

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MAY 5, 2015

stated that the question should be directed to the legislature. Miller Stella clarified that the Board would need to contact State Representatives and ask that the statute be changed.

Miller Stella believes that the building is owned by the taxpayers in the Township and Supervisors should do what they can to protect the residents and viewing audience at all times. He stated that his concern should be everyone's concern; he only has a short time left on the Board and he wants to make sure that everybody is safe. Miller stated that he is concerned for the safety of the Township Secretary, as the Police aren't always at the Municipal building.

Joan Pipech stated that Venesky filed charges against the Auditors for being in the building with the doors locked after hours.

Miller Stella stated that the Supervisors took an oath to protect the residents at all times. Mark Taney stated that the Ross Township shooter was outside of the Ross Township Municipal Building. Miller Stella said that it could happen inside too.

MOTION by Stella, second by _____, to have the Township Secretary write a letter to the State Representatives asking for the statute to be changed, giving municipalities an option to forbid firearms.*

ROLL CALL: Stella - _____ Taney - _____ Thomas - _____

MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

*provided Mr. Stella has full support from the Board

Marcia Thomas explained that she was not prepared for this Motion. She stated that she feels conflicted with the issue. Marcia mentioned a time in a previous administration when Venesky and Stella had people wanded when they walked in the door; she's not aware of anyone carrying a firearm into the building prior to the wandling. Marcia stated that she does not own a firearm, but she is not opposed to other people owning them. She stated that the Municipal Building is a peaceable place and armed Police Officers are present at every Township Meeting to protect those in attendance. Marcia Thomas stated that she does not know why anyone would feel the need to come into a setting like this armed.

Miller Stella explained that people were wanded in the past due to high levels of animosity and a situation involving threats made on Facebook. He would like to see this Motion move forward. Marcia stated that she would like to do some research into the issue and find out why certain place prohibit firearms while other places have no restrictions whatsoever. She stated that if Miller feels like there is a situation in this Township that is unsafe, he should take it to the Police department so that the issue can be looked into. Miller replied that he did talk to the Police about it, and he was advised that an Ordinance would be the best course of action.

Joelle Brozoski asked Miller Stella if Rice Township is recognized as a governmental body; he confirmed. She asked why firearms are being allowed in a government building.

Felicia Bierzynski asked if anyone present has been subject to any threats that would make this Ordinance necessary. Miller Stella said no. She stated that she has been attending meetings in this building since the 1970s and they've always been peaceful meetings. Mrs. Bierzynski stated that the problems have come from people being annoyed with each other but not to the point of bodily harm. Miller Stella stated that he believes a Supervisor's job is to be proactive. Mrs. Bierzynski suggested that if someone were to come into the building

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PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pat Rushton asked about the Mountain Top COG and whether residents are allowed to dump yard waste at that facility. Secretary Stier advised that nothing has been submitted to Rice Township from the COG in writing, but that their Solicitor is drafting up a contract which should be available for inspection shortly. She further stated that yard waste is accepted, according to Barb Wasiakowski. The fee will be \$10 per sticker and will be valid for 1 year. Marcia Thomas stated that residents will be given information as we receive it, either in person or via the Township Website.

Marcia Thomas invited everyone to send photos that can be posted on the Township website.

Karl Kaminski asked where the Township stood on road repair. Marcia Thomas asked the other Board members if anyone was ready to put a project out for bid. She stated that the Road Study should be narrowed down to a few projects. Mark Taney stated that as a Board, they must agree on a 5-year plan. That plan will be handed off to representatives who will hopefully help us secure funds for some of the repairs.

Marcia Thomas stated that the next Board meeting is June 2nd, and the Board should plan on putting a project out to bid at that time. Mark Taney stated that since there's a lot of state money out there, no one is going to get a good price on paving this year. The private contractors are already busy with other projects.

Bob Pipech added that the Township shouldn't wait until December to do their paving project this year.

Marcia Thomas requested an executive session with the other Supervisors before the next regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting. This executive session will be for the purposes of discussing personnel.

Bob Pipech stated that he has received complaints that the tennis court lights aren't on. Joanna Taney verified that the lights have been on for weeks. Marcia Thomas announced that there will be new lights installed for the basketball court very soon.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Stella, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alicia E. Stier
Secretary