

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES

July 5, 2017

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, July 5, 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 was 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: Robert Pipech introduced Dan Centurione, an employee of the Township, as the new Constable fulfilling the 6 year term of Wes Deaton. Centurione was duly sworn in and is attending Constable training in August. Pipech noted that Centurione will be an asset to the Township as Constable. Marcia Thomas acknowledged Mr. Deaton's many years of service and welcomed Centurione in this new role

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Andrew Pasonick reported that the Henry Drive project had been completed, and that the bill for \$125,425.24 was presented to Pasonick for review. This included the change order for spreading and rolling millings at the Ice Lakes parking lots. Overall, this still represented a savings of \$3,127.76 relative to the original base and alternate 1 bids totaling \$128,553. Pipech inquired about line painting on Henry Drive and other Township Roads. Pasonick responded that two quotes had been received. Pipech asked Pasonick to include Ice Harvest Drive, Woodland up to Woodberry and Polonia up to the new pavement in the line painting process.

Motion by Pipech, seconded by Arnold, to authorize PennEastern to secure quotes for the above Township roads for painting and to execute the same.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pasonick also reported that he had contacted Chris Urban of the Fish and Boat Commission. Urban suggested that the Northern Cricket Frog would be least disturbed if this project and dewatering were done in the winter. This may eliminate the need for a Phase 2 frog study. After discussion including Marty Wentz, Pasonick suggested that he begin preparation of a bid package for the dam retrofit to present to Kirk Krieder of DEP for review and comment. This would include a stone coffer dam to be put in place. Pipech reiterated that the lake would have to be closed to ice fishing during the repair process. Richard Arnold noted that hopefully this could be started before the hard winter hits. It is important to get DEP comments in order to keep this process moving.

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BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on June 6, 2017.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for June, 2017: Treasurer Jeffrey Beck reviewed the General Fund activity for the month, noting the reduced revenue which is typical of this summer months. He also pointed out the insurance payments and savings, and reviewed other funds and balances, the attached report being a 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 June, 2017: Pipech reported that the Henry Drive millings were used to improve the Ice Lakes parking lots and the berming of Henry Drive. Public works staff have been patching and brush cutting along the roads, and Gypsy Moth spraying occurred in park behind the Township Building. Secretary Beck has names of companies that spray for gypsy moths. The new gas tank, meeting L & I specifications, has been installed and the tank shed has been sheathed with wire fencing. The zero turn mower has been received and has been a great productivity enhancer regarding the time spent mowing the parks. Pipech also asked Pasonick to begin the process to pave Nuangola Avenue. Thomas asked that a letter be sent to PennDOT regarding the poor job done on Nuangola Road. Pipech explained that the patching crew was rain delayed and the oil and chip crew just went ahead in order to meet their time schedule.

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 June, 2017: Chief Franks presented the Police report which is a part of these minutes. He explained the purchase of body cameras, their use and image storage in the cloud supported by AXON, the vendor, and Patrolman Hashagan demonstrated the use of the camera. Chief Franks drafted the policy, and it was reviewed and approved by our insurance carrier. Thomas thanked Chief Franks for heading up the project and getting the cameras in place. Franks noted that the patrolmen are glad to have them.

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 June, 2017: Assistant Zoning Officer Jeffrey Beck presented the Zoning Report for the month, such report being part of these minutes.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Arnold, to accept the Zoning Report for June, 2017 as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold -yes

Pipech -yes

Thomas -yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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The Planning Commission meeting for June 28th was canceled due to lack of agenda items.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap. Arnold reported that there were 4 Rice Township incidents for the month. He also thanked everyone for their support of the bazaar.

The Township received a thank you from Wright Recreation for our \$250 donation for the July 3rd fireworks.

The Township received a thank you from the Crestwood High PTA for the Township's support of their senior lock in.

The Township received a thank you from the Penn State Master Gardener's program for use of the building this year. They returned the key.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to pay \$67,043.00 to PIRMA for Liability insurance, effective August 1, 2017. This compares to the August 1, 2016 premium of 69,150.00

ROLL CALL: Arnold -yes

Pipech -yes

Thomas -yes

MOTION CARRIED.

The Township received notification that the WTVFD Workers' Comp premium for the year totals \$26,496.00. The previous Board negotiated to pay 37% of the premium, which makes our obligation total \$9,803.52 for the period 8/28/17 to 8/28/18. Last year the premium totaled \$35,718.00 and our obligation totaled \$13,215.66 for the period 8/28/16 to 8/28/17.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to pay \$9,803.52 to Wright Township for our portion of Wright Township Fire Department's Worker's Compensation coverage for the period 8/28/17 to 8/28/18.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to allow the Secretary/Treasurer to attend the PSATS Webinar - The Changing Regulatory Landscape for Outdoor Advertising Signs and Devices - 07/12/17 at a cost of \$30.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to ratify the decision by email poll to allow the Secretary/Treasurer to attend the PSATS Webinar -Protecting Your Township from Cyber Crime and Theft - June 21, 2017 at a cost of \$30.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to authorize the Treasurer to close the Recreation Fund checking account and money market account at Citizens Bank.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to donate \$20.00 to the American Legion Parade of Champions from the Recreation Fund. Last year we donated \$20.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Thomas explained that a resident, previously an Eagle Scout, made this proposal. Beck explained that signs were requested on Heslop Road and Henry Drive, but the Commonwealth will not authorize turtle signs on Nuangola Road. After some discussion regarding turtles, turtle crossings and the cost of signs, the following motion was made:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to purchase 4 turtle crossing signs from Road Traffic Signs at the cost of approximately \$22.57 each to be placed on Heslop Road and Henry Drive.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

The Rice Township Police Department will be joining Wright Township and Fairview Township Police Departments for "National Night Out." The event will take place on August 1, 2017 from 4pm to 9pm at the Wright Township Park.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: On July 16, 2017, Piast builders sent a letter requesting consideration for the dedication of General Sikorsky Court and General Polaski Street to the Township. Solicitor Dean reported that he had been in contact with the Polonia's attorney regarding road dedications. Several issues need to be resolved including base repair and paving, the fact that the Court cannot be reached via a public road, that a section of Aleksander Blvd. remains undeveloped and that driveways need to be inspected to ensure that they meet Township standards. Pasonick will review the area and develop an estimated cost to finalize the roads. Polonia's attorney will get back to Solicitor Dean.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mark Manosky noted that he has only seen 1 turtle hit in the 40 years that he has lived on Heslop road. He is concerned about the water building behind the beaver dam above the Heslop Road bridge. Pipech responded that the bridge is the County's, and he will contact the County to determine a course of action. Coleen Nelson reported that the road sign on Nuangola Road at Ice Harvest Drive is not visible. While Nuangola Road is a state road, Pipech asked Centurione to investigate and report back. Josh Zuder asked about participating in the County's Gypsy Moth spraying program. Pipech explained that the County did not have a program, and that it was up to each individual. Thomas added that previous research revealed that it would cost upwards of 1/4 of a million dollars to spray the Township. Solicitor Dean recommended calling the County Solicitor's office or the County Manager. In response to a question, Beck reported that the turtle signs would cost about \$22.57 each.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:43p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Jeffrey D. Beck, Secretary/Treasurer