

## WORK SESSION

June 20, 2017

A work session of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 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 June 20, 2017 Supervisors' meeting. Board Chair Melissa M. Weber was present with Supervisors Kenneth F. Wollman, Anthony F. Greco, Adam D. Zucker, and Frederick R. Conner. 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, Police Lieutenant Jeff Franck, Director of Finance Christine M. Bauman, Director of Code Enforcement Michael McAndrew, Fire Marshal David M. Camarda, Director of Public Works Ronald J. Cione, and Parks and Recreation Director Kurt W. Baker.

The Supervisors reviewed the agenda discussing the Mission Moment, the Consent Agenda including approval of the May 17, 2017 Board of Supervisors' minutes, the minutes of the Elected Auditors joint meeting with the Board on May 17<sup>th</sup>, the May Voucher List, the April Treasurer's Report, a Memorandum of Understanding and Lease Agreement with the Boys & Girls Club, an extension of Conditional Use approval, authorization to advertise Ordinance No. 359 and No. 360, authorization of the release of funds, authorization to advertise for bids for various improvement projects, approval of engineering services for various safety and improvement projects, approval of Resolution No. 1178 and No. 1179, authorization to advertise a public notice regarding pollution reduction, authorization to execute an Agreement for the Montco 2040 Grant Fund Program, acceptance of a resignation from the Park and Open Space Board, appointments to the Park and Open Space Board and the Planning Commission.

After reviewing the agenda for the public meeting, the Supervisors discussed a listing of upcoming events, including:

- Whitpain Parks and Recreation Department; Centre Square Fire Company; and Whitpain Police Association Golf Outing – June 26 – Blue Bell Country Club
- Concert – The Uptown Band – June 29 – 7:00 p.m.
- Movie – Finding Dory – July 11 – Dusk
- Big Rig Round-Up – Wentz Run Park – July 14 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.
- Concert – Wissahickon Pops – July 18 – 7:00 p.m.
- Concert – Digital Getdown – July 27 – 7:00 p.m.
- Movie – Lego Batman – August 1 – Dusk
- Boys & Girls Club Interim Facility Ribbon Cutting/Open House – Maple Avenue August 15 – 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Concert – Amish Outlaws – August 10 – 7:00 p.m.
- Vintage Motorcycle Daze – Wentz Run Park – August 12 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Drive-In Movie Beauty and the Beast – September 18 – Dusk


- WRA Soccer Opening Day Parade – September 9 – Yost Road
- Boys & Girls Club Grand Opening – September 18 – 2:30 p.m.
- Community Festival – September 23 – starts at 11:00 a.m. and fireworks begin at 8:00 p.m. (one hour earlier this year)

The next topic discussed was an update on survey results collected from participants at the Whitpain Business Breakfast. Ten questions were asked in the survey and feedback was positive. Survey respondents indicated that future Business Breakfasts should be held as information discussed at the meeting was helpful and important to the business community.

Mr. Pronczak continued the meeting by discussing the WRA Soccer Opening Day parade. Currently, there is only a parade for WRA baseball participants in the spring, but it was suggested that a similar event should be held for participants of the soccer program. Two potential parade routes were examined and it is recommended that participants begin at St. Helena's Church parking lot, march down Yost Road, and then enter Centre Square Park to conclude the parade. This proposed route is 0.62 miles.

Mr. Pronczak concluded the meeting by discussing the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The EAB is a beetle that feeds on – and decimates – ash trees. Whitpain, like many other municipalities in the region and throughout parts of the country are dealing with this issue. Based on a recommendation from the Shade Tree Commission, Mr. Pronczak discussed the possibility of having trees in active Township parks examined by an expert to determine the extent of damage caused by the EAB. Once this evaluation is completed, options to protect and/or remove damaged trees will be evaluated.

When discussion on this topic ended at 7:59 p.m., Supervisors left for the public meeting. When the public meeting ended, Supervisors met in executive session at 9:10 p.m. to discuss a legal matter.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David J. Mrochko  
Whitpain Township Assistant Manager

#11-2017  
June 20, 2017

The regular meeting of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors was held Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at the Whitpain Township Building, 960 Wentz Road, Blue Bell, PA. Chair Melissa Murphy Weber, along with Supervisors Kenneth F. Wollman, Anthony F. Greco, Frederick R. Conner, Jr. and Adam D. Zucker were present. Township Manager Roman M. Pronczak, P.E., Solicitor Frank R. Bartle, Esq., Assistant Township Manager David J. Mrochko, Police Lt. Jeffrey Franck, Township Engineer James E. Blanch, P.E., Code Enforcement Officer Michael E. McAndrew, Fire Marshal David M. Camarda, Parks and Recreation Director Kurt W. Baker, Finance Director Christine M. Bauman, Public Works Director Ronald J. Cione and Recording Secretary Virginia Papale were also present. Police Chief Kenneth Lawson was absent. There were 100 members of the public at the meeting.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance the meeting was called to order at 8 p.m. by Chair Weber who welcomed those in attendance. The passing of Robert Henry Whittock was announced and a moment of silence was held in his honor. Chair Weber noted that Mr. Whittock was recently named as the Township's Honorary Historian. He provided a wealth of information to the Township from the earliest years, and participated in many of the Township's activities. He will be missed.

Chair Weber announced that the Second Alarmers Rescue Squad (SARS) achieved the 2017 Mission: Lifeline<sup>®</sup> EMS Gold Plus Level Recognition Award given by the American Heart Association for the care it delivered in 2016.

As per tradition, the meeting continued with the Mission Moment. Chair Weber turned the meeting over to Mr. Conner who announced that our first acknowledgement of the evening goes to the Centre Square Fire Company in recognition of those who received awards at the annual banquet. Resolution No. 1177 was read. A motion was made by Mrs. Weber, duly seconded by Mr. Greco to pass Resolution No. 1177. The motion passed unanimously and the Resolution was presented to the members of Centre Square Fire Company.

Chair Weber then turned the meeting over to Mr. Zucker for the second Mission Moment of honoring McCaffrey's Food Market. Mr. Zucker welcomed the Blue Bell Store Manager, David Saitta. When the McCaffrey owners first came to the Township, they asked how they could get involved in the community. In reviewing our Mission, Vision, Values Statement and the value of Partnership, McCaffrey's has become a true partner with Whitpain Township. Mr. Zucker read a Proclamation recognizing McCaffrey's for its involvement in the community and its support of the Centre Square Fire Company. It was presented to Mr. Saitta.

Chair Weber followed with Proclamations that were read and presented to WRA Travel Soccer Teams Whitpain U14 Boys Warriors Black, U10 Girls Wings, U10 Boys FC and the WissLAX PAGLA 5/6A Lacrosse Team. Chair Weber commended each of the teams for their character, sportsmanship and teamwork, in addition to praising each of the coaches for their participation with and dedication to the children.

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

- a. the minutes of the May 17, 2017 Board of Supervisors' meeting.
- b. to approve the minutes of the Elected Auditors joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors of May 17, 2017.
- c. to approve the May 2017 Voucher List in the amount of \$884,980.52, check sequence #61111 through #61359.
- d. to approve the April 2017 Treasurer's Report.
- e. to approve a Memorandum of Understanding and a Lease Agreement between Whitpain Township and the North Penn Valley Boys & Girls Club t/a the Wissahickon Valley Boys & Girls Club.
- f. to confirm an extension of Conditional Use Approval to Korman Communities/Corporate Rental Suite, in accordance with Section 160-241 of the Whitpain Township Zoning Ordinance for six months to December 19, 2017.
- g. to authorize the Township Manager to advertise Ordinance No. 359, an Ordinance amending the Township's Code, Chapter 142 (Vehicles and Traffic), Article IV (Stopping, Standing and Parking) Section 142-37 (Special Purpose Parking Zones) to establish three new special purpose parking zones located at 338 W. Maple Avenue, 450 Railroad Avenue and across from 337 W. Maple Avenue in front of 336 W. Maple Avenue.
- h. to authorize the final release of all remaining funds from the escrow fund for the Red Fox Farm subdivision project located at 1895 Skippack Pike (S-3-11). A maintenance bond to guarantee the public improvements has been posted for a period of 18 months.
- i. to authorize the advertisement of proposed Ordinance No. 360, an ordinance amending Chapter 129 of the Code of Whitpain Township, also known as the Subdivision and Land Development Code of Whitpain Township to clarify the woodland canopy requirements.

- j. to authorize the Township Manager to advertise bids for the Butler Pike and Skippack Pike Intersection Improvement Project.
- k. to authorize the Township Manager to advertise bids for the West Ambler Sidewalk Improvement Project (Phase II).
- l. to approve Resolution No. 1178 accepting the Deeds of Dedication for certain rights-of-way and Temporary Construction Easements along Mount Pleasant Avenue in connection with the completion and dedication of the public sidewalk and retaining wall along Mount Pleasant Avenue in West Ambler. The approval is conditioned upon a review of the final Deeds and TCEs by the Township Solicitor.
- m. to authorize McMahon Associates to proceed with engineering services related to Traffic Signal Design Services for pedestrian improvements at the intersection of Norristown Road, Stenton Avenue and Narcissa Road in accordance with their proposal dated June 7, 2017 at a cost not to exceed \$10,700 (Tasks #1, #2 and #3).
- n. to authorize McMahon Associates to proceed with the additional engineering services in order to prepare contract/bid documents, attend meetings and conduct utility coordination related to the intersection improvements at Butler Pike and Skippack Pike in accordance with their extra work authorization form dated May 31, 2017 at a cost not to exceed \$15,800 (Tasks #6, #7 and #8).
- o. to authorize McMahon Associates to proceed with engineering services related to Traffic Signal and ADA Design Services at the intersection of Walton Road (SR3012) and Township Line Road (SR3001)/Norristown Road (SR 3001) in accordance with their proposal dated May 11, 2017 at a cost not to exceed \$12,500 (Tasks #1, #2 and #3).
- p. to authorize McMahon Associates to proceed with engineering services related to the Narcissa Road Pedestrian Crossing at the Blue Bell Woods Community in accordance with their proposal dated June 15, 2017 at a cost not to exceed \$5,450 (Tasks #1 and #2).
- q. to authorize Chambers Associates to proceed with professional engineering and surveying services related to the WVB&GC facility located at 250 Maple Avenue in accordance with their proposal dated June 14, 2017 at a cost not to exceed \$18,500 (Tasks A through G).
- r. to adopt Resolution No. 1179 to approve Minor Subdivision plans titled "Engro – Burke Avenue Lot Line Adjustment Plan for 1422 Daws Road/1651 Burke Avenue", Sheets 1 of 2 through 2 of 2, prepared by Robert E. Blue Consulting Engineers, plans dated May 2, 2017 in accordance with Section

509(b) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code conditioned upon review and approval by the Township Solicitor and resolution of items in the review letter from the Township Engineer dated May 31, 2017.

- s. to authorize the Township Manager to advertise a public notice regarding Whitpain Township's Stony Creek, Saw Mill Run, Mermaid Run and Plymouth Creek Pollution Reduction Plans (PRP). A public meeting will be held on July 13, 2017 to discuss the PRPs which are required to meet 2018 PA DEP MS4 Permit Requirements.
- t. to appoint Kyle Speece to the Planning Commission as Alternate #3, with a term expiring December 31, 2020.
- u. to accept the resignation of Amy Fruncillo from the Park and Open Space Board.
- v. to appoint Joseph Fay to the Park and Open Space Board to fulfill the vacancy with a term expiring December 31, 2017.
- w. to authorize the Township Manager to execute the Agreement for the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant Fund Program between Whitpain Township and Montgomery County for the Pedestrian Crossing at Township Line and Walton Roads.

Chair Weber called for any discussion. Mr. Conner commented on the undertaking with the North Penn Valley Boys & Girls Club, where modular buildings will be located on Maple Avenue for the interim clubhouse housing 90 children from the area who will benefit from the many services offered. This is a momentous event with an undertaking that began 10 years ago and will continue for years to come. Mr. Conner added that there are many items on the agenda that pertain specifically to walkability and traffic improvements. At last month's Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting, discussions were held regarding funding for a walkability study. Tonight we are authorizing spending approximately \$44,000 on walkability studies to be completed throughout the Township. Mr. Conner also recognized the service of Amy Fruncillo, who served on the Open Space Committee and the Trails Committee in addition to the Park and Open Space Board. She was a strong advocate for the trails system and better walkability, and we appreciate her contributions to the community.

There was no further discussion and the motion carried.

Chair Weber turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair Wollman who asked if there was any public comment. Mr. Gibby of Railroad Avenue expressed his concern about the proposed development at Oak Street and Maple Avenue, where an antique home will be torn down to build a 4-6 unit dwelling. It seems to be changing the character of the community. Mr. Conner responded that the Board understands his concerns and that we are trying to live up to the vision that was developed as part of the revitalization and comprehensive plans. The developer's application was approved by the Zoning Hearing Board to construct five

units at Oak and Maple, with conditions stipulated in the approval. Mr. Pronczak added that there is nothing currently in front of the Board of Supervisors, and that all Boards are sensitive to the concerns of the residents. In keeping with the current character, there will be one unit facing Maple Avenue and the remainder will face Oak Street. Mr. Conner noted that the application for the Lowe property was again continued and will most likely come up at the next meeting. Mr. Zucker added that the property at Oak and Maple that will be razed is presently a multi-unit rooming house, and there should be no more congestion than there is now. The Board appreciates Mr. Gibby's comments. There were no additional comments and the meeting returned to Chair Weber.

Chair Weber brought up a current matter that pertains to the boundary altering of legislative and congressional districts known as gerrymandering. Earlier this year in April at the Pennsylvania State Association of Townships (PSATS) Conference, resolutions regarding this legislation were discussed. Whitpain Township is fortunate to have Representatives Harper and Daley who both serve us, in addition to Senator Daylin Leach. Congressman Meehan also has a representative who is available to meet with constituents once a week in our Township building. The topic of gerrymandering is resurfacing because every ten years, after every Census count, proposed legislation regarding redistricting is revisited by both parties, and both major parties share the responsibility to fix the problem. The U.S. Supreme Court announced Monday that it will consider partisan gerrymandering in October. This is the first time they would be addressing the partisan action. The Supreme Court will release a guide on how to draw legislative districts in a fair, representative manner. We are a country of great minds, and the right solution can happen. An entity, Fair Districts PA, is urging municipalities to pass resolutions regarding this topic. Some have, and we will see how neighboring communities are addressing this matter by resolution, although those who have passed the resolutions did so before the Supreme Court made its announcement for consideration. We as a Board must monitor suggestions and poll neighboring communities, and come October, monitor what the Supreme Court does. Senator Leach highlighted that two pieces of legislation – House Bill 722 and Senate Bill 22 regarding legislative reapportionment – will be considered. We must reach out to our representatives to see what is going on, and to share what we want to accomplish. It will be a good use of Township time to follow through on this matter.

Additionally, Chair Weber noted that Normandy Farms has formed a new partnership with the Blue Stone Art Gallery, with works by 20 local artists who have achieved national recognition. The Hansen Family is in the middle of a multi-million dollar renovation to create this gallery area. Congratulations and thanks to all for preserving our heritage.

Mr. Wollman was at Senator Leach's Town Hall meeting and said it will be interesting to see how both parties come to a resolution regarding gerrymandering. This is an issue both parties need to address, because if a representative has no chance of being defeated, there is no reason to communicate and extreme positions can be taken by either side. In Senator Leach's talk, he noted that the death of democracy would be the result of a failure to communicate. There were no additional comments.

Chair Weber noted that the Board completed its work session and will return to executive session to discuss a matter of potential litigation.

Upon motion by Mr. Zucker and seconded by Mr. Greco, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony F. Greco  
Secretary

/v