

**NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MARCH 5, 2008**

Chairman Ronald E. Stahley called the meeting to order at 4:00 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 Ronald E. Stahley, the minutes of the following meeting were approved as presented: February 20th Workshop, February 20th Board of Supervisors Meeting and the March 3rd Bid Opening Minutes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Tires will not be accepted for recycling until April 1st, 2008.
2. An aide from Senator Browne's office will meet with residents in the public meeting room, on Monday, March 10th, from 10 AM to 2 PM to answer questions about and provide assistance in completing the 2007 Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications.
3. The Tax Office will be closed from March 17th through the 21st.
4. The Municipal Offices will be closed Friday, March 21st for Good Friday.
5. Spring Cleanup Days will be held on Friday, April 25th, 10 AM to 2 PM and Saturday, April 26th, 8-11:30 AM. This is for Township residents only.
6. As required by Act 14, Allied Utility Services, Inc. has notified the Township that they have applied to DEP for a renewal with amendment of the existing NPDES Discharge Permit.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Atty. Keith Strohl, from Steckel & Stopp, representing Paul Kuehner, inquired as to the status of the letter to be sent to Keystone Mobile Home Park and when may he meet with the Board prior to the next public meeting, regarding wastewater disposal. Atty. Young replied that she and Steve Gitch were working on a draft letter. Mr. Strohl was instructed to call for an appointment on the next workshop agenda.

Atty. David Najarian, Dimmich & Dinkelacker P.C., stated that with regard to the Open Records Act and the issue of the Township not providing copies of copyrighted plans, his firm has decided to take the matter to court for a resolution.

Wade Haubert, 3730 Apple Road, Orefield asked the Board to consider expanding the recycling program and require the haulers to collect newspapers and cardboard. Supervisor Stahley noted that Mr. Haubert's hauler should already be picking up those materials and a Township representative will contact him with additional information.

Julie Weir, 4657 York Drive, Orefield, inquired as to when the Board of Supervisors meetings will be held at 7:30 PM. Supervisor Stoudt replied as soon as Wal-mart comes before the Board.

Atty. David Najarian, Dimmich & Dinkelacker P.C., inquired as to when the Wal-mart Conditional Use Application would be advertised for a hearing. Atty. Young stated it would likely be established within the next few weeks.

Wade Haubert, 3730 Apple Road, Orefield, asked if the revised Comprehensive Plan has been adopted. Atty. Young noted that the drafts are being reviewed and that it will be a few weeks before the hearing is scheduled. Atty. Young also stated that there will an opportunity for public comment at that time.

Leo Stanus, 4842 Orchard, Schnecksville, asked how the Conditional Use notice would be advertised. Atty. young stated that state law requires advertisement in the newspaper. In addition the notice is posted at the municipal building and on the Township's website.

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Comments continued

Roger Rearick, 4636 Anthony Drive, Coplay, asked for a status report on the Township's attempts to resolve the noise and ATV issue. Atty. Young stated that they are reviewing all the legal aspects available to the Township as well as researching how other townships have done to resolve this issue.

Karoline Peeler, 5528 Oakwood Lane, Schnecksville, stated that in the area of the drainage pipes that were installed by the Township along her property the ground has now settled and is holding water. Supervisor Stahley will make the road crew aware of the problem.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Upon motion by Terry P. Stoudt, seconded by Ronald E. Stahley, the Treasurer's report was approved as presented. Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes.

OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS:

SECTION 147(f) APPROVAL & WRITTEN AGREEMENT

NEFFS FIRE CO.

Upon motion by Terry P. Stoudt, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board authorized the Chairman to sign the IRS Section 147(f) agreement. This agreement reflects the Township's approval of the Neffs Volunteer Fire Company entering into a tax-exempt loan to finance the Smeal ladder truck and acknowledges that the fire company provides fire fighting and other services for the Municipality. This approval does not constitute any financial obligation of the Township. Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

WELL ISOLATION DISTANCE EXEMPTION & GROUNDWATER STUDY WAIVER REQUEST

Sewage Enforcement Officer, Scott Bieber submitted a letter dated February 22, 2008, to the Board, recommending that the request for the well isolation distance exemption and groundwater study waiver for 4615 Route 309, Schnecksville, be granted.

Upon motion by Terry P. Stoudt, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board accepted the written recommendation of the Sewage Enforcement Officer and granted the well-sewage system isolation distance exemption and groundwater waiver request. Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

SODIUM CHLORIDE PURCHASE PROGRAM

Upon motion by Terry P. Stoudt, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board authorized the Secretary to E-file the necessary forms in order to participate in the Commonwealth's 2008-2009 state contract for Sodium Chloride. We are requesting +/- 1,100 tons. Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes.

Karoline Peeler, 5528 Oakwood Lane, Schnecksville, noted that the road crew does a wonderful job clearing the roads, the best of all the townships around the area.

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AWARD OF BID AGRICULTURAL LAND

Upon motion by Terry P. Stoudt, seconded by Ronald E. Stahley, the rental of farmland at the Johnson Ponds of +/- 3.5 acres, for a 3-year lease, was awarded to James Heintzelman at his bid price of \$105.00 (\$30/acre) per year. Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

AUTORIZATION TO ATTEND SEMINAR

Upon motion by Terry P. Stoudt, seconded by Ronald E. Stahley, the Board authorized payment of registration fees for Planning Commission members Rich Celmer and Joanne Guth to attend a planning seminar on March 19th. Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

LEAF COLLECTION COMPLIANCE LETTER

Upon motion by Terry P. Stoudt, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board authorized a letter to be written to DEP to notify them of our yard waste collection program in order to be in compliance with Act 101. Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE SINGLE-AXLE TRUCK

Upon motion by Terry P. Stoudt, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board authorized the budgeted purchase of a 2008 Single-axle truck through the PACC contract, for \$138,175.71. Roll call: Terry P. Stoudt - yes; Ronald E. Stahley - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

OPEN SPACE REFERENDUM

Supervisor Stahley recommended that the Board of Supervisors considers putting an Open Space Referendum on the fall ballot. It would result in a percentage increase to the Earned Income Tax in order to generate funds for the acquisition of open space land, farm preservation and conservation easement issues. He will continue to research the process with the Voter Registration Office.

Charles Knauss, 3525 Apple Road, Orefield, stated he is favor of that proposal.

Wade Haubert, 3730 Apple Road, Orefield, feels it's a good proposal and would like to see that idea incorporated into the SALDO and Comprehensive Plan.

Leo Stanus, 4842 Orchard, Schnecksville, inquired about the proposal to turn the Trexler Reserve into a park. Supervisor Stahley reported that a master plan was being developed by Lehigh County.

Karoline Peeler, 5528 Oakwood Lane, Schnecksville, asked if the road fording the creek is still in use at the Preserve. Supervisor Stahley indicated that to the best of his knowledge it was.

Laura Warmkessel, 2077 Juniper Drive, Coplay, asked how the Covered Bridge Auto Tour would be impacted by the Old Packhouse construction. Supervisor Stahley indicated the road will be closed for a period of time during the construction, but that Old Packhouse Road in the area of the Covered Bridge would remain open and thus the tour route could be followed.

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TRENCH REPAIR ON ROUTE 309

Supervisor Stahley presented an update on the condition of the trench used for the cross pipes on Route 309 that have settled below the road surface. Repair to the trenches is schedule for March 6 and 7.

Nancy Braymar, 3532 Apple Road, Orefield, Julie Weir, 4657 York Drive, Orefield, and Laura Warmkessel, 2077 Juniper Drive, Coplay, had questions regarding the traffic signal at Shankweiler Road. Supervisor Stahley stated that the current signal is temporary and after the road improvements and widening are complete a new signal with sensors and timing loops will be installed.

- Supervisor Stahley reported that he is discussing the sale of the old loader with the Parkland School District.

COMMUNICATIONS

Downstream notification for the Horsehead Corporation
Thank you note from ULHS for their 2008 allocation

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Norder, Secretary