NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
SEPTEMBER 12, 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, Manager Randy Cope, Attorney Thomas Dinkelacker, Engineer Steve Gitch, Secretary/Treasurer Brenda Norder, and Administrative Assistant Jessica Koenig.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES
Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the minutes of the Board of Supervisors Meeting of August 1, 2022 were approved. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
- In order for the township staff to attend the Annual Conference of the Lehigh County Association of Township Officials on Friday, September 16th, Township offices will be closed.
- An executive session was held prior to this meeting, for the purpose of real estate discussions.

TREASURER'S REPORT
Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Al Geosits, the August Treasurer's report and checks #17447-17521 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: No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor Geosits recessed the regular meeting in order to hear comments on proposed Ordinances 2022-5 and 2022-6.

ORDINANCE 2022-5 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE
Ordinance 2022-5 satisfies regulatory requirements of the NPDES MS4 program as well as Act 167 requirements for the Jordan Creek, Coplay Creek and Lehigh River Subbasin II Watershed. The purpose of this Ordinance is to promote health, safety, and welfare within North Whitehall Township and the Jordan Creek, Coplay Creek and Lehigh River Subbasin II Watershed by minimizing the harms and maximizing the benefits of water resources. The Ordinance was duly advertised.

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board adopted Ordinance 2022-5. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.
- William Hartenstine, Saddle Dr., Schnecksville, inquired if results of basin inspections were available to the public.

ORDINANCE 2022-6 DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTION
Ordinance 2022-6 authorizes the collection procedures of unpaid real estate taxes and delinquent accounts and appoints Portnoff Law Associates to collect unpaid Township taxes. The Ordinance was duly advertised.

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board adopted Ordinance 2022-6. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

Supervisor Geosits resumed the regular meeting.

RESOLUTION 09-12-22 BUDGET REVISIONS

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, Resolution 09-12-22 was adopted. Resolution 09-12-22 approved a revision to the 2022 budget to reallocate funds within the following:

Capital Projects Fund - $26,000.00 will be reallocated from account 435.4400 (Park Valley Rd Bridge) to account 435.5000 (Rts 329/873 Neffs Laurys Rd); and
General Fund - to reallocate $15,000.00 from the account 452.1100 (Recreation Programming) to account 452.1200 (Recreation Summer Help).

Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Bruce Stettler, Steeple Chase Dr, Schnecksville, asked for a clarification on the reallocations.

RESOLUTION 09-12-22A WEST PARK AVENUE-WAGNER LOT LINE ADJUSTMENT

Lew Rauch, Lehigh Engineering, on behalf of Maryann Wagner, presented the West Park Avenue-Wagner Lot Line Adjustment Plan to the Board. Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board approved Resolution 09-12-22A conditionally approving the Plan as a Preliminary/Final Lot Line Adjustment Plan. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PRESENTATION

Joanne Conley from Urban Research & Development Corporation gave a presentation on the Township's proposed updated & revised Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan.

- Lynnette Allen, Donna Dr., Coplay, asked about plans for lacrosse fields.
- Rich Semmel, Clearview Rd., Coplay, inquired about increasing the recreation fees for developers.
- William Hartenstine, Saddle Dr., Schnecksville, inquired about the Neffs Pool status.

EMERGENCY SERVICES LONG TERM FUND GRANT LAURYS STATION VOL. FIRE CO.

Eric Minford, Laurys Station Fire Company Treasurer, requested a funding amendment. He noted that due to a last-minute change order the price was increased by $9,664.00, bringing the requested township portion cost to $340,110.00, for the purchase of a new E-One Typhoon Top Mount Pumper. Upon motion by Ronald J. Heintzelman, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board approved the grant increase request and authorized the Manager to execute the grant agreement subject to the revised dollar amount and release the grant funds. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

ENGAGEMENT OF SERVICES PARK VALLEY ROAD BRIDGE

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, the Board approved the Manager's recommendation to engage Pany & Lentz Engineering to begin the process of designing and obtaining permits for the Park Valley Road bridge repair, at their proposed price of $50,000.00. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Bruce Stettler, Steeple Chase Dr, Schnecksville, asked if this was put out to bid.
- Rich Semmel, Clearview Rd., Coplay, asked if some of the cost would be shared by developers.

ENGAGEMENT OF SERVICES TRAFFIC ENGINEERING-RTS 873/329/NEFFS LAURYS RD.

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board approved the Manager to sign the proposal to engage Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. for traffic engineering services related to improvement investigation to the intersection of SRs 873/329 and Neffs Laurys Road. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Rich Semmel, Clearview Rd., Coplay, inquired about PA DOT's plans for Rts. 329 & 873.

REQUEST TO CLOSE PORTION OF ROAD

A request was received from Atty. Matthew Tranter, on behalf of his client CB Tuning, to close Jefferson Drive on October 9 between 7 AM - 4 PM, for a Grand Opening event. Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board approved the request. The property owner has submitted a certificate of insurance for the event. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

EXONERATION AND REFUND FROM COLLECTION OF R. E. TAXES

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Dennis Klusaritz, the Board granted the exoneration of the Tax Collector, Donna Kumernitsky, from the collection of the real estate taxes for the property located at 5229 Route 873, as a result of a Lehigh County Board of Assessment Hearing decision, effective January 1, 2022 and also approved a refund of the paid Real Estate property tax of $630.10.
Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

RELEASE OF ESCROW TEMPORARY C/O

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the Board authorized the Treasurer to return the $1,000.00 temporary C/O escrow for the following property:

2855 Valley Road

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

RECREATION BOARD APPOINTMENT

Upon motion by Al Geosits, seconded by Ronald J. Heintzelman, Jennifer Costella was appointed to the Recreation Board to fulfill the unexpired term of Norma Visnar until 12/31/22. Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes. There were no public comments on this item.

AUTHORIZATION TO DISTRIBUTE BUDGETED ALLOCATIONS EMS & SR. CLUBS

Upon motion by Dennis Klusaritz, seconded by Al Geosits, the Treasurer is authorized to distribute the following 2022-budgeted allocations:

Schnecksville Senior Citizens	$ 950.00
Laurys Station Keen-agers	$ 700.00
ESO	$ 5,000.00

The emergency services organizations will receive the balances of their 2022 allocations.

$31,500.00 to Northern Valley Ambulance Corp,
$20,168.75 to each of the four fire companies.

Roll call: Al Geosits - yes; Ronald J. Heintzelman - yes; Dennis Klusaritz - yes.

- Mark Hills, Old Post Rd., Coplay, delivered a message from Neffs Fire Chief Jim Steward, thanking the Board for the allocation and noting that volunteers were needed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Randy Cope reported on the following:

- Public Works has relocated the “stop ahead” signs and increased the size of the stop signs at the Clearview & Scheidys intersection. Additional line painting is also being considered.
- 3 applicants were interviewed for the part-time receptionist position.
- Farmland preservation signs were installed at two properties.
- The turning lane and road widening project at Rt 309 and Pennsylvania Dr. is going well.
- North Whitehall Township will be featured in a magazine produce by a publishing company.
- He will be applying for a grant to convert one of the Laurys Firehouse Park basketball courts into 3 pickleball courts.
- Progress is being made to remediate the sinkhole and water run-off issues on Clearview Rd.
- Our engineer has completed the design for the Gristmill culvert and will be going out to bid.
- Work is progressing on the 2023 budget.
- The staff has been working on the following: met with an architect regarding potential renovations to the township building; reviewing our process for land development to streamline the application review by the staff and Planning Commission; and meeting with PennDOT regarding trail crossing signals
- Upcoming meetings:
  August 10 @ 7 PM - Comprehensive Plan Meeting
  September 19 @ 7:30 PM – Recreation Board Meeting
  September 27 @ 7:30 PM – Planning Commission Meeting

Comments:

- Rich Semmel, Clearview Rd., Coplay, asked if the blind spot-on Clearview Rd was checked by public works.
- Tom Van Vreede, Church Drive, Coplay, asked where on Clearview Rd was milling taking place.
- Leonard Nuss, Old Post Rd., Coplay, inquired is any discussion has taken place about repairing the blacktop in front of his garage.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Atty Dinkelacker noted:

- He has entered an appearance on the Willenbacher case;
- He is working with the Manager on storm water easements;
- He is conferring with the Zoning Officer on various code enforcement items; and
- He is working with the Planning Commission on plan & code updates.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR (Non-agenda items):

No comments

ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Norder, Secretary/Treasurer, and

Jessica Koenig, Administrative Assistant