

WORK SESSION

October 18, 2016

A work session of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 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 October 18, 2016 Supervisors' meeting. Chairman Adam D. Zucker was present with Supervisors Melissa M. Weber, Anthony F. Greco, Frederick R. Conner and Kenneth F. Wollman. Also present were Township Solicitor Frank R. Bartle, Esq., Township Manager Roman M. Pronczak, P.E., Township Engineer James E. Blanch, P.E., Assistant Township Manager David J. Mrochko, Director of Public Works Ronald J. Cione, Police Chief Kenneth Lawson, Director of Finance Christine M. Bauman, Director of Code Enforcement Michael McAndrew, Fire Marshal David M. Camarda, Parks and Recreation Director Kurt W. Baker, Assistant Finance Director Kellen D. Jarrett, and Administrative Intern Austin Calitro.

The Supervisors reviewed the agenda discussing the announcement of the budget work session schedule, Mission Moment, approval of the minutes of the October 5, 2016 Board of Supervisors' meeting, release of escrow funds, Resolutions #1143, 1144, and 1145, authorization to advertise Ordinance #4-243 and the October Zoning Hearing Board cases.

Mr. Pronczak continued the meeting by discussing the following list of events:

- Hayrides – Prophecy Creek Park – October 21 and 22
- History of the Liberty Bell Trolley: Whitpain's High Speed Rail – Presentation at the Planning Commission meeting on November 9 at 7:30 p.m.

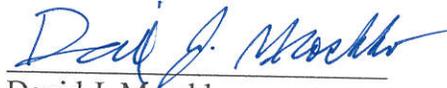
The meeting continued with a review of potential meeting dates for 2017. No action was taken to approve the meeting dates, but Mr. Pronczak asked the Supervisors to continue reviewing the list for potential scheduling conflicts.

The next topic discussed was a scheduling conflict with a budget work session that was advertised for November 3 at 8:30 a.m. After some discussion, the Board agreed to cancel the November 3 meeting and meet on November 9 instead.

The meeting continued with a brief discussion of the Police Department's proposed presentation to create a bicycle unit. The Supervisors agreed to start their November 1 work session meeting at 7:00 p.m., so two police officers can present the proposal to the Board.

The final topic discussed at the meeting was an update on the trail system. Mr. Baker briefly reviewed progress on Core Phase 1 of the Township's trail plan. As of October 18, the trail was 90% completed. Once the remaining work is completed, Whitpain Township, Lower Gwynedd Township and other outside agencies and organizations involved in the trail's design and development will host a formal trail opening. In the coming weeks, the Board will have to select a formal name for the trail.

When the work session meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m., the Supervisors left for the public meeting. When the public meeting ended, the Supervisors met in executive session to discuss personnel and litigation matters.



David J. Mrochko
Whitpain Township Assistant Manager

#17-2016
October 18, 2016

The regular meeting of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors was held at 8 p.m. Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at the Whitpain Township Building, 960 Wentz Road, Blue Bell, PA. Chairman Adam D. Zucker, along with Supervisors Melissa Murphy Weber, Anthony F. Greco, Frederick R. Conner, Jr., and Kenneth F. Wollman were present. Township Manager Roman M. Pronczak, P.E., Solicitor Frank R. Bartle, Esq., Assistant Township Manager David J. Mrochko, Police Chief Kenneth Lawson, Finance Director Christine M. Bauman, Public Works Director Ronald J. Cione, Code Enforcement Officer Michael E. McAndrew, Township Engineer James E. Blanch, P.E., Parks and Recreation Director Kurt W. Baker, Fire Marshal David M. Camarda, Administrative Intern Austin Calitro and Recording Secretary Virginia Papale were also present. There were 40 members of the public at the meeting.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance the meeting was called to order by Chairman Zucker. He asked for all to join in a Moment of Silence in honor of long-time Tax Collector Patty Nelson who recently passed away. Patty was the epitome of a public servant. She was appreciated by the Board, the staff and the residents for whom she went out of her way to serve, always with a kind word or good advice.

Chairman Zucker noted that the Board recently reaffirmed the Mission, Vision, Values statement. He called upon Supervisor Wollman to present this evening's Mission Moment.

Mr. Wollman welcomed the members of the Centre Square Fire Company, and noted that they were not the subject of his presentation. A few meetings back he mentioned member Matt Kozeniewski, who epitomizes exactly what we're looking for in our young people today. As with each meeting, we note that our Mission and Values guide us with decision-making. In speaking with members of the CSFC, the Board and Township staff, a decision was made to honor Matt with the Whitpain Township Good Citizenship Award. Matt chooses to spend his time impressively with his many volunteer accomplishments. His values align with those of the Township, which is a great thing. We are proud to have him as a part of the Whitpain family.

A presentation, "Emergency Guide for Parents" was given by Dr. James Crisfield, Superintendent of the Wissahickon School District (WSD). He was joined by Administrator Wade Coleman. Over the past year and one-half, the WSD enhanced its ability to communicate with families. Emergency Services personnel are fully integrated within the schools. It is impossible to overemphasize the relationship with Chief Lawson and his police officers, who are in the schools all of the time. He publicly thanked Chief Lawson and the Department for the personal communications they have. They are an amazing, positive part of the WSD. They are truly a team. Chief Lawson noted that his promotion to Chief and Dr. Crisfield's tenure with WSD began at nearly the same time. Dr. Crisfield reached out to him and together they have promoted many safety programs. Mr. Conner added that the WSD has been the subject of several tabletop exercises; we are prepared in case of emergency. He

also congratulated them on the Blue Ribbon High School designation. Mr. Conner thanked Dr. Crisfield, the School Board and staff for their hard work and our partnership on so many different levels. Chairman Zucker also noted the importance of our partnership with the WSD, and he thanked Dr. Crisfield for his kind words about the Chief and the PD. Mr. Wollman shared that his children have been part of the WSD, and he thanked them for the work they do.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco, duly seconded by Mr. Wollman to approve the minutes of the Board of Supervisors' meeting of October 5, 2016. Chairman Zucker called for any discussion. There was none and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Conner, duly seconded by Mrs. Weber to authorize the final release of all remaining funds from the escrow fund for the 319 Maple Avenue subdivision and land development project located at 319 Maple Avenue (S-02-14). A maintenance bond to guarantee the public improvements has been posted for a period of 18 months. Chairman Zucker called for any discussion. There was none and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco, duly seconded by Mr. Wollman to approve Resolution No. 1143 accepting Deed of Dedication for certain right-of-way along Maple Avenue in connection with the completion and dedication of the 319 Maple Avenue development. Chairman Zucker called for any discussion. There was none and them motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco, duly seconded by Mrs. Weber to adopt Resolution No. 1144 authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign an Application for Traffic Signal Approval to be submitted to the Pennsylvania 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 Swede Road. Chairman Zucker called for any discussion. There was none and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Weber, duly seconded by Mr. Wollman to adopt Resolution No. 1145 authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign an Application for Traffic Signal Approval to be submitted to the Pennsylvania 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 Yost Road. Chairman Zucker called for any discussion. There was none and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco, duly seconded by Mr. Conner to authorize the Township Manager to advertise Ordinance #4-243, an Ordinance amending the Township's Zoning Ordinance to amend Article XXV (FP Floodplain Conservation District) by making provision for (1) definition for hydric soil under Section 230-167; and (2) amending Section 160-168(b)(3) to include floodplains defined by hydric soil as part of the locally derived information assisting in community-identified flood hazard areas. Chairman Zucker called for any discussion. There was none and the motion carried.

The Board took no action on the following Zoning Hearing Board cases scheduled for October 20, 2016:

#2086-16	Kyle Boyd
#2089-16	David and Heather Serrao
#2090-16	Einstein Healthcare Network
#2091-16	David and Karen Grossberg

Mr. Pronczak commenced with the first presentation of the 2017 Budget, thanking all staff involved with the budget presentation process. He restated the mission of Whitpain Township, which is to efficiently, responsibly and creatively provide essential services that build value, enhance the quality of life, and protect the health, safety and rights for all who live in, work in and enjoy Whitpain.

Major accomplishments and initiatives for 2016 included the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, breaking ground for the Centre Square Fire Company's new firehouse, continued sustainability efforts, the dedication of Steuer Woods and the opening of the Dog Park, establishment of the Traffic Task Force, continued fiscal recognition, initiation of the redesign of the Township's website, recognition of community partners and citizens, and preservation of historic buildings.

The new firehouse is scheduled to open in 2017. The Township assisted with funding the project by allocating \$2.15 million from the Capital Reserve budget toward the \$4 million project. The CSFC will fund the remainder with their reserves and fundraising. Sustainability efforts include the completion of the retrofit of the Village Circle Detention Basin, expanded programs of the Shade Tree Commission, and a Gold-level certification from the Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association. We received certifications previous to 2016, although this is the first Gold. With the dedication of Steuer Woods which is part of Centre Square Park, longtime Shade Tree Commission Chairman Joe Steuer will be remembered for his dedication to the Township and the environment. The opening of the dog park is the result of many staff and volunteer hours in planning. Work is ongoing to complete preservation efforts at the 1895 School House, including restoration of the building's stucco, new storm drains, upgraded electrical service and installation of energy efficient doors. A summary of the strategic planning meeting attended by the Board and staff includes mitigation of traffic congestion, assessment of the sanitary sewer system and infrastructure, developing a long-term financial plan, performing essential functions including public safety, environmental compliance, community planning and development, communication and infrastructure maintenance, in addition to enhancing quality of life improvements in West Ambler. Much of what is accomplished is through a committee and sub-committee structure, which includes Finance, Pension, Emergency Services, Operations and Personnel.

In reviewing revenue and expenditure trends through 2021, it is expected that expenditures will be slightly higher than revenues in 2020. The Capital Reserve Fund could go negative beyond 2017 and the Debt Service Fund will grow after 2017 due to the payoff of previous debt. We are working on a long-range plan to bridge the gap between the two funds. There is no tax increase proposed for 2017; the millage rate remains at 3.2 mills. The median Township tax bill is \$723, based on an average residential assessment of \$226,000. Whitpain Township's tax rate is the fifth lowest in Montgomery County, which is achieved without a business privilege or mercantile tax. The Board, staff and committee members continually evaluate the budget and Township operations for improved efficiency and cost-containment. Major recommendations for 2017 include a one-time transfer to the Open Space Fund from unanticipated real estate transfer tax revenue, along with transfers from the Fire Tax Fund to Capital Reserve to replenish monies allocated for Centre Square Fire Company's new station, funding of a walkability study per recommendations during the Comp Plan Town Hall meetings, and investing in professional services to help secure more revenue through grants.

Mr. Pronczak concluded his presentation, noting upcoming budget work sessions are scheduled for October 25th and November 9th at 8:30 a.m. in Meeting Room "A" of the Township building. The session originally scheduled for November 3rd will not be held. At the November 1, 2016 Board of Supervisors' meeting, the Board will authorize advertising to make the 2017 Budget available for public inspection. Public comment will be taken at the November 1st and November 15th meetings. It is anticipated that the 2017 Budget will be adopted on December 6th.

Chairman Zucker turned the meeting over to Vice-Chairman Weber who asked if any member of the audience had public comment. There was none. Mrs. Weber noted that the Board will retire to executive session to discuss a matter of potential litigation. Additionally, hayrides will be held at Prophecy Creek Park October 21 and 22, and a presentation to the Planning Commission on the History of the Liberty Bell Trolley will be made at its November 9th meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Weber asked if any Board member had new business, questions or comments. There were no further comments by the Board and Vice-Chairman Weber moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony F. Greco
Secretary