The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, August 2, 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 May was $40,213.01. General Fund total expenses were $163,901.28. The reason that was so high was the liability and property insurance bill. Liquid Fuels had expenses of $2,260.70. The Recreation account had no activity.

Balances as of June 30, 2016, as presented on the paper report:

General Checking: $59,291.63 General Money Market: $59,291.63 First Keystone $55,405.74

Liquid Fuels Checking: $2,780.27 Liquid Fuels Money Market: $116,510.36

Recreation Checking: $2,277.75 Recreation Money Market: $10,015.49

Total Cash on Hand: $ $305,572.87 Total bills presented for payment: $41,221.67

A correction of the final cash balances was raised during the presentation of the Treasurer's Report. The corrected report will be submitted at the September 2016 meeting.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Marty Wentz from Ice Lakes asked for an update on the repair to the dam. Township Engineer Andrew Pasonick reported that he has been in touch with DEP Dam Director Kirk Krieder and specifications were being developed.

Wentz expressed his frustration with the slow progress in repairing the pipe in the dam. He asked for a list of action items. Pipech explained that DEP permitting takes time. Pasonick explained that the application to DEP was postponed based on DEP’s advice to apply for a Letter of Authorization rather than the more onerous permit process.

Solicitor John Dean responded that the supervisors, staff and engineer have moved forward with this issue and enlisted the assistance of Senator Elizabeth Baker and Representative Gerald Mullery in securing the funding for the repair plan. He said a lot has been done. He noted that working with DEP requires time. After further discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION by Thomas, seconded by Pipech, to grant Pasonick authorization to prepare the specifications on the dam to along with an estimate of costs for the project.

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

REPORTS:

The RTPC did not meet on Wednesday, July 27, 2016, for lack of agenda items. Mountain Top Area Joint Sanitary Authority Minutes from June 15, 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. Richard Arnold noted that the National Night Out at Wright Township for police and fireman was happening during the meeting.

The WTVFD responded to 40 incidents for the month. Hydrants were flushed and tested. The township is well covered by fire hydrants. He also stated that the WTVFD was expecting fall occupancy for the location at the old RTVFD building.

**E**NGINEER'S REPORT: Pasonick reported that a preconstruction meeting with Latona Trucking was taking place tomorrow. At that time, Pasonick will ask for project schedules and submittals. He explained that this process was normal, and that he hoped that they would start in the next two weeks.

Chris Rivera of Laurel Lakes asked why the project was delayed. Pasonick said a DEP permit is required, and the paperwork for bonding is yet to be received. Rivera asked if the project would be completed before schools open and the answer was no.

Marty Wentz again questioned the delay on action on the Ice Lakes. Pasonick noted that he was working with DEP’ Dam expert Kirk Krieder on the project. Pipech and Thomas noted the consequences of not waiting for DEP permits. Arnold reviewed the necessary steps in commercial construction that had to be completed. Pasonick will be working on the bid package as reported in the motion above. Thomas noted that pushing bids and actions before having the permits can be for naught. Wentz expressed concern that the project would not be completed by winter and would push into next year.

Pipech explained that he had been on the phone for hours with Pasonick and Kreider and it was clear that not waiting for the permit would jeopardize the project. Thomas concluded that we are working as fast and as broadly as possible to get this project done and keeping in touch with our local representatives. Dean noted that we received multiple grants for projects but Nuangola Borough next door received no grants.

Richard Arnold explained the process of commercial building and that it is not so simple as a timeline checklist as the process moves forward. More discussion ensued about the culvert project.

Pasonick also reported that he had inspected the old fire hall, that it appeared structurally sound but noted water damage. He noted that an environmental assessment should be performed and an inspection of the septic system should be performed. Pipech reported that the building is secured for insurance purposes.

After Supervisor discussion concerning the condition of the RTVFD social hall’s current condition, the following motion was made:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to authorize a Phase 1 environmental study of the old fire hall.

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

MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS MATTERS:**

**MOTION** by Thomas , second by Pipech, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on July 5, 2016.
ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for July, 2016:

Robert Pipech reported that MetroCast had been directed away from making pave cuts in the new paving in Laurel Lakes and performed their cuts in the deteriorating portion of the road. He reported that the paving was completed on the Penn Aqua cuts and that the job was well done. The road crew has been patching holes, cutting grass and brush cutting, painting signs..

**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 July, 2016: Presented for Chief Franks by the Secretary since the Chief was attending National Night Out.
**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 July, 2016: Written report was submitted and summarized by Jack Varaly, Zoning Officer.

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

The denials for the permit for a shed and a pool were issued since they related to structures in the front yard and neither resident decided to appeal.

Thomas explained the cost problems associated with health care coverage for Beck and spouse without any recognition of Medicare, so in discussion with the Board and the Solicitor an alternative whereby Beck receives a reimbursement to cover private insurance costs for equitable benefits provided to Township employees, saving the Township significantly each month..

Motion by  Thomas, seconded by   Pipech, to cover health care costs for Jeffrey D. Beck for 2016 by $1,494.57 per month, payable in the last pay of the month, retroactive to June, 2016, (June and July payable in the next pay) in order to offset alternative healthcare costs and remove Beck and family from the Township Health Plan, thereby saving the Township $727.35 per month.

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

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to pay $10,606.00 to H.A Thomson Co. for the annual renewal of the Rice Township Property Insurance. The cost last year was $10,882.

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

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**: John Dean, Esq. reported that he was in negotiation with PP&L. The utility is seeking temporary access over the old fire company property to upgrade their line structures. Dean has not received the documents yet that should be forthcoming from the utility's attorney. The Highway Occupancy Permit ( HOP), a requirement for their access to their lines, will need to be provided by the Township and is contingent upon receiving the necessary documents from PP&L. Dean said that the plan was to grant them temporary access and the HOP. PP&L would then have to return everything to the way they found it. Upon questioning by Arnold, Dean ensured that PP&L would pick up the legal costs of this process.

MOTION by: Thomas, seconded by Pipech, to authorize the HOP upon notification from Dean that he had received satisfactory documents with the reimbursement of legal fees by PP&L at time of filing

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

Thomas explained the problems associated with maintaining the courtesy of taking used motor oil and that we cannot police the quality of the product. Since contaminants can be introduced into the product and the Township has no way to police the quality of the liquid added to the tanks, the Township really has no choice but to discontinue this operation which was a courtesy to its residents. Both Pipech and Arnold commented that almost all auto stores, A & R and Rules Garage would accept used oil.

MOTION: by Pipech, seconded by Arnold, to close down the receipt of used oil and antifreeze.

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

A conflict was discovered with the scheduled September 6th meeting.

MOTION: by Thomas, seconded by Pipech, to reschedule to next Board of Supervisors meeting to Wednesday, September 14, at 7:00 PM in the Township Building;

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Matt Petlock from Laurel Lakes reported that trees near 710 and 360 Lakeview Drive are leaning over the road and could come down in a bad storm. Pipech responded that he would look at this. Thomas commented that street canopies should be inspected and trimmed back for the winter where there is a history of ice forming on the roads. Pipech agreed, but that it should be done when the leaves are off.

Pipech asked Pasonick to get all information from the pre-construction meeting up to the Township office tomorrow after the meeting. Pipech made more comments regarding the Ice Lakes dam. He noted that the Coffer dam was too expensive an option.

**MOTION** by Pipech , second by Arnold , to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey D. Beck
Secretary