

WORK SESSION

May 7, 2019

A work session of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at the Whitpain Township Building, 960 Wentz Road, Blue Bell, PA at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the agenda of the May 7, 2019 Supervisors' meeting. Supervisors Frederick R. Conner, Adam D. Zucker, Anthony F. Greco, Kenneth F. Wollman, and Michele Minnick were present. Also present were Township Solicitor Robert J. Iannozzi, Esq., Township Special Counsel Scott M. Badami, Esq., Township Manager Roman M. Pronczak, Assistant Township Manager David J. Mrochko, Township Engineer James E. Blanch, P.E., Police Chief Kenneth Lawson, Director of Code Enforcement Michael McAndrew, Assistant Zoning Officer William H. McManus, Director of Finance Christine M. Bauman, Fire Marshal David M. Camarda, Director of Public Works Thomas Farzetta and Parks and Recreation Director Kurt W. Baker. One member of the public was present.

The Supervisors began the work session by reviewing the agenda for the meeting and discussing the Mission Moment, proposed Ordinance #373, approval of the Consent Agenda including the minutes of April 16th, the April Voucher List, authorization to sign agreements, waiver requests, Resolution Nos. 1283 through 1287, advertising proposed Ordinance #374, authorization to proceed with engineering services, authorization to sell surplus equipment and the acceptance of a resignation from the Shade Tree Commission. The Board also reviewed the May Zoning Hearing Board cases.

Mr. Pronczak continued the meeting by reminding Supervisors of several upcoming events, including:

- Annual Business Breakfast – Thursday, May 16 at 8:00 a.m. – Cedarbrook Country Club
- WRA Soccer Tournament – May 18th and 19th

The meeting continued with an announcement that the Wissahickon Valley Boys & Girls Club will host their annual dinner on May 23 at the William Penn Inn. Supervisors Conner, Zucker, Wollman, and Minnick indicated that they will attend however, Supervisor Greco was unable to commit to the event at this time.

The next topic discussed concerned a movie premier for “On the Wissahickon” at the Ambler Theater on May 14 at 7:00 p.m. The Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association contacted Mr. Pronczak to invite Supervisors.

Mr. Pronczak continued the meeting by discussing the possibility of the Township donating a flagpole and an accompanying plaque to the Daniel Dowling American Legion Post in West Ambler. Their current flagpole is nearing the end of its useful life and the Legion Post has generously provided meeting space for Township meetings in the

past. Supervisors Conner and Greco recused themselves from the conversation. The remaining Supervisors voiced no objection to the proposal.

The meeting continued with a reminder that Senator Leach will host a town hall meeting at the Township Building on May 23 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

The last topic discussed in the work session meeting concerned night time road closures for two PennDOT projects in Whitpain. The closures are as follows:

- North Wales Road and Township Line Road (south) May 13 – May 15 from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Arch Street Road and Township Line Rad – May 16 and May 17 from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

When discussion on this topic ended, Supervisors met in executive session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss matters of potential litigation. The executive session was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. when Supervisors left for the public meeting. When the public meeting ended, Supervisors resumed the executive session meeting at 8:30 p.m.


David J. Mrochko
Whitpain Township Assistant Manager

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The regular meeting of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors was held Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at the Township Administration Building, 960 Wentz Road, Blue Bell, PA. Chairman Frederick R. Conner, Jr., along with Supervisors Adam D. Zucker, Anthony F. Greco, Kenneth W. Wollman and Michele Minnick were present. Township Manager Roman M. Pronczak, P.E., Assistant Township Manager David J. Mrochko, Solicitor Robert J. Iannozzi, Esq., Police Chief Kenneth Lawson, Finance Director Christine M. Bauman, Code Enforcement Officer Michael E. McAndrew, Public Works Director Thomas Farzetta, Fire Marshal David M. Camarda, IT Assistant Robert Marcy, Engineer James E. Blanch, P.E., Parks and Recreation Director Kurt W. Baker and Recording Secretary Virginia Papale were also present. IT Director Nicole M. Leininger was absent. There were six members of the public at the meeting.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting was called to order at 8 p.m. by Chairman Conner.

Chairman Conner welcomed everyone and talked about the customary Mission Moment. As we focus on public safety, Chairman Conner welcomed Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele. Mr. Steele expressed his gratitude to the Board for the commitment made over an 18-month period for the priority work his department is facing in battling the opioid epidemic. In Montgomery County since 2016, 704 people have overdosed and died. Because of the work of the law enforcement community, including Whitpain Township, the number of deaths per year is trending down. Officer Rippert has been a stellar part of the solution of finding those who sell the drugs through his detailed investigations of overdose deaths while working with the Montgomery County Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement Team. Officer Rippert was responsible for 56 fatal overdose homicide investigations, as well as assisting with the investigation of others. Mr. Steele noted that Officer Rippert was an integral part of keeping the team safe. He presented Officer Rippert with a commendation and a plaque. Chairman Conner thanked the District Attorney and Chief Gallen for their time.

The second part of the Mission Moment is to recognize the Class of 1989 of Wissahickon High School as they celebrate their 30-year reunion. A proclamation specifying June 6, 2019 as Wissahickon High School Class of 1989 Day in Whitpain Township was read and presented to members of the Class of 1989 who were in attendance.

As advertised, the Board considered enactment of Ordinance No. 373, an ordinance amending the Township's Code Chapter 142 (Vehicles and Traffic) Article II (Traffic Regulations) Section 142-21 to repeal certain stop intersections. Chairman Conner asked Mr. Pronczak to summarize the ordinance. Mr. Pronczak noted that this is an unusual case where we are removing stop signs instead of adding. The two intersections are at Hickory Road and Hemlock Drive where the stop signs will be removed from Hickory Road, and Boxwood Drive at Hemlock Drive, where the stop signs will be removed from Boxwood Drive. If the Board approves the ordinance, signs will be posted to note that stop signs from the side streets have been removed. Mrs. Minnick asked if this is being done at the suggestion of the residents in the neighborhood. Mr. Pronczak confirmed that.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco, duly seconded by Mr. Zucker to enact Ordinance No. 373. There was no additional discussion and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Wollman, duly seconded by Mr. Zucker to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a. Minutes of the Board of Supervisors' meeting of April 16, 2019.
- b. April Voucher List in the amount of \$1,066,331.53, check sequence #66872 through #67122.
- c. Authorize the Chairman and Secretary to sign an Agreement for Determining Alluvial Floodplain Boundaries between Whitpain Township and Thomas J. and Maryann Messmer, owners of 720 Penllyn-Blue Bell Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422.
- d. License Agreement between Whitpain Township and Weddings by the Pond, LTD, pertaining to the property known as the Prophecy Creek Manor House. This amendment redefines the agreement between Robert Fair Caterers and Whitpain Township.
- e. Grant a waiver to Family Dining, Inc. from the requirement of preparing a land development plan to demolish and install curbing and associated site work to upgrade the menu boards at the Burger King located at 1760 Swede Road, conditioned upon the review and approval of the site plan and associated reports by the Township Engineer.
- f. Grant a waiver to the Buccini/Pollin Group from the requirement of preparing a land development plan to construct 81 new parking spaces and associated improvements at the BPG Office VI Union Meeting office building located at 1400 Union Meeting Road, conditioned upon the review and approval of the site plan and associated reports by the Township Engineer.
- g. Pass Resolution No. 1283 confirming the Chair and Secretary to sign on behalf of the Township a Deed (fee simple) between the PA Department of Transportation and Whitpain Township for the acquisition of right-of-way (7,695 sq. ft.) along Swede Road (SR 3008) and Township Line Road (SR3001). This acquisition is related to the SR 202 Section 610 roadway improvement project.
- h. Authorize the Township Manager to advertise Ordinance #374 amending the Township's Code Chapter 142 (Vehicles and Traffic) Article II (Traffic Regulations) Section 142-21 to add certain stop controls at the intersection of Stirling Way and Pulaski Drive.

- i. Authorize McMahon Associates to proceed with traffic signal construction services related to the Skippack Pike Corridor traffic Signal Improvement Project in accordance with their proposal dated February 13, 2019 at a cost not to exceed \$41,000 (Tasks include Preparation of Traffic Signal Design Plans, Traffic Signal Construction Plans & Bid Documents and Construction Coordination/Observation). The primary funding for this project is from PennDOT's Green Light Go Grant Program.
- j. Pass Resolution No. 1284 to participate in the TIPS Program for cooperative purchases for WRA-Centre Square Park.
- k. Pass Resolution No. 1285 authorizing the Township Manager to sign an Application for Traffic Signal Approval to be submitted to the PA Department of Transportation. The application is required in order to install a new traffic signal at the intersection of the new Centre Square Fire Company driveway with Skippack Pike.
- l. Pass Resolution No. 1286 authorizing the Township Manager to sign an Application for Traffic Signal Approval to be submitted to the PA Department of Transportation. The application is required in order to install modifications to the existing traffic signal located at the intersection of DeKalb Pike and Skippack Pike and this application is related to the PennDOT HOP for the Centre Square Fire Company driveway that intersects with Skippack Pike.
- m. Pass Resolution No. 1287 authorizing the Township Manager to sign an Application for Traffic Signal Approval to be submitted to the PA Department of Transportation. The application is required in order to install modifications to the existing traffic signal located at the intersection of Wentz Road, Parkwood Road and Skippack Pike and this application is related to the PennDOT HOP for the Centre Square Fire Company driveway that intersects with Skippack Pike.
- n. Authorize the sale of the following police surplus equipment on Municibid:
Level I bullet resistant glass, 1 ¼" thick in the following sizes:
(2) 47" x 56 ¼", (2) 34" x 56 ¼", (1) 24" x 56 ¼".
- o. Accept the resignation of David Kopp from the Shade Tree Commission and to appoint Vince Marrocco to fulfill the vacancy, with a term expiring December 31, 2020.

Chairman Conner called for any discussion, noting that he will recuse himself on the vote for Item (d). There was no discussion and the motion carried with Chairman Conner's recusal of Item (d) due to a personal conflict.

The Board took no action on the following Zoning Hearing Board cases scheduled to be heard on May 16th:

NO. 2193-19: AK JOLLY, LLC requests a variance from Article XXVI, Section 160-191.F related to Schedule of Sign Regulations which, if granted, will modify the Whitpain Township Zoning Hearing Board Decision No. 478-1985- entered on September 19, 1985 regarding its property located at 980 Jolly Rd., Blue Bell, PA in the Township's R-E Research and Engineering District. Applicant's requested relief, if granted, will permit Applicant to: (a) install four 96 square foot façade signs, two on each existing building, when the prior Zoning Hearing Board Decision allowed one 48 square foot sign on each of the two buildings and the Ordinance permits only one sign per building, each having a maximum square footage of 16 feet; and (b) install two 60 square foot ground signs on its property when the Ordinance permits only one ground sign per curb cut, each sign having a maximum square footage of forty feet; and (c) install four 8 square foot Directional Signs where 2 street frontages exist when the prior Zoning Hearing Board Decision allowed three 9 square foot Directional Signs and the Ordinance permits only two Directional Signs per street frontage, each sign having a maximum square footage of two feet.

NO. 2194-19: RISTORANTE CASTELLO, INC. requests a variance from Article XXVII, Section 160-192.B.2.j related to Required Off-Street Parking Facilities with respect to its property located at 721 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA in the Township's C-Commercial District. Applicant's requested relief, if granted, will permit Applicant to have 158 total parking spaces (of which 135 will be built and 23 held in reserve) when the Ordinance requires a total of 182 spaces.

Chairman Conner turned the meeting over to Vice-Chairman Zucker for public comment. There was none. He mentioned the wonderful ceremony that was held on May 4th to honor the memory of former Township Manager Phyllis Lieberman. Many people attended, and the dedication at the gazebo was fitting, as through the foresight of Phyllis, Wentz Run Park was developed. He thanked Kurt and his staff, the Park and Open Space Board and other Township staff for the wonderful program. It meant a lot to the Board and certainly to her family. Vice-Chairman Zucker called for any additional comments. Mr. Wollman noted that the Blue Bell Rotary assisted with the planting around the gazebo in preparation of the dedication. There were no additional comments.

Vice-Chairman Zucker called for any old or new business from the Board. There was none. He stated that the Board met in executive session to discuss a property maintenance matter on Sherwood Road, a request from Ambler Borough to form a water authority, the 813 Stonybrook Drive sober house matter, and legal issues regarding emergency access in a

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proposed development. The Board will retire to executive session to finish the discussion and to also discuss a personnel matter.

With no further comments, Vice-Chairman Zucker moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m., seconded by Chairman Conner.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony F. Greco
Secretary

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