

## RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES

June 6, 2017

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors is held on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda and Treasurer Reports are available to the public. Chair Marcia Thomas calls 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.

Old Business: Jeffrey Beck reported that the Luzerne County Engineer now reports that the bridge on Blytheburn Rd., just west of Interstate 81, will be removed and replaced. They will keep the current abutments. The goal is to complete the project by the end of this construction year.

The Township Engineer has given notice to proceed to the contractor on the Henry Drive project. The Township Engineer, Andrew Pasonick, reported that the job will start within any day as weather permits. After meeting with Barletta and reviewing Henry Drive, the decision was made to perform more milling but less base repair. It is expected that this change will save between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Barletta also quoted \$5,600 to spread and roll the millings onto the two Ice Lakes parking lots. A change order will be introduced when all material needs are determined.

The Board of Supervisors continues to work with Rep. Mullery's and Senator Baker's offices with the Township Engineer to settle on the best course of action for the dam repair.

Marcia Thomas noted that a five year Audit of the Uniform Construction Code Enforcement in Rice Township was conducted by the PA Labor & Industry Department and... "the Department acknowledges that Rice Township has been found to comply with the enforcement of the accessibility and administrative provisions of the Uniform Construction Code as it pertained to the work reviewed during this audit review."

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Don Herres representing St. Martin-in-the-Fields church thanked the Board of Supervisors for the upcoming motion concerning approval and support for the annual kite festival. Mark Manosky thanked the Board of Supervisors for the removal of dead trees at the entrance of Wilderness Drive. He questioned the need for the asbestos study at the Rice Township Fire Company social hall. Richard Arnold responded that, whatever is done with the building, it is a matter of law that such a study must be done to identify any asbestos sources in the structure.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Pasonick reported that he has been in contact with both Chris Urban of Fish and Boat and with Kirk Krieder of the DEP dam division to continue to clarify and agree upon a course of action for the Ice Lakes Dam. The Fish and Boat Commission is concerned about the impact on the **Northern Cricket**

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frog if the lake is drawn down to the bottom of the dam, about 12 feet. However, they might be more comfortable if the draw down was only half, or 6 feet. DEP dam can accept a 6 feet draw down if the Township installs a coffer dam to allow a full draw down at the spillway. However, they want a more thorough plan from the Township Engineer in terms of the retrofitted emergency draw down outlet for the lake, and that can only be done if the draw down occurs. DEP suggests a draw down to determine the course of action, refilling the lake while plans are then drawn and presented to DEP for review, comment and approval, and then a second draw down to perform the actual construction. The Township through the engineer is trying to get Fish and Boat to accept the 6 foot draw down and waive the Phase 2 frog study in order to save that money. Pasonick has already approached DEP dam division to accept a compromise to allow the use of the existing 14" pipe as the emergency dewatering mechanism but DEP declined to accept that option. If Fish and Boat will waive the Phase 2 study, then Pasonick will try to work with DEP dam to accept a single draw down process rather than a 2 stage process in order to save funds. Prompted by a question by Marty Wentz, Pasonick explained that the Phase 1 frog study concluded that the species might live there, but a Phase 2 study costing anywhere from \$14,500-\$25,000 would be required to actually confirm whether or not they live there. Pasonick and the Board of Supervisors agree that it would be better to not spend that money, if Fish and Boat agree to the 6 foot draw down, in order to apply those funds to the actual dam construction. Wentz asked if either Fish and Boat or DEP could override the other. Pasonick explained that such an override does not exist, and both agencies also have to answer to Federal agencies as well.

### **BUSINESS MATTERS:**

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on May 2, 2017.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Received the Treasurer's Report: Secretary/Treasurer Beck presented the Treasurer's report, such attachment being part of these minutes.

**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 May, 2017: Mr. Pipech reported that the road crew has been cutting weeds along roads and in sight lines during weather that has not been conducive to road patching, but such patching has occurred during good weather. A commercial grade zero-turn mower has been purchased through the COSTARS program for just under \$7,000, saving about \$700 from the initial quoted price. Pipech thanked Dan Centurione and Beck for their work on this. Pipech met with Metrocast concerning road cuts within the Township, and Beck will issue the necessary permits. The old lawn mowing tractor is being repaired for back-up purposes.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

**MOTION CARRIED.**

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Received the Police Report for May, 2017: Chief Franks presented the Police report, such attachment being part of these minutes.

**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 May, 2017: Secretary/Treasurer Beck presented the Zoning Report, such attachment being part of these minutes.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Sewer Enforcement Officer Report for May, 2017: Secretary/Treasurer Beck presented the Sewer Enforcement Officer report, such attachment being a part of these minutes.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Sewer Enforcement Officer Report for May, 2017 as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

The Planning Commission meeting for May 24 was canceled due to lack of agenda items.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap was presented by Arnold. He noted that the annual bazaar was being held this month at St. Jude's and encouraged everyone to attend. He announced that a transformer would be in attendance. He also explained that the Fire Company had purchased a 2005 Pumper which would support their ability to respond to fires in the Township.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to adopt resolutions 2017-5, 6, 7 and 8 authorizing the Secretary/Treasurer to have internet access to the First Keystone Community Bank accounts, to convert the General Fund checking account to interest bearing, and to open money market accounts for the State and Recreation funds.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Arnold, to ratify the decision by telephone/email poll to authorize Environmental Abatement Associates to perform asbestos testing at the facility known as the Rice Township Fire Department social hall on Willoughby Street for the price of \$1,600.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to ratify the decision by telephone/email poll to pay the presented bill from Rules Garage for \$150.00 relating to repair associated with the recall by Ford Motor Company of the police vehicle in question to facilitate the application and reimbursement of this charge by Ford.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to change the November meeting from the 7th to Wednesday, November 8th because of election day and to authorize advertising of the same.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to make a donation of \$250.00 from the Recreation Fund to the Wright Recreation and Environmental, Inc. for the fireworks display scheduled for July 3, 2017 at the same level as last year.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to approve the 5th Annual Kite Festival planned for September 30, 2017 sponsored by St. Martin in the Fields who is insured, and make a donation from the Recreation Fund to Pocono Kite Symphony for 125 kites for \$500.00, the same amount as last year.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to approve Ann Kijek and the Secretary/Treasurer attending the Luzerne County Boroughs & Township Association dinner meeting June 15, 2017 and to pay the \$10.00 fee for each.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

**MOTION CARRIED.**

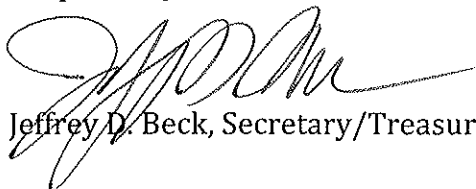
**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Solicitor Dean reported that there was nothing to report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mark Vital thanked the Supervisors for their work to get the owner across the cul-de-sac from Vital to repair his driveway drainage problem, and to thank the Road Crew for keeping all the salt on the ice which formed during the winter when the drainage problem existed. Don Herres offered the use of the Church parking lot to the Township if overflow was needed.

A reminder that the next Board of Supervisors meeting is Wednesday, July 5th, due to the July 4th holiday.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:34p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Jeffrey D. Beck, Secretary/Treasurer