

#09-2022
WORK SESSION
May 3, 2022 – 6 p.m.

A work session of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 6 p.m. for the purpose of updating the public on several matters and reviewing the agenda of the May 18, 2022 Supervisors' meeting. The meeting was held in hybrid mode. In-person attendees included Supervisors Kimberly J. Koch, Michele Minnick, Jeffrey Campolongo, Joyce M. Keller and Soctt M. Badami along with Township Manager Roman M. Pronczak, P.E., Assistant Township Manager David J. Mrochko, Solicitors Michael P. Clarke, Esq., and Alexander M. Glassman, Esq., and IT Director Nicole Leininger. Members of the Human Relations Commission, including Faith Williams Hightower, Larry Maltin and Nicola Serianni were also present. Police Chief Kenneth Lawson, Public Works Director Thomas Farzetta, Code Enforcement Officer Travis DeCaro, Finance Director Christine Bauman, Fire Marshal David M. Camarda, Parks and Recreation Director Kurt W. Baker, Township Engineer James E. Blanch, P.E. and HR Director Kathleen Yackin attended remotely, as well as Human Relations Commission members Alissa Carpenter and Steven Odhiambo. There were five members of the public in-person and three remote attendees.

Chair Koch welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded them that we continue to use closed captioning for the meetings which are auto generated by Zoom. They are not the official meeting minutes which will be approved at a subsequent meeting. She then asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Koch read the following:

This year, the 47th annual EMS week is being commemorated from May 15th through May 21st.

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) were instrumental in establishing national EMS Week. It was in 1974 that former President Gerald Ford declared November 3 – 10, 1974 as the first "National Emergency Medical Services Week." Since then, EMS Week was moved to the 3rd week in May. EMS Week is a perfect time to honor those frontline heroes dedicated to providing emergency medicine that saves so many lives every day.

The 2021 EMS Week theme: "**Rising to the Challenge**"

As you are aware, Whitpain Township's EMS provider is the Second Alarmers Rescue Squad, and they are stationed right here on the Township building campus.

2021 EMS Statistics:

- There are 240 Million EMS Calls nationally each year
- 2.2 Million EMS Calls in Pennsylvania each year
- 82,000 EMS calls in Montgomery County
- The Second Alarmers Whipain Station responded to 1,862 calls, 1,348 of them were in Whipain Township; an average of 3.6 calls a day in our community

We ask all of Whipain Township to join us as we send our best wishes for the constant safety and good health of all EMS personnel serving on those front lines and continue to take care of our communities. We also would like to note that Second Alarmers will be hosting an open house at their headquarters. The event will be on, Saturday, May 14th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. That station is located at 307 Davisville Rd, Willow Grove, PA 19090.

Chair Koch turned the meeting over to Mr. Pronczak for the Mission Moment.

Mr. Pronczak introduced Human Relations Commission (HRC) Chair Faith Williams Hightower who began a presentation to the Board on the achievements of the HRC since its inception. Ms. Williams Hightower stated that the HRC was established in 2020 to ensure that people who live and work in Whipain Township are protected from unlawful discrimination. The HRC is comprised of five Township residents first appointed by the Board of Supervisors in 2021. In addition to Chair Williams Hightower, Vice-Chair Alyssa Carpenter, Secretary Larry Maltin, member Nicole Serianni and alternate member Steven Odhiambo each provided their backgrounds. Ms. Williams Hightower noted that Supervisor Badami was one of the original members of the HRC. The members have been working diligently to make the HRC visible in the community by attending various community events both Township sponsored and otherwise, as well as partnering with other local HRCs to discuss how they practice and also to obtain insights into their processes and procedures. The HRC website has much resourceful information. Members received formal training through the PA HRC, with one member completing mediation training and others to follow. The HRC is looking toward how they can serve the community, noting that everyone is entitled to dignity and respect. Ms. Williams Hightower asked if anyone had questions. Chair Koch had none but noted that the work the HRC has done to date is incredible. It is wonderful that we have had no official complaints, and the way the members have embraced interacting with the community is a clear benefit to all. Supervisor Campolongo said he couldn't be prouder of what the HRC has accomplished under the leadership of Ms. Williams Hightower during the last year.

Mr. Pronczak continued with mandatory recycling and possible upgrades to our ordinance that was brought up by Supervisor Campolongo at a previous meeting. The Solicitor prepared a memorandum summarizing the ordinance. There are requirements for residential and non-residential recycling, though they can be enhanced. Mr. Pronczak suggested that this would be a good project for the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC). Later in the meeting during a review of the May 18th agenda, there is a motion to

advertise an ordinance that will establish an EAC. Supervisor Campolongo agreed that if and when the EAC is formed, they take this under advisement. He added that there are certain things we can do to enhance our recycling guidelines with respect to commercial businesses, which will fall within the scope of the EAC.

Mr. Pronczak then opened discussion regarding the employee leave policy, for which the Solicitor prepared a memorandum. This can be discussed at a work session, or he suggested that the Board consider referring this to the personnel committee, which meets on an as-needed basis. Currently we do not have a personnel committee. As this is an initiative suggested by Supervisor Campolongo, he volunteered to serve on the committee. Vice-Chair Minnick joined him in offering to volunteer. Mr. Pronczak said they will be contacted to begin the discussion.

Mr. Pronczak moved forward with asking when the Board would like to schedule the pride flag ceremony. Last year's date was contingent upon the County ceremony. In a discussion with Chair Koch, it is agreed that late afternoon, possibly 3:30 or 4 p.m. might work. This will allow employees to attend, or it can be later or earlier in the day, whatever the Supervisors prefer. Chair Koch noted that Mr. Badami mentioned news regarding the flag. Supervisor Badami reached out to Mr. Glassman regarding a 9-0 Supreme Court decision which may impact the ability of the Board to hold certain flag ceremonies. Solicitor Clarke advised the Board that a memo will follow, though what is clear is that government has a right of speech, and the Supreme Court referenced flying of pride flags is a furtherance of government speech. If the government wants to support LGBT issues, they can and they can fly the pride flag. The case Supervisor Badami referenced is in Boston, where the city has a policy for those who want to fly flags. Boston was not viewpoint neutral, and what they did wrong was reject certain flags that they did not like. When the government wants to express a particular viewpoint, it is allowed to do so. Flying the pride flag would be expressing government speech. Supervisor Keller asked if others want to fly their flags at the Township facility, are we permitted to fly only the pride flag. Solicitor Clarke responded that as long as the Board is making the decisions on what flags it wants to fly, yes. Once the opportunity is opened to groups, the Board cannot pick and choose applications. Mr. Pronczak said something will be circulated via email regarding the date for raising of the pride flag.

Mr. Pronczak then reviewed the preliminary agenda for May 18th, which begins with the Board's consideration of the disturbing the peace ordinance that covers noise and lighting. The Consent Agenda includes approval of minutes, the April Voucher List, the March Treasurer's Report, authorization to advertise three ordinances, one for restricted parking on Narcissa Road, one to prohibit on-premises consumption of medical marijuana and one to establish an EAC. Continuing, there are two bid recommendations, one for curb line milling and one for ADA ramp modifications, authorization to submit a grant application to DCED for renewable energy solar lights in Wentz Run Park, confirming motion to sign an agreement to determine hydric floodplain boundaries, release of escrow funds, and authorization to proceed with construction observation services related to the Pulaski Drive Bridge Replacement Project. Following the Consent

Agenda, the Board will consider approval of a preliminary/final subdivision plan for a two-lot subdivision at 830 North Wales Road and review the Zoning Hearing Board cases scheduled for May 19th. The zoning cases are two commercial properties that involve signage, and a residential property that is deep and narrow, and is requesting setback variances. The Board will have the recommendations from the Planning Commission at its next meeting on the 18th. To be added to the agenda on the 18th is the resignation of a member of the Shade Tree Commission, and consideration of appointments.

Mr. Pronczak then noted that June 10th would have been Michael McAndrew's birthday. We would like to have a ceremony to dedicate a pavilion at Erbs Mill Park in his honor and we are proposing to do that at 4 p.m. He added that the Board will meet in executive session this evening at the end of this meeting.

With no further discussion, Chair Koch adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roman M. Pronczak', written in a cursive style.

Roman M. Pronczak, P.E.
Township Manager