The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, January 3, 2017, 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 7:13 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.

 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

 **REPORTS:**

Received the Treasurer's Report:

General Fund total income for December was $61,876.13. General Fund total expenses were $81,614.28. Liquid Fuels had no activity for the month. The Recreation account recorded no income, and had $150.00 of expense.

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

General Checking: $97,737.60 General Money Market: $35,408.73 First Keystone $50,039.61

Liquid Fuels Checking: $1,429.95 Liquid Fuels Money Market: $66,518.43

Recreation Checking: $1,127.75 Recreation Money Market: $10,016.32

Total Cash on Hand: $262,278.39. Total bills presented for payment: $47,176.11
**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.

**MOTION** by Thomas , second by Pipech, to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting on December 6, 2016.
ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for December 2016: Robert Pipech noted that the Road Crew has been out dealing with the snow and ice and have done a good job. Pipech reported that he met with Carl George regarding removal of tree canopies over Wilderness Drive and Henry Drive and removal will start in three weeks. There is more canopy to be removed than he expected. George will give us a time estimate for the work at $90/hour inclusive of bucket truck and 3-man crew. The LSA grants were filed electronically for the roads, backhoe and dam. Pipech will be working with the COG on the pole barn, the recipient of the $40,000 LSA grant. Thomas asked about the Christmas tree drop off at the COG. After discussion, any member with a sticker can drop off trees at the COG site on Saturday, January 14, from 10am to 2 pm.

**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 December 2016: Thomas asked if the year had been busier than normal. Chief Franks answered that it was close to average. Thomas confirmed that the parking violations related to the snow storms where parked cares prevented the Road Crew from clearing certain roads.
**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Police Report as presented.
ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Andrew Pasonick, Township Engineer, reported on three items. First, PennEastern had received the request from Latona Trucking for the final payment of $16,490.73 on the Laurel Drive Culvert Project. Inspections have been made and Latona provided the 1-year maintenance bond for the total cost of the project. After discussion among the Supervisors, PennEastern recommends payment of this final installment. Second, the Letter of Amendment for the dam permit at Ice Lakes has been delivered to Kirk Krieder at DEP. DEP wants 2 more copies. The Northern Cricket Frog study will start shortly. Third, Pasonick inspected the drainage problem at 1021 Pine Lane in Laurel Lakes on December 19, 2016. The drainage pipe underneath the driveway is either blocked or collapsed. Consequently, water is spilling across the cul-de-sac and freezing, causing a safety hazard. After discussion with the Supervisors and Jack Dean, Solicitor, the conclusion reached is that the owner is responsible for installing a functional pipe and, given the existing drainage ditches, such repair should fix the problem. The property was on the market but appears to have been taken off the market. The owner has moved away and the Secretary is currently in the process of determining the owner and new address.

 **BUSINESS MATTERS:**

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to submit a new Salt Contract Participation Agreement to DGS COSTARS for the August 2017-July 2018 Season. We requested 500 tons for the 2016-2017 Season.
ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to adopt an amended lease agreement with the Ice House Pub regarding the former RTVFD parking lot whereby the Pub will contribute $30 per month to the recreation fund.
ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Thomas , second by Pipech, to pay the Secretary/Treasurer's Health Care Premiums for 2017, not as compensation, in order to approximate the Township's Health Plan and save the taxpayers approximately $13,600 for the year.
ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to ratify Resolutions 2016-18 and 2016-19 approved by poll supporting the special request for the application of the $85,415 LSA grant towards the retrofitting of the Ice Lakes Dame and the request for a new LSA grant of $33,939 to cover the additional cost associated with retrofitting the dam.
ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to ratify Resolution 2017-3 designating two Supervisors plus the Treasurer as required to sign checks and conduct business with Citizens Bank and that Supervisors and the Treasurer are signers on all accounts.
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.

The Planning Commission met on December 14th at 7pm--Draft minutes are available to the public.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap. Arnold reported that the WTVFD conducted their Santa ride before Christmas on December 18th. The Township and Fire Department are in the process of moving two brush trucks from the Public Works garage to the RTVFD garage. The control pad has been installed for the right bay door and remotes have been programmed.

Rice Township books were closed December 31, 2016. An Audit of the Township books will be conducted.

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.

 **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Dean did not have a report and thanked the Supervisors for his reappointment.

 **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Felicia Bierzynski asked if a fire truck was going to be located at the RTVFD garage, and why it was taking so long to accomplish this. Arnold responded that the delay was on the Township and that the trucks were brush trucks, not fire trucks. With the door openers now in place, just installed last week, the trucks will be moved out of the Public Works garage where they are in the way. Mark Manosky inquired about the ownership of the old RTVFD buildings and grounds, plans for the social hall and insurance liability with the Ice House Pub using the parking lot. Dean replied that the Township owned the building and grounds and that the Pub had insurance naming us as the additional insured. Discussion was held regarding the social hall, its condition and possibility for renovation, and the upcoming conclusion of the Phase 1 environmental study. Thomas reported that a work session had been held before the regular meeting several months ago, and that the Environmental study is the next step to determining the fate of the building. Manosky asked about the historic nature of the fire hall. Thomas responded that it was certainly historic to her. Dean suggested that the residents of the Township would likely view the building as historic, but that might not be the case with a broader audience. Chief Franks noted that the newer section was constructed in the 1960's, and the older section after the turn of the century. The main problem that Franks explained was that the newer section is mostly underground. There was a school there for two years. Janeann Lokken said that her mother would not let her go to the school because she considered it a basement. Thomas explained the culver and dam projects had really tapped out the Township resources, and that any focus on this building had been delayed because of them. Lokken wondered if the kitchen building could be rented out, but Franks explained that everything had been sold. Thomas noted that there was a lot of effort and help to save the property, and that she hoped some way could be found to save some the building.

Pat Rushton asked for clarification regarding resolution 2016-18, that it supported the extension of the current grant to the dam retrofit, and 2016-19 which supported the application for an additional grant for the dam. Thomas also clarified the appointment of the new Zoning Officer, Andrew Holter, and that Jack Varaly would be retained as a Zoning and Planning Consultant.

Pipech reported that the Zoning Office was being cleared of miscellaneous items, and long term storage would be held in the garage. Curt is available on Wednesdays if any help is needed.

 **MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:37p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey D. Beck
Secretary/Treasurer