

#05-2021  
WORK SESSION  
March 2, 2021 – 6 p.m.

A virtual work session of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 6 p.m. for the purpose of updating the public on several matters and reviewing the agenda of the March 16, 2021 Supervisors' meeting. Supervisors Kimberly J. Koch, Frederick R. Conner, Jeffrey Campolongo, and Joyce M. Keller were present. Also present were Township Solicitor Michael P. Clarke, Esq., Township Solicitor Alexander M. Glassman, 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, Finance Director Christine M. Bauman, Director of Public Works Thomas Farzetta, IT Director Nicole M. Leininger, Human Resources Director Kathleen Yackin, Fire Marshal David M. Camarda, and Parks and Recreation Director Kurt W. Baker. There were two attendees who joined the meeting.

IT Director Nicole Leininger gave an overview of the process for participants, then turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair Kimberly Koch.

Vice-Chair Koch began the work session noting Chair Minnick was absent as she is managing a family loss. She then asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice-Chair Koch announced that on February 16, 2021 the Board met in executive session to discuss a personnel matter. She then turned the meeting over to Township Manager Roman Pronczak to review the draft agenda for the March 16, 2021 business meeting.

Mr. Pronczak, in an additional announcement, mentioned that an item previously planned for this evening to present an update on the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan has been postponed until the first meeting in April.

Mr. Pronczak then reviewed the preliminary draft agenda which includes the recognition of several members of the Police Department who were promoted to Sergeant, including Det. Wittig, and Officers Rippert and Gallagher, but could not be recognized until now, and also recognizing Officer Shaun Beitler who was named Squad Officer of the Year, a very nice honor.

The Consent Agenda includes approval of the Board of Supervisors' meeting minutes of February 16 and March 2, 2021, the February Voucher List, January Treasurer's Report, Resolution Nos. 1433 through 1436 (March Declarations of Emergency), Resolution No. 1437 (Arbor/Earth Day), Resolution No. 1438 (PA Safe Digging Month), extension of a previously approved land development waiver to Wings Field, authorization for the Solicitor to draft an ordinance to allow limited projections into perimeter setbacks in R-3 zoning, approval of The Hartford Group Benefits as vendor for life and disability benefits and tax assessment appeals, which will be included in your packets before the next meeting.

Mr. Pronczak said that in talking with Kurt Baker, the celebrations planned for Arbor/Earth day will be modified while keeping up with several traditions. He also explained that the waiver extension for Wings Field was requested due to the construction delays caused by COVID-19, and the proposed ordinance for limited projections into setbacks will cover the Steeplechase and Highgate communities where the R-3 zoning requires a 100-ft. setback from other residential properties. All of the primary structures within the district are more than the required 100 feet, however some patios and decks would extend slightly into the setbacks. This ordinance, if enacted, will allow minor intrusions into the setback, and a zoning text amendment will be recommended and coordinated with the homeowners' associations. Additionally, DVIT coordinated with the Hartford Group Benefits for better rates with municipal and school clients, which is a result of a larger member pool and will save us approximately \$57,000.

Also reviewed on the preliminary agenda were the Zoning Hearing Board applications scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>. One application, #2274-21 – 1533 Skippack Pike, is a bit challenging as it is residentially zoned, though previous variances allowed non-residential usage with a required buffer from neighboring residential properties. The proposed plan shows a driveway being constructed through the buffer, which will diminish the effects of the buffer. Mr. Pronczak is confident that the Zoning Hearing Board can incorporate some type of requirements that a buffer be established, or a type of screening be provided from the residential neighbors. Mr. Pronczak added that by our March 16<sup>th</sup> business meeting, the Board will have the benefit of having received the Planning Commission recommendations.

The Board will then discuss any old or new business after public comment.

Mr. Pronczak asked if there were any questions or comments. Supervisor Campolongo offered respects on behalf of the Board to colleague Michele Minnick. There were no further comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m. by Vice-Chair Koch.

Respectfully submitted,



Roman M. Pronczak, P.E.  
Township Manager

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