NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
NOVEMBER 1, 2021

Chairman Ronald J. Heintzelman called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. In attendance were Supervisors Dennis Klusaritz, and Mark Hills, Attorney Lisa A. Young, Manager Chris Garges, Engineer Steve Gitch, Administrative Assistant Jess Koenig and Secretary/Treasurer Brenda Norder.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES
Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting of October 4, 2021 were approved. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
1. The Township Offices will be closed Thursday and Friday November 25th & 26th for the Thanksgiving holiday.
2. Atty. Young announced an Executive Session was held on November 1, 2021 to discuss personnel issues.

TREASURER'S REPORT
Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the October Treasurer's report and checks 16547-16628 were approved as presented. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor Heintzelman recessed the regular meeting in order to conduct a Public Hearing to hear comments on the following proposed Ordinance

ORDINANCE 2021-5 REPEAL ORDINANCES 2018-4 AND 2019-1
Ordinance 2021-5 repeals Ordinances 2018-4 and 2019-1 which provided for tax credits for volunteer members of volunteer fire and ambulance companies.
A stenographer recorded the proceedings; a copy of the transcript shall be placed in the Minute Book. Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board adopted Ordinance 2021-5. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Brian Horwith, Springfield Dr., Coplay, asked what was the program under the old Ordinance.

Supervisor Heintzelman resumed the regular meeting.

RESOLUTION 11-01-21 VOLUNTEER FIRST RESPONDER STIPEND PROGRAM
Resolution 11-01-21 created a stipend program for volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders and established guidelines for the program for purposes of retention and recruitment of volunteer first responders. Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Mark Hills, Resolution 11-01-21 was adopted. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Jim Steward, Neffs Vol. Fire Co. Chief, thanked the Board for the new program that will incentivize membership and training.

RESOLUTION 11-01-21A PAYMENT FOR PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS FOR FARMLAND OWNED BY EDWIN & SUSAN GARDNER

Resolution 11-01-21A approved payment of $670 dollars per acre over the cap amount to Lehigh County to permanently preserve the approximately 15-acre Gardner Farm through the purchase of agricultural conservation easements, for a total of $11,108.00. This commitment will be combined with Lehigh County's 2021-2022 allocation. Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, Resolution 11-01-21A was adopted. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

AUTHORIZATION TO OBTAIN A REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL

Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board approved moving forward and obtaining an appraisal for the Robert Schmidt farm, located at Rockdale and Ridge Roads, at the cost of $1,700.00. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

AUTHORIZATION TO REGISTER FOR PA OPIOID SETTLEMENT BENEFITS

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Mark Hills, the Board authorized the Manager to register the township, as a subdivision of the Commonwealth, to participate in a nationwide opioid settlement action and further authorized him the sign future documents on behalf of the Township. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Kathleen Foster, Elmhurst Dr., Schnecksville, inquired for what services the settlement money would be used.

RELEASE OF TEMPORARY C/O ESCROWS

Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board authorized the Treasurer to return the temporary C/O escrows, of $1,000.00, for: 3954 Schneck Road and 4720 Welby Drive. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Brian Horwith, Springfield Dr., Coplay, asked for an explanation of this type of escrow.

KIDSPEACE PLAN DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE REVISION OF DATES

Atty. Lisa Young gave a brief explanation of the annual update of the schedule of improvements with regard to the KidsPeace phased-development plan (approved August 19, 1998, revised August 3, 2005) and requested an extension and revision of the scheduled completion dates. Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Mark Hills, the annual update of the schedule of improvements with revisions was approved. A copy will be place in the minute book. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

FARMLAND & OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Mark Hills, the Board appointed Mark Yatcilla and Susan Williams to the Farmland & Open Space Preservation Committee. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Garges reported on the following:

- The next meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan update study committee will be held on December 8 at 6:30 PM at the Schnecksville Fire Hall.
- The Ironton Rail Trail received the original Northampton Dragon Cement Company locomotive.
- Supervisor Klusaritz and Mr. Garges attended a meeting with PennDOT regarding the Coffeetown Road bridge.
- He noted that a hearing at the magistrate's office, for the Kolapechka Park vandalism damage, resulted in charges dropped in lieu of the individual paying the township's insurance deductible.
- The Planning Commission will be discussing the data collected at the October 12th public visioning meeting for the comprehensive plan update, at a special meeting on November 10th, 2021.
- PennDOT completed pipe cleaning at Clearview Road and Route 145. The township will scope the pipe with a camera to further investigate the pipe.
- PennDOT notified the township that they are planning to mill and overlay Route 873 from Route 309 to Slatington during the 2022-2023 season.
- The Planning Commission will meet November 4th and November 23 at 7:30 PM.
- The Zoning Hearing Board will meet November 17 at 7:30 PM.
    - Jim Osmun, Green Hill Circle, Schnecksville, inquired where the next Comprehensive Plan meeting will be held.
    - Tom Van Vreede, Church Drive, Coplay, asked if any of the Strawberry Acres' plans have changed.
    - Leonard Nuss, Old Post Rd., Coplay, asked if the township pays fuel tax.
    - Karen Osmun, Green Hill Circle, Schnecksville, asked for an explanation of the Route 309 turning lane.

- **2022 BUDGET PRESENTATION**
  Mr. Garges gave a brief summary of the proposed 2022 budget including new line items, increased funding or revisions. The Board thanked Mr. Garges for his thorough work and outstanding presentation on the budget.

- **TENTATIVE BUDGET ADOPTION**
  Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board tentatively adopted the 2022 proposed budget and authorized the advertisement of same as being available for public inspection. Adoption of the budget is scheduled for December 6, 2021 Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- **AUTHORIZED ADVERTISEMENT FOR ORDINANCE 2021-6**
  Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Mark Hills, the Solicitor was authorized to advertise for the Agritainment/Agritourism Ordinance 2021-6. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

AUTHORIZED SOLICITOR TO REPRESENT TOWNSHIP

- Upon motion by Mark Hills, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board authorized the Solicitor to intervene on behalf of the Township in the Troxell Zoning Appeal. Roll call: Mark Hills - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

- Richard Semmel, Clearview Rd, Coplay, requested the public works department remove a rotted tree at Clearview Road and Anthony Drive.
- Bruce Stettler, Steeplechase Dr, Schnecksville, encouraged the audience to show up at the January 3, 2022 Organization meeting and voiced his concern that supervisors may appoint themselves to full-time jobs.
- Raymond Deutsch, Vista Dr., Coplay, thanked the Board for their assistance in bringing the IRT locomotive from Texas.
- Tim Tomko, Coplay Creek Rd., Schnecksville, thanked Mr. Garges and Mr. Mouer for performing noise pollution tests and asked the Board to consider obtaining professional testing to uphold the ordinance requirements.
- Jim Osmun, Green Hill Circle, Schnecksville, voiced his concerns about the UNFI truck traffic.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Norder, Secretary/Treasurer