The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, January 4, 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 7:08 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 (read by Secretary Stier as Treasurer Wasiakowski was attending the Fairview Township Reorganization): For the month of December, the General fund had a total income of \$53,241.83; total expenses of \$68,591.36. There was no activity in the Liquid Fuels and Recreation Accounts. Bills presented for payment total \$17,153.73. Balances as of December 31st:

General Checking: \$87,113.53 General Money Market: \$125,395.41 Liquid Fuels Checking: \$0.00 Liquid Fuels Money Market: \$2,500.22 Recreation Checking: \$3,227.75 Recreation Money Market: \$10,014.33

Total Cash on Hand: \$228,251.24

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:

Rick Arnold thanked everyone for their vote of confidence and for bringing him on as the next Supervisor. He thanked Marcia Thomas and Bob Pipech for welcoming him and mentoring him into the position. Mr. Arnold also thanked Miller Stella for the outstanding job that he has done as Supervisor over the years.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting on December 1, 2015.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for December 2015: Roadmaster Pipech stated that while the weather was good, the Public Works department was patching. He stated that the department was out for 5 hours during the last snow storm. He stated that salt and anti-skid should not and will not be put on dry roads. Mr. Pipech explained that, up until the summer, the Public Works department will go out at 6am before the school buses run to check the roads for obstructions. This will prevent delays for people traveling early in the morning. He made reference to complaints about the road department "riding around" and clarified that the workers have

been directed to do just that to ensure that the roads are safe. Mr. Pipech stated that if there are any complaints to contact him directly.

Marcia Thomas asked how we are doing on supplies. Bob Pipech replied that supplies are good. The road department used up the mulch fixing up the walking path, but we'll get more in the spring.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Arnold, to accept the Roadmaster's Report as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to submit a new Salt Contract Participation Agreement to DGS COSTARS for the August 2016-July 2017 Season. We requested 500 tons for the 2015-2016 Season and are requesting the same for the next contract.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Police Report for December 2015: 182 Incidents; 102 Complaints; 3 Automobile Accidents; 39 Assist Calls; 4 Traffic Citations; 5 Non-Traffic Citations: Criminal Mischief; 1 302 Warrant Served. Yearly totals: 2,874 Incidents; 1,344 Complaints; 41 Automobile Accidents; 353 Assist Calls; 113 Traffic Citations; 16 Non-Traffic Citations; 16 Parking Tickets; 24 Criminal Arrests; 9 Warrants Served.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Police Report as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Marcia Thomas stated that the Executive Session was very productive and cordial; she and Bob Pipech thanked Miller Stella for attending and participating.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to elevate part-time Patrolman Hashagen's status to full-time, effective January 23, 2016.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Zoning Officer Report for December 2015: One demolition and one addition for a total of \$300.00. Total permits issued for 2015: 70, totaling \$6,712.20.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Zoning Report as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

The Planning Commission met on December 9th at 7pm--Draft minutes are available to the public. Marcia Thomas stated that the meeting schedule for the Planning Commission are advertised yearly and posted on the door monthly, for anyone wishing to know the dates.

Based on recommendations received by the Planning Commission:

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to advertise Ordinance #2016-1, amending the Rice Township Zoning Ordinance of July 10, 2007 to include regulations regarding Political Signs.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to approve advertising of the Community Survey in support of the Rice Township Comprehensive Plan. This will be advertised twice.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap--Fire Company report was not provided in time for this meeting, Fire Police Incident Recap is available to the public and includes all calls run between Wright and Rice Townships, a total of 18 hours reported. Marcia Thomas stated that Santa went out, and we received a 'Happy New Year' from the Fire Chief.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to ratify a payment in the amount of \$9,539.01 for the fourth quarter payment of 2015 under the contract that was signed in 2013.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Rice Township books were closed December 31, 2015. An Audit of the Township books will be conducted.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to appoint the Certified Public Accountant for the 2015 year. The firm of Grevera & Associates, at a cost not to exceed \$2,950.00 per their engagement letter, is appointed by resolution for the review of the 2015 year. (Resolution #2016-3)

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

As recommended by pension consultants R. J. Hall Company:

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to pass Resolution #2016-4, Procedures for Compliance with the Professional Services Contract Provisions of Act 44 of 2009.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to pay the Road Worker's Sick Days for time exceeding the 90-day cap.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

With the snow season here, 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.

The Township has received complaints from residents in Laurel Lakes concerning the activity of Aqua PA. The company still has equipment and piles of material taking up space in the cul-de-sacs. They promised to have

the work area cleaned up before any threat of winter weather, and they have not. Solicitor Dean stated that once he receives the details of the complaint, he will send out a letter requesting the items be removed from the roadway. Engineer Pasonick will be responsible for identifying what repairs need to be made to the roads.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Dean congratulated Marcia Thomas for retaining her seat as Supervisor Chair and congratulated Rick Arnold on winning his seat on the Board.

He stated that Rice Township received good news last month, but it was not brought up in the December meeting because he wanted to finalize it. Rice Township is now the current owner of the land previously owned by the Rice Township Fire Company. The Fire Company was in a receivership. The Receiver, Rice Fire Company, and Rice Township wanted to take the property over. The Receiver has to get approval from the Court and the Attorney General. The Attorney General originally wanted the Receiver to sell the property; a Motion was presented to Judge Augello, explaining that they are legally obligated to turn the property over to a non-profit to keep it in the public realm. Until we got it in writing, we didn't want to announce it. Thursday the deed was recorded.

Marcia Thomas thanked Solicitor Dean for working with the other Solicitor and the Receiver. Bob Pipech would like to get a dumpster on the grounds, and to have the Public Works Department clean it up. Marcia Thomas stated that the grounds are a real resource. Historically it's the heart of the Township, and she's sure that all the people who mortgaged their homes would be gratified knowing that this day finally came.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bob Pipech commented on the cleanliness of the building; he said the cleaning crew did a great job. He thanked the Supervisors for agreeing to hire this crew, including Miller Stella. Marcia Thomas stated that the company is bonded and insured and they're doing a thorough job.

Resident Ed Slosky discussed Section 324 of the Rice Township Zoning Ordinance. He stated that he was not aware of an E&S Plan requirement until after he started building a house. He received a letter from the Luzerne County Conservation District. The representative notified Mr. Slosky that the permit should not have been issued until the E&S Plan requirement was satisfied. The representative also stated that the Township may set themselves up for a fine since the permit was issued prior to the E&S Plan submission.

Solicitor Dean stated that he would look into the issue and will discuss with the Township Engineer at the Planning Commission Meeting. He recommended that Mr. Slosky attend the meeting so that the matter can be discussed further. The meeting will be held on January 27th in the Municipal building.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia E. Stier Secretary