

#05-2022  
WORK SESSION  
March 1, 2022 – 6 p.m.

A work session of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 6 p.m. for the purpose of updating the public on several matters and reviewing the agenda of the March 15, 2022 Supervisors' meeting. The meeting was held in hybrid mode. In-person attendees included Supervisors Kimberly J. Koch, Michele Minnick, Jeffrey Campolongo, Joyce M. Keller and Soctt M. Badami along with Assistant Township Manager David J. Mrochko, Solicitor Michael P. Clarke, Esq., Solicitor Gregory R. Heleniak, Esq., Fire Marshal David M. Camarda and IT Director Nicole Leininger. Township Manager Roman M. Pronczak, P.E., Police Chief Kenneth Lawson, Public Works Director Thomas Farzetta, Code Enforcement Officer Michael E. McAndrew, Finance Director Christine Bauman, Township Engineer James E. Blanch, P.E., Parks and Recreation Director Kurt W. Baker, and HR Director Kathleen Yackin attended remotely. There was one member of the public in-person and eight remote attendees.

Chair Koch welcomed everyone and reminded them that we continue to use closed captioning for the meetings which are auto generated by Zoom. They are not the official meeting minutes. She then asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Koch turned the meeting over to Mr. Pronczak. He began with a Mission Moment to recognize the great work of our Safety Committee, headed by Fire Marshal David Camarda. Mr. Camarda has many other responsibilities, including Emergency Management Coordinator, Risk Management Coordinator and Coordinator of Emergency Medical Services. He will give a brief presentation about the Safety Committee and the process to becoming certified in Pennsylvania. Mr. Camarda explained that the main focus and mission is to limit losses and control risks. It began in 2016 with 11 members meeting quarterly. To meet the state's standards for certification, the Committee was redeveloped in August of 2019 with 12 members holding monthly meetings. Following the state's guidelines, certification training was held through DVIT, minutes of the meetings were published and posted for employee review and an inspection program was initiated, as required by the state. In 2021, further adjustments were made including reducing the number of members to eight, with a minimum of five members at every meeting. Accomplishments include establishing a PPE Policy, review and update of the Safety Manual, installation of a pedestrian crosswalk from the administration building to the front parking lot, and development of an Emergency Action Plan. In addition, first aid kits in the municipal garages were updated, with recommendations from the Second Alarmers, to match the types of traumas the public works staff might encounter. Sight distance issues exiting the front parking lot were resolved, as well as use of two-way radios during emergencies. In December, we received notification that we are certified by the PA Department of Labor and Industry. We also received recognition from the

Delaware Valley Workers' Compensation Trust for achievement and leadership in minimizing workplace injuries and illness during 2020. This year's goals include completing a Good Catch Program (safety adjustments), an Awards Program (safety suggestions), continual training and re-certification through L & I. At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Camarda was commended for a job well done by the members of the Board.

Chair Koch presented the second Mission Moment of the evening, acknowledging the work of retiring librarian Michelle Miller, known as Miss Michelle. For 33 years, Miss Michelle was the guitar-playing, storytelling leader of the children's program at the Wissahickon Valley Public Library. Her love of music and stories that she shared with children, along with her love of the arts, culture and shared human experiences, made her an inspiration to thousands over the years. Chair Koch read a proclamation recognizing Miss Michelle's years of service.

Mr. Pronczak continued with a review of the preliminary agenda for the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting which begins with consideration of Resolution No. 1488 supporting the enactment of the Responsible Contractor Ordinance, followed by the hearing on Ordinance No. 394, the Responsible Contractor's Ordinance. The ordinance is scheduled for advertisement and is available on our website. The Consent Agenda follows, including the approval of minutes, the Voucher List, Treasurer's Report and a resolution proclaiming April 21<sup>st</sup> as the 27<sup>th</sup> Earth Day in Whitpain Township. This is followed by authorization to advertise bids for the Erbs Mill Road and Blue Bell Woods Detention Basin retrofit projects, requests for waivers from Wissahickon School District and a possible resolution to extend outdoor dining for 90 days. Following the Consent Agenda, the Board will consider a lease agreement with the North Penn Valley Boys & Girls Club that involves 14 parcels of land on Maple Avenue acquired by the Township and where the temporary facility of the Boys & Girls Club is currently located. The Zoning Hearing Board cases follow, two of which will be continued. However, there are two minor residential applications and one non-residential for Alliance Partners for Parcel D on the former Unisys property at 795 Jolly Road. They are proposing four buildings, though they are asking for storage that exceeds the permitted square footage for which they will require variances, and also, they will have loading docks. The Planning Commission will review the applications next week, and at the next Board of Supervisors' meeting, you will have an opportunity to decide if you would like to request that the Solicitor appear in front of the Zoning Hearing Board to express any concerns the Board might have. The meeting will conclude with public comment followed by closing comments by the Supervisors. With no questions from the Board, Mr. Pronczak returned to the work session agenda.

The next item on tonight's agenda is a suggested amendment to the medical marijuana ordinance offered by a resident to provide additional restrictions. Our ordinance allows medical marijuana dispensaries in commercial districts, and we do have one in the Broad Axe Shopping Center on Skippack Pike near Butler Pike. Other municipalities, have provisions in their ordinances that prohibit on premise consumption, one being Abington

Township. Mr. Pronczak discussed this with Solicitor Clarke, and asked if it is something the Board would like to consider as an amendment to our ordinance. Supervisor Keller asked about the benefits to an amendment. Solicitor Clarke said an amendment will be consistent with state law which restricts use on dispensary property but is permitted in your home or other designated/permitted place. Chair Koch asked why it is necessary if state law stipulates this. Solicitor Clarke explained that it will avoid confusion and gives the Township the ability to enforce it as part of our regulations. Vice-Chair Minnick understands that we will move in this direction to be compliant with the law, though there are no similar regulations for pharmacy prescriptions being consumed on site. She wants to make sure all bases are covered and there will be no future associated problems. Solicitor Clarke clarified that the medical marijuana law has many restrictions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania not associated with the use of other drugs or narcotics that can be legally prescribed, including the proximity of the dispensary to schools and day care centers. The Board directed the Solicitor to evaluate the existing ordinance and make recommended amendments that could be considered.

Mr. Pronczak continued noting that WRA opening day for softball and baseball is on April 9<sup>th</sup>, and we usually start off by gathering at the Centre Square Fire Company around 8:30 a.m. and then the parade from the Centre Square Fire Company to the Township building begins at 9 a.m. There is a ceremony in the park and the event should be over by 10 a.m.

Chair Koch called for any closing comments prior to adjourning. Supervisor Keller thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for the outstanding job they have done to develop, create and maintain popular programs for residents to enjoy. In addition, she thanked them for working with Montgomery County and the CDC to make sure programs are executed in a safe and healthy manner. There are numerous programs offered for children as well as several for adults. She encourages all residents to review the programs on the Township website.

With no further discussion, a motion was made by Vice-Chair Minnick, seconded by Supervisor Campolongo to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Roman M. Pronczak, P.E.  
Township Manager

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