

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES
APRIL 4, 2017

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, April 4, 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 - here -
Thomas - here -

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

Report from the Roadmaster as a follow-up to the last meeting regarding Laurel Lakes. Robert Pipech and Andrew Pasonick met with PP&L representative and were able to clarify road usage by the trucks. In meetings with the sub-contractor and Chief Franks, loaded triaxles will proceed off of Aspen up Laurel Drive and down Lakeview Drive, turn around at the bottom of Lakeview at Laurel, then back up to the construction road. This keeps the heaviest weight off of the new culvert. Turning around at the Rendezvous property is prohibited. The empty trucks then proceed down Laurel, across the new culvert and on to Aspen. The intent is to spread the traffic out a bit.

Jeffrey Beck reported that the Township successfully received an additional \$33,939 in requested LSA grant funds to add to the previously-awarded \$85,415 in order to complete the State-mandated repairs to the Ice Lakes Dam. An informal meeting was held with Supervisor Pipech, Township Engineer Andrew Pasonick, the PA Fish and Boat Commission and Representative Mullery and his Legislative Assistant, Cody Forgach, to review the status of the dam repair.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Thomas opened the floor to public comment but there was none.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Andrew Pasonick of PennEastern, the Township Engineer, reported on two items. First, the Henry Drive pave project will be advertized Friday, and bids will be opened at the Township Building on April 27, 2017, at 11:00 AM. Pasonick will make a recommendation regarding the bids at the Board of Supervisors meeting on May 2nd. Robert Pipech suggested milling the roadway at 1 1/2 inch and Pasonick confirmed that depth for about 35% of the road. Pasonick responded that the project will be looked at in two pieces. The first piece is about 4,000 feet from Nuangola Road to Ice Harvest Drive, and then a second section past the Church Road overpass. Second, Pasonick summarized the meeting that was held with the representative of the Fish and Boat Commission, Representative Mullery and Cody Forgach, and Pipech and Beck. The group reviewed the sight and Pasonick will contact Kirk Kreider about the project, since the Phase 2 study would appear to be costly. A full draw down of water would appear to have a detrimental impact on the Northern Cricket frog, so we want to determine if a compromise can be achieved. Pipech also noted that the Fish and Boat Commission representative was not supportive of clearing all vegetation out of the spillway.

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BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on March 7, 2017.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report:

Jeffrey Beck presented the Treasurer's Report: General Fund total income for March, 2017 was \$51,842.92, reflecting the drop off of receipts of earned income tax. However, property tax receipts would appear in the April report. General Fund total expenses were \$106,612.96, resulting in a deficit of \$54,770.04, offsetting the thin revenue in January. Expenses were higher than normal since March was a three-pay-period month. Liquid Fuels received the Commonwealth distribution of \$125,887.43. Expenses for salt and cold patch for the month totaled \$2576.42, leaving a respectable surplus of \$123,311.01. The Recreation account had no income in the month, and had \$850 of expenses for the month related to the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt.

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

General Checking: \$97,582.13 General Money Market: \$35,410.47 First Keystone \$50,051.95

Liquid Fuels Checking: \$445.97 Liquid Fuels Money Market: \$186,061.11

Recreation Checking: \$3,637.75 Recreation Money Market: \$10,016.81

Total Cash on Hand: \$383,206.19. Total bills presented for payment: \$29,899.35.

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.

We received the 2016 Municipal Annual Audit and Financial Report from Grevera & Associates. Copies of the Concise Financial Statement are available to the public and the full report is available for public inspection. There were no findings on the 2016 Audit.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for March, 2017:

Pipech reported that the road drains had been cleared and there was no flooding. We have used or stored 308 tons of salt, exceeding our minimum requirement of 300 tons. The new gasoline tank is on order and the tank and pump will meet Labor and Industry standards for the installation. This will also require the removal of the sides from the fuel shed to allow required ventilation. There will be locked security on the tank and pump. Lastly, Pipech reported that while the canopy over Wilderness Drive was done, the bad weather prevented the contactor from getting to Henry Drive. This will be done next winter when the leaves are off the trees.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech announced that the Mountain Top Area COG composting facility will reopen for business in April 1st from 10 am to 4 pm. Thereafter, the facility will be open every Wednesday from 10 am to 2 pm and every Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. COG stickers may be purchased at the Township Office for \$10.00. Pipech noted that the March COG meeting was canceled due to the bad weather. We have an LSA grant for a COG pole barn, secured through Rice Township, and Beck will be working on developing the bid and project late in April into May.

Received the Police Report for March 2017:

Chief Robert Franks reported that the tractor-trailers carrying oversized equipment through Laurel Lakes to the PP&L construction site are too big for the intersections there and have damaged some yards. The contractor on site has made repairs. Franks reported that each of the monopoles will require between 8 and 12 concrete truck loads for the foundation. They will soon begin to do work on the access behind the RTVFD property. Rita Huntz of Laurel Lakes asked for clarification about the road usage in Laurel Lakes. Franks and Thomas explained the project.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Beck reported that permits for a new home and an accessory structure were issued.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Zoning Report for March, 2017 as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

The Planning Commission did not meet on March 22th due to lack of agenda items.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap was presented by Richard Arnold. The WTVFD responded to 34 incidents, a mix of traffic accidents and structural events. They cleared out fire hydrants from the snow and are planning their annual bazaar.

Thomas referenced a letter received from the M.S. Kirby Library seeking a donation. The last donation was made in 2014 in the amount of \$250.00. After discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to make a donation of \$250.00 to the M.S. Kirby Library.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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We received a thank you letter from the SPCA of Luzerne County for our contribution of \$100.00.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to approve Resolution 2017-4 which adopts the updated Emergency Operations Plan dated February 12, 2017.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Chad Sweigart of the Solicitor's Office noted that there was nothing to report. Pipech questioned recent inquiries from residents that AARP/Hartford Insurance continues to carry RTVFD as the principal fire emergency provider. Sweigart said that his office would look into it.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Township will again help to coordinate groups planning spraying programs for Gypsy Moths by registering contacts and locations. Groups who are getting sprayed should call the office and let Beck know. Beck can coordinate efforts.


Pipech and Thomas also thanked the Police Department and the Public Works department for their efforts during the snow storm. The Supervisors noted that Matt McGowan cleared off fire hydrants in Woodberry and Woodland Estates from the snow storm and asked Beck to send him a letter of thanks.

Arnold explained that the Easter Egg Hunt would be held on Saturday, April 8, at 10 AM at the Township Building. He thanked the Supervisors for their support, the newspapers for their advertisements without cost, Representative Mullery for donating 2 bicycles as prizes, Holly Guydish for spearheading the event and Beck for support.

Felicia Bierzynski asked if the moths were going to be bad this year. Bryan Brown responded that the County guidance was that they will not be as bad as last year.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeffrey D. Beck
Secretary/Treasurer