The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, November 1, 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.

Received the Treasurer's Report:

General Fund total income for October was $49,774.29. General Fund total expenses were $156,148.32. Liquid Fuels had expenses of $429.70. The Recreation account had no activity for the month.

Balances as of October 31, 2016, as presented on the paper report:

General Checking: $157,226.15 General Money Market: $35,407.55 First Keystone $50,031.25

Liquid Fuels Checking: $1,429.95 Liquid Fuels Money Market: $116,516.21

Recreation Checking: $1,277.75 Recreation Money Market: $10,015.99

Total Cash on Hand: $371,904.85. Total bills presented for payment: $171,606.90.

**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.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None were offered.

REPORTS:

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on October 4th, 2016.  
ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Thomas, confirming with Richard Arnold, extended thanks to Robert Pipech and all involved in getting the culvert project completed.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for October, 2016:

Pipech thanked Andrew Pasonick for the good job on the culvert. He also noted that we were able to reuse the previously existing guide rail. He noted that about 950 leaf bags had been collected so far with 2 weeks to go on the service, and also pointed out the expense associated with picking up the leaves. Thomas noted that some Townships have a 1-pass program. The current permit is "perpetual". Next year, the COG permit will be dated with a different color. He explained that the tennis court lights would be turned off after election day. Carl Kaminski asked about the tree canopy on Wilderness Drive. Pipech responded that contractors will be contacted after the leaves have fallen to reduce the cost of clearing the branches.

**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 October, 2016: Chief Franks presented his report which is a part of this record.  
**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Police Report as presented.  
ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.  
  
Received the Zoning Officer Report for October, 2016: Jack Varaly submitted his written report which is a part of this record. He explained his creation of a formal zoning complaint so that the Zoning Officer has a record to respond to, sent the Pinnacle court condo issue to Jack Dean for clarification, noted several open zoning permits and answered Pipech's question concerning the Certificate of Zoning Compliance. Jack explained that the new fee was $150 and changed the title from Certificate of Occupancy to remove the implication that the Township is certifying that it is in good shape to occupy. The building inspector does issue a Certificate of Occupancy when all inspections meet the OCC. Thomas added that a number of municipalities require the Certificate of Zoning Compliance. A discussion of the history of zoning fees was held.

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

No report was made by the SEO for October, 2016

The Rice Township Planning Commission met on Wednesday, October 26, 2016, and was continued to November 14, 2016. Draft minutes are available for review.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report is available to the public, and Fire Police Incident Recap is available to the public.

Richard Arnold thanked the Police and Fire Departments during Halloween. Firemen distributed about 2000 glow bracelets. Arnold reported that the annual fund drive was occurring and asked everyone to participate and be as generous as possible. He concluded his report with the desire to move equipment out of the Public Works garage over to the old fire department garage. There were several incidents and referred to the report.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Pasonick reported that the Culvert Project on Laurel Drive was completed and he authorized a payment to Latona Trucking for $148,416.62, which includes the PP&L line relocation. A 10% retainage of $16,490.74 is being withheld.. He is working on the submission for the Letter of Amendment for the Ice Lakes Dam project to be submitted to Pa DEP after the December 6, 2016 Board of Supervisors' meeting. Discussion occurred with Carl Kaminski regarding the existing 14" pipe, the sluice culvert and its accessibility. We will not know what is there until an excavator removes all the riprap and sludge along the spillway. Pipech added that the small dam will need an excavator will need to work on the lower dam. And, the beaver dam in the lower lake needs to be removed again.

**BUSINESS MATTERS:**

The Township received a formal letter of thanks from the Don Herres, Senior Warden of St. Martin's Church for all the help received at the Kite Festival held on October 8th.

The audit of the 2015 Liquid Fuels Account by the Auditor General's Office of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was concluded on October 8, 2016. There were no findings.

The Township received 2 bids for the 2016 Municipal Audit.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to appoint Grevera & Associates as the low bidder at $3,175 to conduct the 2016 Audit.  
ROLL CALL: Arnold- Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to approve the payment to Amerihealth Casualty Services for workers compensation insurance as follows: ratifying the telephonic poll of the Board of Supervisors unanimously authorizing the payment of $5,702.20 due November 1, 2016; and $5,702.20 due February 1, 2017 and $5,702.20 due May 1, 2017, in order to facilitate the prompt payment of these premiums by the due date. ROLL CALL: Arnold- Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to give full-time employees a holiday bonus of $25 as a thank you for their dedicated service.  
ROLL CALL: Arnold- Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept Pennsylvania Power and Light's agreement to temporarily access the property behind the former Rice Township Volunteer Fire House for the sum of $7,000 payable to Rice Township.   
ROLL CALL: Arnold- Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Thomas, seconded by Pipech, to adopt Resolution 2016-11 to accept PennDOT's offer of $15,600 for the property owned by the Township what will be the corner of Henry Drive and Church Rd. to facilitate the removal of the Church Rd. bridge and the construction of the intersection of those two roads.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Thomas thanked Richard Arnold for his work with PennDot on this issue. Arnold noted that, when done, the project will open up a great field of vision on the roads and the 4-way stop may help slow down the traffic. He noted that the project may not start until Spring of 2018.

**MOTION** by Thomas, seconded by Pipech, to adopt Resolution 2016-12 to make payment to Latona Trucking totaling $148,416.62 inclusive of the $7,236 for PP&L and exclusive of the $16,490.74 retainage for construction of the Laurel Drive Culvert Project. Such payment will consist of  $50,000 from the Liquid Fuels account and $98,416.62 from the General Fund.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Thomas, seconded by Pipech, to adopt Resolution 2016-13 which meets state requirements and amends Resolution 2016-10 authorizing borrowing of up to $100,000.00 for 5 years to support the culvert replacement on Laurel Drive.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to allow the Township Secretary to attend a Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grant Workshop on November 9, 2016 at LCCC.  
ROLL CALL: Arnold- Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

The Township Leaf Collection program will conclude on Tuesday,, November 15th. Leaves ONLY must be placed in CLEAR plastic bags. Leaves may be brought to the Mountain Top COG after the pickup period ends, and a COG permit is required. The township Secretary issues COG permits at a cost of $10.

The Mountain Top COG will be closed after November 30th. Pipech corrected this date to December 1. Bob Duffy reported that 925 bags have been picked up so far this year.

With the snow season coming, the Police Department asks that residents remove all portable basketball hoops and refrain from parking on township roads or rights-of-way during storms for safe snow removal.

As a reminder, due to the location within sight of the election machines, election laws require that the Township Office be closed on November 8th. The Secretary will work remotely that day. Thanks was extended to Grace Franks for all her work as Judge of Elections. John Moyer will substitute.

On this Veterans Day, November 11, 2016, the Board recognizes all Veterans of the Township for their service to our country and special remembrance to those who gave their lives for our country.

**BUDGET PREPARATION:**

The Proposed 2017 Budget has been prepared and is available for review and will be posted and advertised. Adoption of the budget will be considered at the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors to be held Tuesday, December 6th, at 7:00 p.m. at the municipal building. Thomas explained that it follows state guidelines and it is very frugal and that we do not include pass throughs which only inflate the budget. This is the first reading. Pipech read through it and Arnold agreed that it is a best-guess at what the numbers could look like next year.

**RICE TOWNSHIP  
PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET**

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| **MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the proposed budget for the year 2017. ROLL CALL: Arnold- Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes MOTION CARRIED.  **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**  Mr. Sweigart noted that Resolution 2016-13 was just to meet DCED requirements for the borrowing, and he reported on the use of the fire company property by PP&L to install new monopoles. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **PUBLIC COMMENT:**  Janeann Lokken questioned the amount for Snow and Ice Removal Supplies (salt). Thomas noted this is not a line item budget and will adjust as we go through the year. Pipech responded that will come out of existing Liquid Fuels funds. We have a full load of salt and anti-skid and will not run out. Pat Rushton asked if the budget contemplated a tax increase. Thomas replied "no". Thomas noted that we have borrowed for the emergency culvert project and can handle those payments. Bob Smith asked if PP&L had insurance to cover us on the access. Sweigart answered affirmatively, and had a bond to ensure that the land was restored . There was some discussion regarding the new monopole structure. EMA Bryan Brown reported that he had tested the EM system.  **MOTION** by, Thomas, second by Pipech, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.  Respectfully submitted,  Jeffrey D. Beck Secretary |  | | |  |  |  |
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