

**WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP  
PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
January 6, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Public Services Commission regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. Due to COVID-19, the meeting was held virtually via Zoom. The meeting was open to the public, and the link to join the meeting was listed on the agenda posted on the Township's website.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Brian Dakin  
LeeAnn Embrey  
Joe Roscioli  
Elizabeth Alakszay  
Rob Hall  
Janice Gottesfeld  
Kevin Moore

**TOWNSHIP STAFF**

Pam Gural-Bear, Assistant Township Manager  
Ted Otteni, Director of Public Works  
Ed Culp, Assistant Director of Public Works  
Caroline O'Connor, Public Works Coordinator  
Rajesh Kumbhardare, Board of Supervisors Liaison

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Mr. Roscioli, seconded by Mr. Hall, to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2020 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Two virtual Town Hall meetings were held this week on the Coronavirus. Mr. Kumbhardare provided a summary of the County meeting that was held on Tuesday. He said the vaccines will be distributed in phases with Group 1A comprising healthcare personnel and EMS providers being vaccinated first. Group 1B will include grocery workers, teachers, township employees, and other groups who have public interaction. He said it was not clear when vaccinations for group 1B will begin.

Ms. Gural-Bear said she attended both meetings (Tuesday and Wednesday) and said the Pennsylvania Department of Health plans to have all vaccination information updated on its website by Friday. She offered to send a recording of Wednesday's meeting to the members. Mr. Hall will forward a copy of the transcript from Tuesday's meeting to the members.

Ms. Gottesfeld advised that the Holiday Lighting Contest was a big success with about 28 contestants participating. She felt it was a very positive activity for both the community and the Friends of the Parks. FOP plans to hold the event every year.

Mr. Dakin and other Commission members thanked the Public Works employees for the great job they did clearing the Township roads during the recent snow storm.

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## **OPEN DISCUSSION:**

### **1. 2021 Commission Reorganization**

Mr. Dakin said that he is interested in serving as Chairman of the Commission again this year, as is Ms. Alakszay in serving as Vice-Chair and Kevin Moore as Secretary. Mr. Dakin asked if anyone else was interested in serving in any of the positions, and there was not.

Mr. Dakin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld, to appoint Mr. Dakin as Chairman, Ms. Alakszay as Vice-Chairman, and Kevin Moore as Secretary. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Gural-Bear noted that Ms. Alakszay, Ms. Gottesfeld, and Mr. Roscioli were all reappointed by the Board of Supervisors to serve another term on the Commission.

### **2. Clean Energy Future Update**

Ms. O'Connor reported that the first public event for the clean energy project will be held virtually on January 19. This will be as kick-off initiative to introduce the public to the project and its mission statement. The event is being hosted by East Goshen Township and interested persons can sign up on the Township's website. There are only 100 spots available with 55 spots already registered.

Some promotional materials will begin to be distributed to the public next week. The residential module will be the next event and will focus on what individual homeowners can do to promote the clean energy goal. Volunteers are still needed to provide feedback on promotional and educational materials before going out to the public. Anyone interested should contact Ms. O'Connor.

Mr. Kumbhardare advised that the Township building now has an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station. The cost is 50 cents per hour and can be paid via an app on your phone.

### **3. Public Works Update**

Mr. Otteni shared the results of the meter readings from recent rain storms showing where the sewer inflow problems are greatest. Slides that he presented showed what normal flows look like compared to the spikes experienced during the storm on November 30, 2020. Flows in some locations more than doubled. Groundwater problems were also discovered through the meter readings. Of the 27 areas where meters were installed, 18 areas showed inflow problems. This will greatly help in narrowing down where to focus remediation efforts.

## **OBSERVATIONS:**

Mr. Roscioli commented on ads that have been running on television promoting different Counties and their amenities. Ms. Gottesfeld said Friends of the Parks is looking into a Vista subscription that could help with public outreach – promoting upcoming events, etc.

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Mr. Kumbhardare announced that the Township has been awarded a RACP grant in the amount of \$1.5 million to help with the construction of the new Public Works facility.

Ms. Gural-Bear advised that all changes to the trash and recycling program brought about as a result of the new contract are now in effect. Staff will be scheduling educational Zoom sessions to address residents' questions and provide general information on how to recycle materials. Ms. Gottesfeld noted there is confusion regarding the recycling of plastic bags. Ms. Alakszay suggested that residents be made aware that instead of putting shredded paper in the trash (because it clogs up the recycling equipment) it is very good for composting and provides a nice bedding for worms. Ms. Gural-Bear said the Zoom sessions will be recorded so they can be used as an ongoing tool for new residents and a refresher course for existing residents.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Hall made a motion, seconded by Ms. Alakszay, to adjourn the meeting; the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kevin Moore, Secretary