NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
DECEMBER 5, 2022

Chairman Al Geosits 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 Ronald J. Heintzelman, Attorney Thomas Dinkelacker, Manager Randy Cope, Engineer Steve Gitch, Zoning Officer Jeff Mouer, Administrative Assistant Jess Koenig and Secretary/Treasurer Brenda Norder.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES
Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting of November 7, 2022 were approved. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
1. The Township Offices will be closed Friday, December 23rd and Monday, December 26th for the Christmas Holiday and Monday, January 2nd, 2023 for the New Year's Day Holiday.
2. The Supervisors' Organization Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023 at 7:30 PM.
3. The Auditors' Organization Mtg. is scheduled for Wednesday, January 4th, 2023 at 7:00 PM.
4. The Township received the following proposal for addition to the North Whitehall Township Agricultural Security Area: Jayne Loomis 4879 Peach Bottom Rd. 47.5 acres +/-

EXECUTIVE SESSION
An executive session was held December 5, 2022 to discuss purchase of real estate, litigation matters, Zoning Hearing Board, and legal issues.

TREASURER'S REPORT
Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Al Geosits, the November Treasurer's report and the check register of checks #17704-17778 were approved as presented. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

OLD BUSINESS:

PROCLAMATION SECRETARY/TREASURER BRENDA NORDER
The Board issued a proclamation honoring Secretary/Treasurer Brenda Norder for her 29 years of service to North Whitehall Township and wished her good luck in her retirement.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 12-05-22 ANOOPAM MISSION BUILDING ADDITION
Engineer Casey Bond and Atty. Peter Lehr, on behalf of the Anoopam Mission, presented the Building Addition Plan to the Board. Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board approved Resolution 12-05-22 conditionally approving the Plan as a Preliminary/Final Plan. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

5077 OVERLOOK ROAD (STRAWBERRY ACRES) EXTENSION OF TIME

Engineer Casey Bond and Atty. Peter Lehr, on behalf of the 5077 Overlook Road Plan, presented an extension of time offer for this project, until March 6, 2023. Discussion ensued regarding the Developer's progress, submittals and resolution of outstanding issues.

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board accepted an extension of time until February 7, 2023 not March 6, 2023, in order for the Application to be reviewed by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Tom VanVreede, Church Dr., Coplay, voiced his concerns regarding the number of time extensions and in his opinion, the developer's inability to submit an accurate plan. He also noted the objectors would like to have access to the plan the developer is using for the soil testing.
- Lynne & Robert Allen, Donna Dr., Coplay, asked Steve Gitch how much time did he spend observing the soil testing.
- Heather Skorinko, Clearview Rd., Coplay, read from a letter authored by a soil engineer concerned about the type & design of the plan used for testing and questioned if a soil assessment is available.
- Jennifer Escalona, Overlook Rd., Coplay, stated the objectors would like permission to access the land to do an independent soil test because they question the developer's credibility.
- Rich Semmel, Clearview Rd., Coplay, asked Steve Gitch how much notice he was given to attend the soil testing.
- Terry Dennis, Clearview Rd., Coplay, noted that the developer was to have the soil sampling results by this meeting.
- Brian Horwith, Springfield Dr., Coplay, asked if the Supervisor's motion was to grant or to accept the time extension.

5077 OVERLOOK ROAD (STRAWBERRY ACRES) PRELIMINARY

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Plan was tabled.
Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED BUILDING RENOVATIONS

Tom Chambers & Laura Clifton, representatives from MKSD Architects gave a presentation on their conceptual design for the proposed building renovations to the current municipal building.

- Tom VanVreede, Church Dr., Coplay, commented that the windows behind the meeting room dais seats would produce a glare to the audience.
- Eugene Wolfgang, Faye Dr., Orefield, asked if the electrical deficiencies in the garage would be addressed in the renovations and noted that landscaping was not addressed and stated the pine tree donated by the Lions Club would need to be relocated on the property.
- Brian Horwith, Springfield Dr., Coplay, inquired would TV screens be available for the Board members to view.
- Heather Skorinko, Clearview Rd., Coplay, asked where the money comes from to do the renovations.
- Kris Kreglow, Levans Rd., Coplay, asked if anything would be done to correct the heating issue in the garage.
- Jody Blose, Sand Spring Rd., Coplay, asked if additional parking has been considered.
- Mark Hills, Old Post Rd., Coplay, noted they need wider spots for pickup trucks.

TERMINATION OF LEHIGH COUNTY CDBG GRANT FUNDING CONTRACT

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board moved to terminate the Subrecipient Agreement, dated May 1, 2022, between the County of Lehigh as Grantee and North Whitehall Township as Subrecipient, in accordance with Section VII, Sub-section H and to direct the Township Manager to issue appropriate notice to the County in accordance with the requirements of Sub-section H. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE A PUBLIC HEARING & ADOPTION OF A NEW COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board authorized the Secretary to advertise for a public hearing and distribute the new draft comprehensive plan to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, Lehigh County Law Department, contiguous townships, and the school district for review and comments. The plan is tentatively scheduled for a public hearing and adoption, by resolution, at the February 6, 2023 Board meeting, in accordance with the PA Municipal Planning Code. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE A PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT A NEW COMPREHENSIVE PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSED NEW 2022 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board authorized the Secretary to advertise for a public hearing and distribute new Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan as an amendment to the 2022 proposed new Comprehensive Plan to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, Lehigh County Law Department, contiguous townships, and the school district for review and comments. The plan is tentatively scheduled for a public hearing and adoption, by resolution, at the February 6, 2023 Board meeting. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

ADOPTION OF TAX RESOLUTION 12-05-22A

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board adopted Tax Resolution 12-05-22A. Tax Resolution 12-05-22A establishes the 2023 rates as follows:

1. Real Estate to be .6 mill of assessed valuation;
2. Street Light Assessment will be based a flat rate of $45.00/residential and $1,825.00/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 (Twp portion $47.00 and School District $5.00)

Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 12-05-22B COVID-19 ARPA SMALL WATER & SEWER GRANT

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board adopted Resolution 12-05-22B. Resolution 12-05-22B authorizes the Township Manager and the Board Chairman to apply for and execute a grant, to be used for a streambank restoration and sediment reduction project and to allocate funding to provide for a 15% match commitment to undertake the project known as the **Neffs Park Stream Restoration**. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 12-05-22C COVID-19 ARPA H2O PA GRANT

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board adopted Resolution 12-05-22C. Resolution 12-05-22C authorizes the Township Manager and the Board Chairman to apply for and execute a grant, to be used for a streambank restoration and sediment reduction project and to allocate funding to provide for a 50% match commitment to undertake the project known as the **2023 North Whitehall Stormwater Restoration Project**. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

REQUEST FOR EXONERATION OF DELINQUENT STREET LIGHT TAXES

GH Harris, collector of delinquent street light taxes, has requested exoneration from the collection of the remaining uncollectable delinquent taxes:

George Wasko Jr	2526 Levans Rd	2011-2012	$ 148.00
Rose Wesloskey	2605 Levans Rd	2011-2016	$ 229.40
Philip Gintz	5722 Rt. 873	2012-2016	$ 192.40
Philip Gintz	5718 Rt. 873	2014-2016	$ 118.40
Karen Tiesler	2831 Willow St	2016	$ 40.70

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board granted the request of the GH Harris and exonerated them from the collection of the delinquent street light taxes. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

WELL ISOLATION DISTANCE EXEMPTION & GROUNDWATER STUDY WAIVER REQUEST

Sewage Enforcement Officer, Steve Gitch, submitted a letter dated November 28, 2022, to the Board, requesting a well isolation distance exemption and groundwater study waiver for 4415 Shankweiler Rd, Orefield, be granted. Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board granted the well isolation distance exemption and groundwater waiver request. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

REQUEST FOR EXONERATION FROM COLLECTION R. E. TAXES

Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board granted the request of the Tax Collector, Donna Kumernitsky, to exonerate her from the collection of future real estate taxes for the following property, due to the property transfer to the Township:

0.0175 acres of vacant land at Pennsylvania Drive

Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY REIMBURSEMENT

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board approved the disbursement of the annual budgeted stipend for the 4 fire companies. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- **2023 BUDGET ADOPTION**
  Mr. Randy Cope presented a short synopsis of the 2023 budget. Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board approved the 2023 budget as presented. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

MANAGER'S REPORT continued –

- Important dates:
  Dec. 11 tree lighting ceremony 5-7 PM;
  Dec. 12 Board of Supervisors Workshop 6 PM;
  Dec. 21 Zoning Hearing Board 7:30 PM;
  Dec. 27 Planning Commission 7:30 PM;
  Dec. 24 & 31 Yard Waste Center closed; and
  Jan. 3, 2023 Supervisors' Organization Meeting 7:30 PM
- Stormwater pipe at Rt 145 and Clearview Rd was completed and work will begin on pipe at Clearview & Egypt Rds.
- Neffs Pool demolition with LCTI will begin in January.
- A draft traffic study regarding the Neffs Church Roundabout is forthcoming.
- Working with KCE on an interactive Zoning Portal that will be available on our website and an interactive webpage to educate the public about stormwater impact will be added.
- Windshield stickers will now be required to access the yard waste facility, applications are on the website.
- NWT recently received an LVPC Nominee Designation as a Community of Distinction for planning excellence, innovation and municipal cooperation. The City of Easton was the overall winner.
- Currently accepting applications until December 10 for 3 full-time positions.
- The Grist Mill Road project is progressing.
- Property owners with over 10 acres received a letter from the township with an offer to meet with staff to gauge interest in property preservation.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – No report

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR (Non-agenda items):
No comments.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Norder, Secretary/Treasurer