.00/institutional;
3. Real Estate Transfer Tax at the rate of 1/2 of 1%;
4. Earned Income Tax at the rate of 1/2 of 1%.
5. Local Service Tax at the rate of \$52.00 (Township portion \$47.00 and School District \$5.00)

Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes.

Jeff Johnson, 5474 Old Mile Hill Road, Orefield, questioned the purchase of a sprayer at the cost of \$15,000.00 in light of the economic times and suggested the Board consider other applicators that cost less.

APPOINTMENT OF EXISTING WORKING SUPERVISORS

Upon motion by Terry P. Stoudt, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board appointed the positions of the existing working supervisors to be in effect through the date and time for the 2009 Organization Meeting, on January 5, 2009. Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

ELECTED AUDITOR VACANCY

Secretary Brenda Norder announced that Elected Auditor Ronald Gildner has tendered his resignation and anyone interested in filling his unexpired term should contact her.

Joe Budinas, 4474 Valley Green Dr., Schnecksville, inquired about the job description and duties.

Joe Vargo, 5516 Roberts Road, Schnecksville, inquired if someone wanting to apply had to be of the same party affiliation.

ENGAGE CWSA SERVICES FOR MAINTENANCE OF WASTEWATER LINES

Upon motion by Terry P. Stoudt, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board authorized Supervisor Stahley to send a letter to Coplay-Whitehall Sewer Authority requesting a proposal of costs associated with assisting us with the maintenance of the Timberidge lines. Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

SPOTTS, STEVENS & MCCOY TO REVIEW NEFFS PARKING LOT PLAN

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Terry P. Stoudt, the Board appointed Township Special Projects Engineering firm Spotts, Stevens & McCoy to review the plan of and conduct a speed study for the Neffs Church Parking Lot project, since they have retained as their project engineer Lehigh Engineering Associates, the Township's Traffic Engineering firm. Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

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LEHIGH COUNTY AUTHORITY FEASIBILITY STUDY

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Ronald E. Stahley, the Board authorized the Chairman to pursue discussion and a feasibility study with Lehigh County Authority regarding the extension of public water in the Orefield area. Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes.

Jeff Johnson, 5474 Old Mile Hill Road, Orefield, noted that running a water line will open that area up to development.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- Jeff Johnson, 5474 Old Mile Hill Road, Orefield, inquired about the status of the Comprehensive Plan.

- Atty. Young stated that in light of the recent announcement regarding lending rates, a letter will be sent to all lenders who have responded to our loan quote requests, to obtain updated rate information.
Joe Budinas, 4474 Valley Green Dr., Schnecksville, suggested waiting till the Fed forces the banks to lower rates.

- Doug Wetzel, 4337 Sand Spring Road, Schnecksville, inquired about job descriptions for the working supervisors and suggested ending the practice of having elected supervisors work for the Township.
Ernie Atiyeh, Allentown, stated that a person with compassion and dedication may make a better employee than one with a resume.

- Joe Budinas, 4474 Valley Green Dr., Schnecksville, offered his opinion that a township police force would result in higher taxes and would not provide any better coverage.
Charles Knauss, 3525 Apple Road, Orefield, stated that the cost of having a local police force would be too high and it would be better to pay the State Police cost per resident.
Joe Vargo, 5516 Roberts Road, Schnecksville, offered comments in favor of having a local or regional police force.
Jeff Johnson, 5474 Old Mile Hill Road, Orefield, offered comments in favor of keeping the State Police for police protection.

COMMUNICATIONS

PSATS News
Benecon Health Brief
PSATS Convention Packets

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Norder, Secretary