

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**JANUARY 6, 2020**

The Annual Organizational Meeting of the Whitemarsh Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, January 6, 2020 at 8:00 PM, in the Whitemarsh Township Building, 616 Germantown Pike, Lafayette Hill, PA.

Supervisors Present: Michael Drossner, Fran McCusker, Laura Boyle Nester, Vincent Manuele and Jacy Toll.

Also Present: Richard L. Mellor, Jr., Township Manager.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Honorable Kelly Wall, Montgomery County Court Of Common Pleas swore in re-elected Laura Boyle Nester and the newly elected Vincent Manuele and Jacy Toll.

**SELECTION OF TEMPORARY POSITIONS**

On a Motion by Supervisor McCusker, seconded by Supervisor Manuele (Vote 5-0), Supervisor Drossner was appointed as the Temporary Chair for the Whitemarsh Township Board of Supervisors.

On a Motion by Supervisor McCusker, seconded by Supervisor Toll (Vote 5-0), Richard L. Mellor, Jr. was appointed as the Temporary Secretary of Whitemarsh Township.

**ELECTIONS OF BOARD CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

On a Motion by Supervisor McCusker, seconded by Supervisor Manuele (Vote 5-0) Supervisor Laura Boyle Nester was elected Chair of the Board of Supervisors for Whitemarsh Township.

On a Motion Supervisor Drossner seconded by Supervisor Manuele (Vote 5-0), Supervisor Fran McCusker was elected Vice-Chair of the Board of Supervisors for Whitemarsh Township.

**APPOINTMENTS**

On a Motion by Supervisor Toll, seconded by Supervisor McCusker (Vote 5-0), Richard L. Mellor, Jr. was appointed Township Manager and Secretary by approving his employment agreement with the Whitemarsh Township.

On a Motion by Supervisor Drossner, seconded by Supervisor McCusker (Vote 5-0), Nathan Crittendon was appointed Finance Director and Treasurer of Whitemarsh Township.

On a motion by Supervisor McCusker, seconded by Supervisor Toll (Vote 5-0), Sean Halbom was appointed Assistant Secretary of Whitemarsh Township.

On a Motion by Supervisor McCusker, seconded by Supervisor Toll (Vote 5-0), Christopher P. Ward was appointed Chief of Police of Whitemarsh Township.

On a Motion by Supervisor Manuele, seconded by Supervisor McCusker (Vote 5-0), Charles L. Guttenplan, AICP PP was appointed Zoning Officer of Whitemarsh Township.

On a Motion by Supervisor Drossner, seconded by Supervisor McCusker (Vote 5-0), Sean P. Kilkenny of the Law Offices of Sean Kilkenny was appointed Solicitor for Whitemarsh Township.

On a Motion by Supervisor Drossner, seconded by Supervisor McCusker (Vote 5-0), Gilmore Associates was appointed Engineer for Whitemarsh Township. Chair Nester explained the Township issued an RFQ and received eight applications from engineering firms. Four firms were interviewed at a public meeting on Friday, January 3, 2020. She thanked T&M Associates for their 10 years of service as the engineering firm in Whitemarsh Township.

On a Motion by Supervisor Drossner, seconded by Supervisor Grossman (Vote 5-0), the following Nominees were appointed to serve on the Vacancy Board for 2020:

- Shari Petrakis (Supervisor Boyle Nester’s Nominee)
- Ari Greis (Supervisor Drossner’s Nominee)
- Chris Solecki (Supervisor McCusker’s Nominee)
- Patrick Doran (Supervisor Manuele’s Nominee)
- Sara Erlbaum (Supervisor Toll’s Nominee)

Various Board, Commission, and Committee Member Reappointments

On a Motion by Supervisor Drossner, seconded by Supervisor McCusker (Vote 5-0), the Board of Supervisors re-appointed the following individuals to the appropriate Boards and Commissions for the appropriate terms:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>BOARD OR COMMISSION</b>	<b>TERM</b>	<b>TERM ENDING</b>
Robert Bacine	Zoning Hearing Board	5 year	12/31/2024
Sheri Glantz Patchen	Planning Commission	4 year	12/31/2023
J. David Shula	Planning Commission	4 year	12/31/2023
Joanne Crawford	Park and Recreation Board	4 year	12/31/2023
Jonathan Riesberg	Authority	5 year	12/31/2024
Dara Nasatir	Library Board	3 year	12/31/2022
Diane Smith-Hoban	Library Board	3 year	12/31/2022
Gordon Geasland	Environmental Advisory Board	3 year	12/31/2022
Lou Ann Merkle	Environmental Advisory Board	3 year	12/31/2022
Christopher Lane	Open Space Committee	3 year	12/31/2022
Mark Cratin	Media Communications Advisory Board	3 year	12/31/2021

Wally Harris	Building Code Board of Appeals	4 year	12/31/2023
Amber Corbin	Building Code Board of Appeals	4 year	12/31/2023

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Supervisor McCusker announced:

Work began today on Stenton Avenue between Flourtown Road and the entrance to the Reserve at Creekside. Work is expected to take roughly three weeks. During that time, Stenton Avenue will be closed from 7:00 AM until 3:30 PM. The Township thanks our residents and motorists for their patience.

Please help support the William Jeans Library 2020 Formal Wear Drive by donating gently used dresses, coats, menswear, jewelry, and accessories. Donations are being accepted at the Library until February 29<sup>th</sup>. Contact details are available on the Township Website.

Christmas Trees are being collected by JP Mascaro on Wednesdays with yard waste. Trees must have ornaments, lights, and tinsel removed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. December 12, 2019**

On a motion by Supervisor McCusker, seconded by Supervisor Drossner (Vote 3-0, Supervisors Toll and Manuele abstaining) the Board of Supervisors approved the December 12, 2019 meeting minutes.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**1. Hearing for Liquor License Transfer - 10 East Ridge Pike/Giant Food Stores, LLC**

Patrick Hitchens, Township Solicitor explained the public hearing is going to be cancelled. He explained a liquor license transfer must be advertised in the local newspaper two times, the municipality had requested the advertisement be run twice, however, the newspaper only advertised once. It will be advertised correctly and occur at the next public meeting.

**BOARD PUBLIC DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**ORDINANCES**

**1. Ordinance Amendment - Prohibiting a Rodeo in Display of Wild Animals Ordinance**

Mr. Mellor explained this is an amendment to the recently adopted Wild Animal Ordinance. He explained one of the items not included was having rodeos in the township. It was asked that the prohibition of rodeos be included.

Damien Samons, representing the LuLu Shrine, spoke against the original wild animal ordinance and this amendment. He questioned the constitutionality of the ordinance.

Eli Glick (Whitefield Drive) stated the ordinance does not protect the health, welfare and property of the residents. He suggested the township table the amendment.

Supervisor Drossner spoke to Mr. Glick's comments stating the original amendment was passed with a lot of thought and consideration. He stated it will also prevent anyone from having a circus within the township.

Supervisor Manuele asked if the constitutional issues raised tonight had been discussed previously. Supervisor Drossner stated they had spoken with the solicitor's office about it. There was a discussion between Supervisor Drossner and Mr. Samons regarding wild animal and the constitutionality of the ordinance. Mr. Hitchens explained this is a law of general applicability which does not allow any specific entity or group on how they operate or don't operate and it would apply to anyone coming into the township.

On a motion by Supervisor Manuele, seconded by Supervisor Drossner the Board of Supervisors TABLED an Ordinance amending the Display of Wild Animals Ordinance to prohibit Rodeos in Whitemarsh Township.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **1. Liquor License Transfer - 10 East Ridge Pike/Giant Food Stores, LLC.**

On a motion by Supervisor Drossner, seconded by Supervisor McCusker the Board of Supervisors TABLED resolution granting Liquor License Transfer for 10 East Ridge Pike/Giant Food Stores, LLC.

### **2. Establishing Board of Supervisor Meeting Schedule Format**

Eli Glick (Whitefield Drive) asked about the consistency of the meeting times. There was a discussion of the other Boards and Commissions meeting times. He also spoke about the fact that both the Shade Tree Committee and the Park and Recreation Committee's meet on the same nights in different locations.

On a Motion by Supervisor McCusker, seconded by Supervisor Toll (Vote 5-0), the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution #2020-01, establishing the Board of Supervisor's Meeting schedule and format for 2020.

### **3. Establishing Travel and Business Expense Policy**

On a Motion by Supervisor Manuele, seconded by Supervisor Drossner (Vote 5-0), the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution #2020-02, establishing the Township Travel and Business Expense Policy for 2020.

### **4. Establishing Holidays for Non-Uniformed, Non-Union Township Employees**

On a Motion by Supervisor McCusker, seconded by Supervisor Toll (Vote 5-0), the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution #2020-03, establishing the Township Holiday's for Non-Uniformed, Non-Union Employees in 2020.

**MOTIONS**

**1. Certificates of Appropriateness - 107 E Germantown Pike**

Mr. Guttenplan explained the Certificate of Appropriateness is for a replacement wall at 107 E. Germantown Pike, Plymouth Meeting. Historically, there has been a stucco-faced masonry wall along both the Germantown Pike and Meetinghouse Road frontages of this property. While some of the wall had started to deteriorate, the replacement was necessary because a vehicle had recently struck the wall. Due to this accident, construction had begun on the replacement wall prior to the December 2019 review by HARB with the Township's concurrence; it was important to do this work as soon as possible since the wall also serves as a pool enclosure. The wall construction is similar to the original wall, with the addition of a historically-appropriate concrete cap. HARB passed a motion at the recommending approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement wall as presented.

On a Motion by Supervisor Manuele, seconded by Supervisor Toll (Vote 5-0), the Board of Supervisors approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of stucco-faced masonry wall at 107 East Germantown Pike.

**2. Selection of Township Depositories**

On a Motion by Supervisor McCusker, seconded by Supervisor Drossner (Vote 5-0), the Board of Supervisors approved the selection of Township Depositories for the deposit of Township funds in 2020.

**3. Selection of Auditing Services**

On a Motion by Supervisor Drossner, seconded by Supervisor McCusker (Vote 5-0), the Board of Supervisors approved the selection of Dresslin and Company to audit the Township Financial Statements for 2019.

**4. Certify Delegates to PSATS Annual Conference**

On a Motion by Supervisor Drossner, seconded by Supervisor Manuele (Vote 5-0), the Board of Supervisors appointed Fran McCusker as the voting delegate to the 2020 PSATS Conference on behalf of Whitmarsh Township.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Grant asked if the Township Police have congratulated the new Police Chief in Philadelphia. Supervisor Drossner stated they will talk to Chief Ward about that and it was a great idea.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Supervisor McCusker congratulated Supervisors Manuele and Toll and welcomed them to the

Board.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Nester announced the Board of Supervisors did not hold an Executive Session prior to the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a Motion by Supervisor Drossner, seconded by Supervisor McCusker the Board of Supervisors Annual Organizational Meeting for January 6, 2020 was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard L. Mellor, Jr.  
Township Manager