## RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES

October 3, 2017

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, October 3, 2017, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA. Copies of the Agenda and Treasurer's 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 was recorded for preparation of the minutes. Interior cameras were also recording the video.

Chair Marcia Thomas asked that, in light of recent natural and unnatural disasters, we support each other and be kind to each other and count our blessings.

ROLL CALL: Arnold

Here-

Pipech

Here-

Thomas

Here-

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Don Herres, on behalf of St. Martin-in-the-Fields and 143 children at the Kite Festival, thanked the Supervisors, Police, Wright Township Fire Company, Public Works and the weather for their support of the successful festival on September 30. Thomas reinforced how successful it was. Felicia Bierzynski thanked the Supervisors for their support of the Blytheburn Lake fish derby. Elvio Benzi thanked Robert Pipech for his efforts with the Public Works crew and Chief in replacing the failed drain tile on Wilderness Drive.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Andrew Pasonick reported that he was placing ads on October 11th and 16th for bids for the Ice Lakes Dam project, to be opened on November 6th. Fish and Boat and DEP were reviewing the proposed bids but had not returned with comments. The Notice to Proceed for the Nuangola Drive pave project will be issued tomorrow. Once the project starts, it should take about 3 days to complete. In answer to Robert Pipech's question, Pasonick replied that hopefully the excavation would uncover the old sluice in the dam and that would be the solution to DEP's issue. However, if the sluice is not there and usable, then the 24" hole will have to be bored. Either way, the masonry leaks and the dry hydrant will be repaired and the spillway cleared of vegetation.

### **BUSINESS MATTERS:**

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on September 5, 2017 and the Minutes of the Special meeting held on September 21, 2017.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report: Jeffrey Beck noted the exceptional revenue receipts from the state pension and foreign fire payments and the receipt of a 2015 Community Development Grant payment in September. Other than September being a three-pay month, there are no exceptional expenses. However, next month all the state funds will be dispersed and the bank balances return to normal. Beck also explained the Safelite double reimbursement in the Citizens Bank checking account. Report filed.

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.

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### **BUSINESS MATTERS Con't:**

Received the Roadmaster's Report for September, 2017: Pipech reported that the patching had been completed, cutting and trimming along roads was finished, the drain tile replacement on Wilderness Drive had been completed, the Recycling Center was now operating on winter hours on Saturday only, the lights on the tennis courts would be turned off, an agreement was being discussed with the Ice House Pub to increase their support for Township recreational activities to \$500, and he was reviewing a 5-year pave plan to support grant applications.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Police Report for September, 2017: Presented by Chief Franks and filed.

**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 Officer Report for September, 2017: Presented by Jeffrey Beck and filed.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Arnold, second by Pipech, to ratify the decision by poll to upgrade the internet service at the Township Building for a cost of \$99.95 per month.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept grant funding awarded to the Rice Township Police Department for TraCS software used to issue electronic citations and to purchase the necessary printers and accessories to support the program for \$2,231.17.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Chief Franks reported that this program follows the State Police process for electronic issuance of traffic citations and PennDOT accident reports. Chief also noted that Rice Township Police are the only local unit within Luzerne County that uses body cameras.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Arnold, to appoint a certified public accountant at the November 8, 2017 rescheduled Supervisor's meeting to perform the 2017 annual audit in place of the elected auditors and to advertise the same.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Arnold, to reschedule the November 7th meeting to Wednesday, November 8th, since the building will be utilized for voting on the 7th.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

## RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES October 3, 2017

### **BUSINESS MATTERS Con't:**

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to hold a public hearing at 6:30 PM, November 8th, 2017 to hear public comment concerning: (1) the proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance related to signs; and (2) the proposed curative amendment related to R-1, A-1 and C-1 Districts as they relate to Planned Residential Communities, and the removal of Article 6 as redundant, with the intent to adopt the amendments to the Ordinance at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors at 7:00 PM on November 8th, 2017, and to advertise the same.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Meghan Carey from the Solicitor's office explained the purpose of the amendments.

Thomas explained that notification was received from the PA Department of Transportation(PennDOT) that Rice Township's Estimated Liquid Fuels(Act 655) for 2018 will be \$130,406.24.

Beck explained that PennDOT has awarded the contract to remove the Church Road bridge traversing Henry Drive to HRI Inc. The project is tentatively scheduled to begin the middle of April, 2018, and will last approximately 2 months, during which time Henry Drive and Church Road will be closed and detoured. A map of the new intersection with 4-way stop signs is on display in the Township meeting room. Beck responded to Thomas' question that PennDOT was alerted to notify the Crestwood School Board as suggested by Pipech. Herres asked for clarification that both roads will be closed at the same time, and the response is affirmative. Chief explained the detours. Mark Manosky expressed concern regarding fire services during this construction. Supervisor Richard Arnold explained that the Fire Department was aware and was building alternative routes in place.

Thomas reported that the Commonwealth's 2017 state aid allocation supporting the Volunteer Fire Relief Association of the Wright Township Fire Company in the amount of \$21,132.43 was received September 25, 2017. Funds will be distributed to Wright Township Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association in October in accordance with Act 205. Form 706-B will be completed and returned to the Department of the Auditor General.

The Pension Plans' Minimum Municipal Obligation Reports were completed and filed by September 30, 2017.

The 2017 Commonwealth allocation of GENERAL MUNICIPAL PENSION SYSTEM STATE AID funds in the amount of \$69,788.87 were received on September 27, 2017. As directed by the PA Auditor General, a check in the amount of \$54,432.32 will be directed to Principal Financial Group for deposit into Rice Township Police Pension Fund #4-50708; and \$16,056.00 will be distributed to PMRS for Rice Township Plan (40-168-5N). This satisfies the Minimum Municipal Obligation for 2017.

Preparation of the 2018 Budget will begin this month and the first reading of the proposed budget will be at the November meeting and finalized at the December meeting.

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### **BUSINESS MATTERS Con't:**

Thomas noted that a report on the Mountain Top Kite Festival has already been made

The County is providing used tire drop-off at Hanover Area Junior/Senior High on October 14th. Details can be found on the table in the lobby.

The Roadmaster announced that leaf pickup will begin on Monday, October 16th and will conclude on Thursday, November 16th. Residents must register with the Township Secretary for this service, and leaves will only be picked up from COG members. Leaves must be in clear plastic bags. After November 16, all COG members may take their leaves to the COG collections site. Pipech noted that this 4-week program will allow the trucks to be converted for winter weather use.

The recycle center is now on Winter hours and is open on Saturdays from 9 AM to 2 PM.

Arnold presented the Fire Department report. He thanked them for the fire truck at the kite festival, and noted that they will again be handing out glow bracelets during safety patrols during Halloween. He also thanked the Fire Police for their efforts. And he thanked the Supervisors for access to the Ice Lakes for their training exercise there.

Thomas asked EMC Bryan Brown if he had anything to say. He reported that the Governor had asked residents to keep 5 days worth of food, water and medical supplies on hand, given all the disasters which have recently occurred.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Carey stated that there was no additional report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**: Herres, as a former electronics engineer, complemented the Police, noting that the cost of the TraCs system was very low. Brown also expressed concern for the condition of the County bridge just west of I-81 given that Blytheburn will be the detour route for the Church Road project. Beck responded that the state is aware and Beck will partner with PennDOT and the construction company and our legislators to try to get some resolution on this.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

rev D. Beck Secretary/Treasurer