The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, July 5, 2016, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda and Treasurer Reports were available to the public. Chair Marcia Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. It is announced that the meeting will be recorded for preparing the minutes. Interior cameras are also recording the video.

ROLL CALL: Arnold Here-  
 Pipech Here-  
 Thomas Here-

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

Marcia Thomas reported that a working session was held prior to the meeting to discuss zoning issues and fees, and that these issues would be addressed within the body of the meeting.

Received the Treasurer's Report: General Fund total income for May was $68,506.96. General Fund total expenses were $80,817.01. Liquid Fuels had not activity, nor did the Recreation account.

Balances as of May 31, 2016:

General Checking: $142,561.57 General Money Market: $75,404.58 First Keystone $50,014.39

Liquid Fuels Checking: $5,040.97 Liquid Fuels Money Market: $116,508.39

Recreation Checking: $2,277.75 Recreation Money Market: $10,015.32

Total Cash on Hand: $401,822.97 $111,901.80 total bills

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, and all bills to be paid.  
ROLL CALL: Arnold -Yes Pipech -Yes Thomas -Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Thomas noted that the bills totaled over $100,000 this month.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Thomas asked for public comment. Don Herres, Senior Warden of and representing St. Martins-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church across the street. He thanked the Township for its past support of the kite festival, asked for permission to conduct the festival in the park again on October 1, 2016, and requested the Board of Supervisors consider increasing their sponsorship of the kites for the kids. Last year the Township contributed $500 which supplied kites for 125 children. Since 155 children attended, the Church provided the rest at a cost of $120. He requested that the Supervisors increase their support to $600 or up to $895 for additional costs associated with the childrens bounce-house and disc jockey. Marty Wentz of Ice Lakes inquired about any update on the Dam project. Andy Pasonick, Township Engineer, replied that noted that he had applied for the DEP permit. Pipech noted that the paper reported that we received $85,000 for the project from LSA (Gaming Grants) . Thomas noted that Jeff Beck, Secretary, confirmed that he had received phone notification from Senator Baker's office and from Representative Mullery. Thomas commented that there is a 2-year inspection cycle. Pipech noted that we really need to rely on and allow our Engineer to move this ahead.

There being no other comments and questions, Thomas jumped to the request to the St. Martins request. Thomas noted the good cause and asked for Supervisor response. Pipech registered support for the use of the park, but stated his concern that financial support for these causes sets a precedent. Arnold agreed with Pipech, and supported some financial support, but asked that we delay to closer to October until we have a better feel for our financial position. The funds come from the Recreation Fund, not the General Fund. The Supervisors discussed the various events and causes that have been supported.Thomasmade the following motion, noting that it can always be revisited later.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to donate $500.00 to the kite festival (the same amount as last year) and grant permission to use the park..   
ROLL CALL: Arnold-Yes Pipech -Yes Thomas -Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Thomas added that she understands that it takes many volunteers to make the kite festival happen.

REPORTS:

The Planning Commission Draft Minutes for the regularly scheduled June 22, 2016 meeting are available to the public. The RTPC met on Wednesday, June 22, 2016, and approved the Harvilla reverse subdivision, as revised and submitted.

Mountain Top Area Joint Sanitary Authority Minutes from May 2, 2016 are available to the public.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report is available to the public, and Fire Police Incident Recap is available to the public. Arnold reported that there were 44 incidents in June. The bazaar at St. Judes was a great success. Small changes to alarm calls around Laural Lakes and the Church Road over Henry Drive. Hydrants were flushed which revealed trouble with some, and discovered a dry hydrant near Rules Garage. This is being investigated to get this hydrant active. The WTVFD is using one bay and hopefully a little more room in the garage building behind the old RTVFD building. Pipech added that the water system in that building has been repaired and activated. There are still security issues to be resolved. Thomas also added that she would like to find a way for elections to be relocated there since there were so many complaints about the use of this building. Thomas made the following:

Motion: to contact the elections board to relocate to that building. Thomas made the motion , Arnold seconded, motion carried by acclaimation.

**E**NGINEER'S REPORT: Pasonick sealed bids for the "2015 Rice Township Culvert Project" were publicly opened on Wednesday, June 28th at 11am. Seven bids were received. Tab sheet attached. The low bidder for the metal culver was Latona Trucking for $157,671.35 and the low bidder for the box culvert was Fehlinger Construction for $225,821, a difference of $68,149.65. Carl Smith(?) asked about the life of either type of culvert. Pasonick responded that estimating lives was always difficult. He said that box culverts lasted longer on average, but beyond 30 years it was difficult to speculate. He did report that the box culvert would not be available until November. More discussion ensued concerning the lifespan of each method and their relative costs. Thomas noted that timing was pressing from a safety issue. Both Chad Swiegart from Elliott Greene and Pasonick noted that the documents had been reviewed and all was in order.

Based on the recommendation by the Township Engineer and Solicitor:

**MOTION** by Pipech , second by Arnold , to accept the bid from \_\_Latona Trucking\_ in the amount of $\_157,671.35\_\_ for CMP Aluminized Arch Culvert.  
ROLL CALL: Arnold-Yes Pipech -Yes Thomas -Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Thomas thanked Pasonick for helping us get to this point and commented that there were happy people knowing that this project was going to get done. Pasonick added that seveal documents and steps had to be accomplished and then a notice to proceed could be issued.

We want to thank Senator Elizabeth Baker and Representative Gerald Mullery's offices for their assistance in securing LSA grant funds for which we received informal notification. Pipech also thanked Alicia Stier, former Secretary, who worked so hard to get these grants.

Thomas followed up with the need to have borrowing capability in place in the event that it was needed. Arnold confirmed that this was not a commitment to borrow, only the authorization to do so. Thomas added that coming so far, it would not be good to proceed for lack of funds, and this would allow the backstop for the project.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Arnold, to authorize the borrowing, if deemed necessary, of up to $100,000 for up to 5 years for the Laurel Lake Culvert project.

ROLL CALL: Arnold -Yes Pipech -Yes Thomas -Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Arnold asked Pasonick if the engineer's fee would cover full document review throughout the project. Pasonick confirmed and added that inspection would be taking place as the project proceeded.

**BUSINESS MATTERS:**

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on June 7, 2016.  
ROLL CALL: Arnold -Yes Pipech -Yes Thomas -Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for June, 2016: Patching will be completed and tarring will commence to seal those patches. When that is done, patching will recommence if needed. Pipech reported that he and Pasonick had met with Aqua and the will start paving at Laurel Lakes, the whole road, berm to berm, and that Laurel Drive will be done next year, that they will absorb roughly 30% of the cost if we refrain from paving until they install all the piping that still needs to be done. Thomas thanked the Solicitor's office for helping bring this paving project to a conclusion, and Pipech and Pasonick for their work on this. Pipech said that Aqua also raised the question about Rice Township support for their extension regarding the Coleman request. Thomas responded that we were just waiting on our Solicitor's ok and Sweigart noted that there had been no response from the Coleman team yet.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Arnold, to accept the Roadmaster's Report as presented.  
ROLL CALL: Arnold -Yes Pipech -Yes Thomas -Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Police Report for June, 2016: Chief Franks submitted his report.   
**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Police Report as presented.

He also responded that they will participate in August night out.  
ROLL CALL: Arnold -Yes Pipech -Yes Thomas -Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.  
  
Received the Zoning Officer Report for June, 2016: Jack Varaly explained that there are several fee schedules and his work had developed a schedule exclusively for zoning. He suggested that the resolution adopting the new schedule state that any fees from the 2010 and 2008 resolutions that are not part part of the new fee schedule will remain in effect. These fees can be reviewed and changed, if necessary, at a later meeting by resolution. Likewise, he presented a new subdivision fee schedule for major and minor subdivision and likewise may need a review relative to older resolutions and can be changed.

**MOTION** by Thomas , second by Pipech , to approve Resolution 2016-7 amending the fee schedule for zoning and retaining any fees otherwise in place that are not changed by this schedule.  
ROLL CALL: Arnold -Yes Pipech -Yes Thomas -Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Thomas , second by Pipech , to approve Resolution 2016-8 amending the fee schedule for subdivisions and retaining any fees otherwise in place that are not changed by this schedule.  
ROLL CALL: Arnold -Yes Pipech -Yes Thomas -Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Transition continues to go well. Applications are being issued either through the office or directly through him. Spoke to building inspector and those kinks have been worked well.

**MOTION** by Thomas , second by Pipech , to accept the Zoning Report as presented.  
ROLL CALL: Arnold -Yes Pipech -Yes Thomas -Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Received the SEO Report for June 2016: On Lot Sewage Disposal System Permit issued and Waste Water Complaint resolved. Fees for the month total: $750.00.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to pay $69,150.00 to PIRMA for Liability insurance, effective August 1, 2016.  
ROLL CALL: Arnold -Yes Pipech -Yes Thomas -Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

The Township received notification that the WTVFD Workers' Comp premium for the year totals $35,718.00. The previous Board negotiated to pay 37% of the premium, which makes our obligation total $13,215.66 for the period 8/28/16 to 8/28/17. Last year the premium totaled $34,533.00 and our obligation totaled $12,777.21 for the period 8/28/15 to 8/28/16.  
 **MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to pay $13,215.66 to Wright Township for our portion of Wright Township Fire Department's Worker's Compensation coverage for the period 8/28/16 to 8/28/17.  
ROLL CALL: Arnold-Yes Pipech -Yes Thomas -Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Arnold, to seek funding from the Conservation District of Luzerne County to improve the gravel section of Heslop Road for emergency purposes.

ROLL CALL: Arnold -Yes Pipech -Yes Thomas -Yes

MOTION CARRIED.  
**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to donate $\_200.00 to the Yudichak Family Lighthouse Fund of the Luzerne Foundation. Last year we donated $200.  
ROLL CALL: Arnold-Yes Pipech -Yes Thomas -Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

The Rice Township Police Department will be joining Wright Township and Fairview Township Police Departments for "National Night Out." The event will take place on August 2, 2016 from 4pm to 9pm at the Wright Township Park.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Swiegart noted that all issues had been covered in the meeting.

Thomas asked if there was anything that our Emergency Management Coordinator would want to contribute.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

"Reporter" asked if any of the LSA paving and backhoe grant award could be diverted to the Culvert. Pipech responded that in his conversations with Representative Mullery the award must stay for the roads. He explained that about $50,000 in the liquid fuels account was needed for winter salt and cleanup. We could allocate $50,000 from Liquid Fuels to the project. Pipech noted that the backhoe was more expendable than any of the road projects.

Mr. Rivera apologized for the kids, and thanked supervisors for Aspen Drive repave and progress on the Culvert. He passed on resident concern about vehicle speeding and asked for police presence. Offered help to store equipment. Pipech noted that the money has been found.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey D. Beck  
Secretary