

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES

MAY 2, 2017

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda, draft minutes 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 -
Pipech -
Thomas -

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

Old Business: Secretary/Treasurer Jeffrey Beck reported that the Luzerne County Engineer reports that the beam supplier is behind schedule. They expect to start work on the Blytheburn Road bridge in early May and have it completed by early June. The Commonwealth has announced that Nuangola Road will be oiled and chipped in 2017, and the Church Road bridge over Henry Drive will be removed in 2018. The PP&L project to replace lattice towers appears to be on schedule. Frontier is inspecting the lines along the new culvert in Laurel Lakes as PP&L, Metrocast and Service Electric have confirmed that the lines are not theirs. The Board of Supervisors continues to work with Rep. Mullery's and Senator Baker's offices on the dam repair issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Felicia Bierzynski asked for an update on the Rice Township Volunteer Fire Company social hall. Chair Marcia Thomas replied that any decision was awaiting completion of the asbestos study. Marty Wentz requested that the website be updated. Thomas and Beck agreed, and explained the infection which occurred earlier in the year, and ongoing work with PSATS, the webmaster. Beck is working with PSATS to improve the appearance and functionality of the website and make it more useful. Karl Kaminski suggested that the Township create a "Township Take Pride in Your Neighborhood" campaign regarding derelict properties. Thomas noted that such issues should be taken to the Zoning Officer. Ann Kijek noted that there is trash dumping on Blytheburn Road. Sergeant Harry Ehret responded that he called the County and the trash was removed. Kaminski asked if we use the best paving material available when we repave. Vice-Chair Robert Pipech and the Township Engineer replied that we only use SuperPave, the PennDOT-required material that is the most durable available. The conversation extended to roads in Ice Lakes and Pipech noted that on some roads in that development an insufficient base was laid down. Thomas noted that for several years no paving was done in the Township, and that the best practice was a continual rotating program of paving the roads every year.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Pasonick reported that the Henry Drive Pave project was advertised and bids received. The low bid, Barletta Materials, was \$95,886.00 for the base bid and \$32,667.00 for Alternate 1. The base bid covers Henry Drive from Nuangola Road to Ice Harvest Drive, and Alternate 1 extends towards Church Road. This bid was based on \$6/sq. yard of material versus estimates from 2 years ago of \$8.25-9.00/sq. yard. Pasonick noted that the Ice Lakes dam project is still in the hands of DEP. Kirk Krieder reviewed the materials presented to him by Pasonick and concluded that the impact on the Northern Cricket frog was insufficient to change the requirement to dewater the lake to the bottom of the dam as required by

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Section 105 passed in 2011. DEP actions are reviewed by the Army Corps of Engineers and EPA and DEP must justify any modifications they take to federal standards. There is no cost to the permit to the Township. Wentz inquired about the options for drawing down the lake. Pasonick reviewed the process, and the current costs for a Phase 2 frog study. Thomas stated that the Township was trying to achieve the lowest impact solution but that DEP sets the pace. Pipech also noted that a grant for the dam means that we do not get a grant for the roads. We have received additional grant funds, but the cost on the dam project keeps going up. Supervisor Richard Arnold reminded everyone that Laurel Lakes did not follow DEP protocol and suffered for it. The Township is trying to meet all interests. Pipech also confirmed with Pasonick that the Henry Drive pave project included paving the Ice Harvest intersection and that Pasonick would check on line painting and berming.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

Based on the recommendation by the Township Engineer and Solicitor:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to award the Henry Drive paving project to Barletta Materials for the Base Bid for \$95,886.00 and Alternate 1 for \$32,667.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on April 4, 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 April, 2017 was \$117,198.45, reflecting the receipt of property taxes exceeding \$63,000. General Fund total expenses were \$67,925.75, resulting in a surplus of \$49,272.70, almost offsetting the deficit experienced in March. Liquid Fuels expenses for salt and cold patch for the month totaled \$7,203.75 as we are close to fulfilling our required salt purchase of 300 tons minimum. The Recreation account had no activity in the month. Balances as of March 31, 2017, as presented on the paper report:

See report attached.

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.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for April, 2017: Road crew has been patching Laurel Drive. Roadmaster Pipech reported that he planned on using the millings from the Henry Drive project to either apply them to Laurel Drive or stock pile them for future use.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (CONT.):

Diamond-Tex has been applied to the ball field. A demo of a commercial grade zero turn mower occurred as the old mower is inefficient and old. The new mower will cut mowing time in half. The Supervisors can approve its purchase by telephone poll should that become necessary. Pipech also discussed the need to remove dead trees along Heslop Road around Wilderness Drive. The tree service is currently clearing the canopy over Henry Drive ahead of the paving project. Thomas noted that there are trees in the park that also need to be removed.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Thomas, to remove 9 trees along Heslop Road around Wilderness Drive by Chris' Tree Service for \$1,600.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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 April, 2017: Presented by Sergeant Ehret. See attached report.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Zoning Report for April, 2017: Presented by Beck. See attached report.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to accept the Zoning Report for April, 2017 as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

The Planning Commission met on April 26th and draft minutes of that meeting are available.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap.

Thomas asked Sergeant Ehret if any damage occurred as a result of last night's storm. Ehret replied that, other than a downed tree along Henry Drive, there was no damage.

Thomas reported that we received a thank you letter from the M. S. Kirby Library for our contribution of \$250.00.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Wright Township Volunteer Fireman's Association Funding Formula Calculations for 2017 and approve payments of \$9,913.77 at the end of each calendar quarter in 2017.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (CONT.):

We received a request from Rice Elementary School to use the overflow parking lot at the Township Building for pick-up/drop off space and parking for chaperones of field trips. Such request was approved last year.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to approve the request from Rice Elementary School to use the overflow parking lot at the Township Building for pick-up/drop off space and parking for chaperones of field trips for the dates contained in the request letter.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Attorney Chad Sweigart from the Solicitor's office reported that appeals had been filed to remove Township property from the tax rolls. The County will refund the filing fees and remove the parcels from the tax rolls.

PUBLIC COMMENT


Pipech asked Sweigart to ask Jack Dean to review the problem whereby the Harford Insurance Company continues to default Rice Township properties to fire coverage by Rice Township Volunteer Fire Company instead of Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company. Sweigart will do so. Beck will send any letter regarding this issue that he has to the Fire Company. Thomas also noted that we have a motion every year at reorganization that Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company covers Rice Township. Carl Smith asked if a local agent for the Hartford existed, the answer being no.

Arnold thanked the supervisors, staff, police, public works, and particularly Holly Guydish and her family for the highly successful Easter Egg Hunt this year. Arnold also noted that Representative Mullery supplied two great bikes as the grand prizes for the hunt. He concluded that about 500 people attended the event, along with the Easter Bunny. Thomas noted that we have a plaque for Holly and family to recognize her for her efforts with the Hunt.

As requested by Pipech, Beck will follow up on funding the mower and get that to the Supervisors and the Solicitor.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:41p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey D. Beck
Secretary/Treasurer