

#14-2024
July 16, 2024

The regular meeting of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors was held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 16, 2024 in hybrid mode – in person and virtually via Zoom. Supervisors Scott M. Badami, Kimberly J. Koch, Jeffrey Campolongo, Joyce M. Keller and Sara S. Selverian were present. Also in attendance were Township Manager Eric Traub, Assistant Township Manager David J. Mrochko, Township Solicitor Alex M. Glassman, Esq., Police Chief Kenneth Lawson, Township Engineer James E. Blanch, P.E., Public Works Director Thomas Farzetta, Code Enforcement Officer Travis DeCaro, Parks and Recreation Director Michael J. Richino, Finance Director Christine M. Bauman, IT Assistant Robert Marcy, a Court Reporter and Recording Secretary Virginia Papale. There were 20 members of the public in attendance and two remote participants.

Chair Scott Badami welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented the other Board members. He reminded all that we will continue to live-stream the meetings and use the closed-captioning service that is autogenerated by Zoom. It is a terrific way for those at home to follow the meetings. It occasionally mangles names and words, and closed captioning is not the official minutes of the Board of Supervisors' meetings. The written minutes are approved at a subsequent meeting of the Board. Chair Badami also noted that any questions regarding the Zoom meeting should be directed to IT Director, Ms. Leininger. Chair Badami also noted that the public is welcome to participate, and public comments are to be made in person. He then asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Badami announced that the Board of Supervisors met in executive session prior to this public meeting to discuss two matters of potential litigation. He then turned the meeting over to members of the Fruitful Children's Foundation for the Mission Moment.

Brooke Williams started Fruitful Children in 2004, marking 20 years that the non-profit foundation has been in existence helping the children in the West Ambler section of Whitpain. Over 200 children, ages 5 to 17, were and continue to be served. It is a program to help bridge the gap for the unfortunate, which the community needs. The children (all girls) attend workshops that uplift them and help them to achieve and have opportunities. Charlene Tate, also from West Ambler, added that the program has five instructors/choreographers/dancers who went through the program as young people, and have come back to teach the current group of children. The workshops have been led by school principals (advocating for self, the power of reading, etc.). The children who have gone through the program all graduated from high school and moved on to college or a trade school. The program is a blessing for the children. They are loved, encouraged and taught that life is wonderful. Adrian Crowder mentioned how proud she is of the leaders of

A motion was made by Supervisor Selverian, duly seconded by Vice Chair Koch to approve a settlement and general release agreement between Whitpain Township and Police Department employee identified with Employee No. 1046, subject to acceptance of conditions and final review by legal counsel and the Township Manager. Chair Badami turned to Mr. Traub for clarification. Mr. Traub noted that in this Township, we believe it is better to talk and come to a settlement agreement rather than going through extensive litigation with potential personnel matters. This matter was the subject of a previous executive session. Chair Badami called for public or Board comments. There were none. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

The Board took no action on the following Zoning Hearing Board case scheduled to be heard July 18th:

2412-24 – Jason and Lauren Romeo for the property located at 945 Valley Road, Blue Bell, PA 19422 request the following variances from the Whitpain Township Zoning Code to construct a garage and mudroom addition: (1) a variance from Section 160-15 to permit a front yard setback of 39 feet 7 inches where a minimum of 50 feet is required; (2) a variance from Section 160-17 to permit a side yard setback of 14 feet 6 inches where a minimum of 45 feet is required, and an aggregate side yard of 83 feet 6 inches where a minimum of 100 feet is required; (3) a variance from Section 160-202 to permit the proposed addition to project into the required front yard setback; and (4) a variance from Section 160-203 to permit the proposed addition to project into the required side yard setback. This property is located in the R-1 Residential Zoning District.

Chair Badami turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Koch who called for public comment. There was none and the meeting returned to Chair Badami.

Chair Badami called for closing comments from the Board. He noted that over the past few weeks, we've heard and read about excessive heat alerts. He acknowledged staff and those who work outside, including Tom Farzetta and the Public Works team; Mike Richino and his staff; Chief Ken Lawson and his police officers who wear heavy uniforms; Chief Ted Fonash and the firefighters who are called out at any time wearing heavy uniforms/equipment; Second Alarmers and EMS, who also are called out at any time. He thanked all of them who work and serve outside in this difficult weather.

Chair Badami then noted that as a Board, as a community and as individuals, we are deeply saddened by the political violence in the assassination attempt that occurred this past weekend. On behalf of Whitpain Township our thoughts are with the former president, his family, and the families of those who were tragically injured and killed in the attempt. He noted Corey Comperatore a husband, father, firefighter was killed while shielding his family during the attack. As Americans, we must join together against gun violence as well as any acts of hate, intimidation or violence