The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 7, 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 7:00 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 - Absent
 Thomas - Here

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

Marcia Thomas noted that Robert Pipech as absent due to illness.

Thomas reported that the Board of Supervisors have received notification from DCED that a portion of the awarded grant in 2016 for road paving may be applied to the Laurel Drive Culvert replacement project, and that the awarded grant in 2016 for the repair of the Ice Lakes Dam may be applied to retrofitting that dam in accordance with DEP specifications in order that the dam be compliant with Commonwealth law. Thomas thanked former Secretary Alicia Stier for her efforts in launching these grant applications and Secretary/Treasurer Jeffrey Beck for working on the modifications.
 **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Janeann Lokken positively noted the new sign outside of the Township Building. Pat Rushton of Citizens Voice received the clarification that the total grant amount from which the culvert would be taken was $200,000, inclusive of funds for Henry Drive, and up to approximately $85,000 to be allocated towards the culvert.

 **ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Andrew Pasonick, Township Engineer, reported that the Letter of Amendment for the Dam was in DEP's hands, that he was waiting for the Phase 1 report on the Northern Cricket Frog and then would be working on the design and bid process for construction after receiving feedback from DEP.

 **BUSINESS MATTERS:**

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Arnold, to accept the Minutes of the Reorganization and Regular meeting on January 3, 2017.
ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes Pipech - Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report:

General Fund total income for January, 2017 was $52,316.13. General Fund total expenses were $95,647.11. Liquid Fuels had no income, but $2,275.11 in expenses for the month. The Recreation account recorded $2,250.17 in income, primarily from Hallmark Homes, and had no expenses for the month.

Balances as of January 31, 2017, as presented on the paper report:

General Checking: $53,831.55 General Money Market: $35,409.33 First Keystone $50,043.86

Liquid Fuels Checking: $1,154.84 Liquid Fuels Money Market: $64,519.54

Recreation Checking: $3,377.75 Recreation Money Market: $10,016.49

Total Cash on Hand: $218,353.36. Total bills presented for payment: $32,865.10.

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

In the absence of the Roadmaster, the Roadmaster's Report for January 2017 will be delayed until next month.

Received the Police Report for January 2017. Carl Kaminski asked about the status of the shooting on Heslop road several years ago. Chief Franks responded that it was resolved, but would have to look at the file. Franks noted that one perpetrator was in State jail and the other was on probation.
**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Police Report as presented.
ROLL CALL: Arnold -Yes Pipech - Thomas -Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

Secretary Beck reported that Zoning activity included the receipt of a modification of the Woodberry Manor subdivision plan by the Planning Commission and Valley Stream will have to present a request under the SALDO process to apply for permits relative to the updated regulations regarding a flood plain.

The Planning Commission met on January 25th at 7pm--Draft minutes are available to the public. Ray Fedor was named Chairman and Ann Kijek was named Vice-Chair of the Planning Commission for 2017. Pasonick reported that, regarding the Woodberry Manor modification, Presidential Homes will supply 7 copies of maps clearly marked to show the breakdown of Section B into Parts 1 and 2 and an application and letter explaining the reason for the requested modification. Pasonick will be re-inspecting the Part 1 section to determine the necessary financial security. Thomas confirmed with Pasonick that Phase 2 is complete. Pasonick confirmed that the size of the project is not changed, but rather that the buildout process would be broken down into pieces.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap, there were 21 incidents in January. For the 2016 year, there were 369 incidents, 27% of which were in Rice Township.

The Minutes of the Reorganization meeting of the Board of Auditors held on Tuesday, January 4, 2017(corrected from the 3rd on the agenda) are available and approves the wages of Supervisors working for the Township.

Richard Arnold commented that everyone has a great time at the Easter Egg Hunt every year, and last year the weather really cooperated. Arnold encouraged attendance this year and recognized all the volunteer help that makes the event successful.

**MOTION** by Arnold , second by Thomas, to approve a budget of $1,000.00 from the Recreation Fund to hold an Easter Egg Hunt in the Rice Township Park, dates and times to be determined.
ROLL CALL: Arnold -Yes Pipech - Thomas -Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Arnold, to ratify the approval by poll for the Secretary/Treasurer to participate in a webinar regarding Emergency Management presented by PSATS on February 1 at the cost of $30.00.
ROLL CALL: Arnold -Yes Pipech - Thomas -Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Arnold, to name Jeffrey D. Beck the Rice Township Open Records ("Right to Know") Officer for the year of 2017.
ROLL CALL: Arnold -Yes Pipech - Thomas -Yes

**MOTION** by Arnold , second by Thomas, to reverse the motion in September to enter into a maintenance contract for the Canon printer, to receive a refund from Golden Business Machines for $108.00, upon mutual discovery that such an annual contract is already in place.
ROLL CALL: Arnold -Yes Pipech - Thomas -Yes

**MOTION** by Arnold, second by Thomas, to place two patron listings in the "Theatre at the Grove" Playbill that will appear for their 9 plays. (Board of Supervisors $75, Police Dept. $50)
ROLL CALL: Arnold -Yes Pipech - Thomas -Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Arnold, to make a donation to the SPCA of Luzerne County in the amount of $100 for their annual campaign. Rice Township contributed $100 in 2015 as well.
ROLL CALL: Arnold -Yes Pipech - Thomas -Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Arnold, to increase the payment for dues to Luzerne County Boroughs & Townships Association from the previous approval by $5.00 to meet the increase in dues to $30.00
ROLL CALL: Arnold -Yes Pipech - Thomas -Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

 **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** John Dean, Esq., Solicitor, reported that the abandoned vehicle on Burma Road was removed. Supervisor's received a "thank-you" card, and thanked Chief Franks and the Solicitors' for their efforts in making this happen.

 **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Robert Smith inquired about the status of the Blytheburn Road bridge just west of Interstate 81 that had been reduced to one lane and has stop signs. After discussion and expressions of concern about the timing of the bridge repair relative to the Commonwealth's removal of the Church Road bridge crossing Henry Drive, the following motion was made:

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Arnold, to write a letter to the County Engineer expressing our safety concerns, our need for additional information and the desire for a speedy resolution of the repair.
ROLL CALL: Arnold -Yes Pipech - Thomas -Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

Carol Duffy asked if we could host an electronics recycling event. Thomas replied that the County lists centers that will take electronics. Thomas noted that Butler and Hanover do so and get a grant to support it. The County does provide a list of locations where you can recycle electronics. It is on their website. The Township has used James Tabit & Sons in Larksville successfully in the past.

Arnold reported that negotiations are ongoing with the WTVFD about equipment storage and usage at the garage behind the old RTVFD social hall. We want to maintain a good working relationship and make sure that the relationship and the equipment stored in our garage is mutually beneficial. Arnold also noted that the deterioration of the Church Road bridge crossing Henry Drive will force its removal up on PennDOT's timetable. This would just put more pressure on the Blytheburn Road bridge that is now down to one lane and good communication with the RTVFD. John Lokken asked if there was a time span for the bridge removal. Arnold responded that the project had not gone out for bid.
 **MOTION** by Thomas, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey D. Beck
Secretary/Treasurer