
MINUTES

September 8, 2025
Regular Public Meeting

Board of Commissioners

Township of Whitehall

A. CALL TO ORDER

- 1) The Regular Public Meeting of the Whitehall Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 8, 2025 held at the Whitehall Township Public Meeting Room, with the following in attendance:

COMMISSIONERS

Thomas Slonaker, President
Jeffrey J. Warren, Vice President
Randy Atiyeh, Secretary
Alberta Scarfaro (Absent)
Ken Snyder
Elizabeth N. Fox
Philip J. Ginder

TOWNSHIP PERSONNEL

Joseph J. Marx, Jr., Mayor
John D. Meyers, Deputy Mayor
Jack Gross, Esq., Township Solicitor
Michael Marks, Police Chief
Mark Bilder, Fire Chief (Absent)
Frank J. Clark, Engineer, KCE
Lee Rackus, PZ&D
Tina J. Koren, Tax Collector
Larissa Bruder, Executive Secretary

The meeting was formally opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence for the men and women serving in harms way at home and abroad.

President SLONAKER read the statement on fair housing as required.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner WARREN moved, seconded by Commissioner SNYDER to approve the Minutes of the following meeting:

Regular Public Meeting – August 11, 2025

Commissioner WARREN motioned that the minutes be amended to include, as an exhibit, the Courtesy of the Floor statement submitted by Karen Poshefko, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH. Six Commissioners were present and three voting “yes” (Warren, Atiyeh & Fox) and two voting “no” (Snyder & Ginder) and one abstention (Slonaker).

Six Commissioners were present and four voted “yes” and one voting “no” (Snyder) and one Abstention (Slonaker). Motion carried to approve the amended August 11, 2025 Minutes.

B. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Mei Hong of 1987 Schadt Avenue advised that the Korean Church will be holding a festival on October 18th from 11:00am to 3:00pm where food and games will be offered and customs will be celebrated. They are asking for volunteers and donations of baskets and for the community to come and enjoy.

Susan Barthol of 3046 Birch Street South commented how great it has been to see the police officers making such a presence in the Township and the few she has encountered are taking the time to stop and chat or even a wave as they drive by makes a big difference. She also commended Commissioner WARREN on an act of kindness for helping her neighbor getting her totes to the curb for pickup.

David Rice of 1626 Harding Circle noted that kudos be given to who is responsible for placing the speed sign indicators on east bound Presidential Drive as he has noticed a big difference in speeding by motorists. He asks that consideration be given to place one on west bound as well. He also asked that consideration be given to pedestrian crossings on MacArthur Road to make it safe to cross as numerous retail areas are located on the opposite side. Mayor MARX stated that the speed sign indicators are part of his Mayor's Initiative and plans on getting more indicators and will continue the program.

Laxmikant Rode of 1645 Harding Circle asked that the basketball courts at the Peachtree Playground be refurbished and also concerned with condition of roadway at 6th St & Mickley and high grass at the 6th Street bypass and Sumner Avenue. He also agrees with Mr. Rice regarding the speed sign indicators. Mayor MARX advised that he will look into the roadway concerns.

C. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON ORDINANCES

1. BILL NO. 32-2025

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FOR PURCHASE, UPGRADE AND INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL UPGRADES AT THE PARKVIEW POOL AND TENNIS COURTS FOR THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 3.20 IN THE HOME RULE CHARTER WHICH REQUIRES AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITIONS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000 BY ORDINANCE. (RECREATION)

President SLONAKER read Bill No. 32-2025 to the Board.

Commissioner GINDER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FOX

Commissioner GINDER verified the timeline with Deputy Mayor MEYERS.

SIX Commissioners were present and voting "yes". Bill No 32-2025 was approved.

2. BILL NO. 34-2025 (FIRST HEARING)

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP BY REZONING AN APPROXIMATELY 1.235 ACRE PARCEL OWNED

BY CATAWBA ASSOCIATES-ALLENTOWN, LLC FROM OP, OFFICE PARK, TO C-2,
REGIONAL/COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL

President SLONAKER read Bill No. 34-2025 to the Board.

No action taken on this item.

D. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 3392

TITLE: A RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE AREY LANE
MINOR SUBDIVISION, LOCATED AT 2033 AREY LANE, INDEX #2059-25A

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3392 to the Board.

Commissioner GINDER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner ATIYEH

Commissioner SNYDER stated his disappointment on how the Developer disregarded Township regulations with this development and in turn costing the Township staff put in an overwhelming amount of time on this issue which is something we will not get reimbursed for. Despite that, he feels that this situation has been resolved to the best interest of everyone involved. Commissioner WARREN verified that all recreation fees have been paid.

SIX Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3392 was approved.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 3393

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP, AUTHORIZING THE
REVISION OF THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED REGIONAL ACT 537 PLAN

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3393 to the Board.

Commissioner GINDER moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner SNYDER

SIX Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3393 was approved.

3. RESOLUTION NO. 3394

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF WHITEHALL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, RECOMMENDING
ANTONIO (TONY) CIMEROL FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE TOWNSHIP
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

President SLONAKER read Resolution No. 3394 to the Board.

Commissioner WARREN moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner FOX

SIX Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Resolution No. 3394 was approved

E. OTHER

MOTIONS

1. MOTION – to designate Friday, October 31, 2025, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, as the official Trick or Treat night in Whitehall Township with a rain date of Saturday, November 1, 2025.

Commissioner WARREN would like to see the Township and the School District work together on scheduling this event as he feels it should accommodate families that have students involved in school activities on the same night.

SIX Commissioners were present and voting “yes”. Motion was approved.

At this time, Commissioner WARREN made a motion to move forward with an official Traffic Calming Study of Water Street from Lehigh Street to Eberhart Road using the resources of PennDOT’s Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) consistent with their traffic calming handbook and using an engineer with extensive experience designing traffic calming measures, seconded by Commissioner FOX.

Commissioner SNYDER asked if funds have been approved for this study. Commissioner WARREN stated that the Township can petition PennDOT to refer it to LTAP. LVPC is the recommending body to the State and if the municipality requests it, they then set up a community meeting where all parties review the area. LTAP will then provide a report containing their recommendations. From there, that report can be used as a springboard to apply for grants for use for a formal design. With going through this process PennDOT is already involved. If funds are needed, Commissioner WARREN would like to see it in the 2026 Budget, as he feels that the Township provided \$30,000 to review a recreation building and the Water Street issue is important enough to spend the same. He also noted that the funds could come from the liquid fuels account. Attorney Gross noted that you cannot appropriate money by a Motion. Commissioner SNYDER has concerns regarding the legality of discussing and acting on this situation, at this time. Attorney GROSS advised that if the motion is intended to ask the Administration to investigate moving forward with a traffic study, that can be done via a Motion and without being on the agenda. If the intent is to have the Board authorize an action, that would need to be on the agenda. Commissioner GINDER questioned where do we stand now with what’s already in progress with the closure of the road. Mayor MARX stated he is asking for the Board’s support in the temporary closure of Water Street for the following reasons: pending litigation, school district unwilling to provide a bus stop on Water Street, road does not meet township standards, consulting and traffic engineers do not recommend traffic calming devices as the township becomes liable if an event would happen because of those devices. A lot of thought went into the temporary closure. He received numerous videos from residents such as tractor trailers traversing the area which are not allowed, cars passing cars doing the speed limit. Once the temporary closure takes place, the children will have safe passage to a bus stop that will be located at Eberhart and Lehigh Street, just outside the gate on Water Street, which the School District has agreed to. The area will be clearly marked and there will be a two week notice of the closure. Detour signs have already been put in place. There is an additional 3-5 minutes that will be incurred because of the detour. Mayor MARX believes that this temporary closure is necessary to assure that there is safe means of travel while other traffic calming measures are explored. He added that Police, Fire and EMS are all onboard and GPS systems have been notified that this is a closed road. The gate was donated by a resident and there have been minimal engineering and signage costs. As Mayor, he has been tasked with keeping the residents of this Township safe and he is doing his very best to do so. Commissioner WARREN asked that his motion move forward in conjunction with the Mayor’s request of temporarily closing Water Street and moving forward with obtaining a traffic calming study. Commissioner FOX agreed that this study is necessary. Commissioner SNYDER believes that there are

some legal questions he would like answered before moving forward and he requested Commissioner WARREN withdraw his Motion so that details can be discussed and come back next month with whatever action is deemed necessary. Commissioner WARREN added that LVPC stated that liability is less likely to be an issue as long as the design meets and conforms to the traffic calming plan. Commissioner GINDER stated that he believes the Board should support the temporary closure while other traffic calming methods are investigated, most importantly so the children have a safe way to get to a bus stop. As Commissioner ATIYEH does agree with moving forward with a traffic calming study, he also noted that he took offense that Commissioner WARREN implied in earlier remarks that the Board is not supportive of his suggestion. Commissioner WARREN replied he is looking to formalize the steps forward after the temporary closure. Commissioner WARREN stated that he thought this was moving forward since February and eight months later it is no further along. Commissioner ATIYEH believes that was the intent. Commissioner WARREN also believes that it would have been beneficial to try other traffic calming methods while the road was open. Attorney GROSS advised again what constitutes a Motion and what the Board can vote on. He also noted that to discuss this motion does not constitute an executive session, only a legal matter does. Attorney GROSS reconfirmed that the Mayor has the power to temporarily close a township road with no formal action. After further discussion, Commissioner WARREN withdrew his motion, as well as Commissioner FOX withdrawing her second.

F. REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Commissioner SNYDER attended a meeting regarding at Jefferson Street building regarding the scope of work. There will be a meeting regarding Schadt Avenue park partnership with private enterprise. Meeting with North Whitehall and ev's regarding regulations. Police Report 200 tickets and 400 warnings and last year there where only 200 warnings.

Commissioner GINDER stated that the LVPC did a check presentation for 1.5 million dollars to complete the DCNR trail from Wood Street to Race Street that will hopefully be completed in the next two years.

Commissioner WARREN advised that the Hunger Initiative is doing tremendous work on food insecurity. The garden had another successful year. A grant was secured for an irrigation system. Lastly, for pedestrian safety, he would like to try to obtain a grant to have sidewalks installed on Mickley Road from Olympic Drive to park area.

Commissioner ATIYEH noted that the work done at the Jefferson Street playground looks great and has seen an increase in families utilizing it. He also agrees with Commissioner WARREN regarding the working on sidewalk installation on Mickley Road.

Commissioner FOX noted supporting 9/11 observance. She also noted that there will be a basket raffle for the Haunted Parkway and basket donations are needed and as well for the Korean Festival.

President SLONAKER advised tentative dates for budget hearings will be October 27th, 28th and 29th and needs to know if that is a conflict for any of the Commissioners.

Commissioner WARREN took this time to tell Mayor MARX that he does respect his right and supports his decision on the temporary closure of Water Street. He, along with Commissioner FOX and SLONAKER feel that the school district needs to reevaluate their position on a bus stop/transportation.

Treasurer KOREN stated that she submitted her monthly report to the Board. All monies have been distributed. Copies of account balances have been provided as well as business privilege from Berkheimer.

Mayor MARX advised that he participated in the Torpedo Dedication at the Egypt VFW. It was very well attended by people from all over the country and the memorial is incredible. There is a lot of history to learn and we owe tremendous gratitude to the people who served. He also noted the completion of the playground installation at the Jefferson Street playground and thanked Senator MILLER for providing the dollars to make this a success. The trailhead project will be completed in the month of October. The fencing has been replaced on the west end and the east fence will be completed by the end of the week. He will be reaching out to Vo-tech, who originally put up the cupolas on the grove area, to see if they'd be interested in refreshing them. Lastly, he thanked the lifeguards and pool managers as they did a great job this summer and the Parkview Pool buildings are being painted.

- * President SLONAKER announced that the Board will be going into an Executive Session regarding a legal matter.

G. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Commissioner WARREN moved, seconded by Commissioner FOX to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.