

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES

August 1, 2017

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, August 1, 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. The pledge of allegiance was recited. 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.

Thomas read a statement which is a part of these minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Karl Kaminski complained that the line painting on Heslop Road was wavy and the Township should not pay for the service. Roadmaster Robert Pipech responded that the line was there for safety and it looked good to him. Joseph Tweedle stated that the beaver dam on Heslop Road should be left undisturbed and wanted to know who complained about it. Referencing the draft minutes of the July 5th meeting, Mark Manosky expressed concern regarding the beaver dam. Tweedle also supports the turtle signs. Pipech responded that the dam is above a County bridge and the Township cannot touch it anyway. Tweedle wanted to know why the Rice Township Fire Company Hall had not been torn down. Arnold responded that the required environmental studies had been completed and that the future of that building should be discussed. He invited Tweedle to be on that committee. Kaminski complained that two dead trees existed at the Ice Lakes Park. Pipech responded that they would be removed. Elvio Benzi of 23 Wilderness Drive complained that he is getting excessive runoff from Wilderness Drive and that a previously installed drain tile system appears to not be operating properly. After discussion, Pipech and Andy Pasonick, Township Engineer, will investigate.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Pasonick reported that the Henry Drive pave project was completed. The total bill from Barletta Materials is \$125,425.24, and Pasonick is recommending approval and payment based on his review. The original bid was \$128,553, so the entire project was \$3,128 below the original bid.

Pasonick reported that Henry Drive, Ice Harvest Drive, Fairwood Blvd., Aleksander Blvd., and Heslop Road had double yellow lines painted.

Pasonick is completing work to submit the dam bid documents to DEP. It will be complicated, with a contractor on hand if the sluice can be repair, another specialist contractor if we have to bore the 24" hole, contractors to set up a coffer dam, dewater the lake, and excavate the upstream dam base. So, at least 3 bid documents will be drafted and distributed. The desired solution is to repair the sluice, but we don't know if that is possible yet. Arnold suggested that Pasonick get all this ready for Supervisor approval so that the process does not get in the way of execution. Pasonick noted that the strategy is to

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES

August 1, 2017

dewater once and get the repairs done. Pipech reminded Pasonick that the spillway would have to be cleared.

Lastly, Pasonick reported that he had reviewed the Woodberry infrastructure build out accomplished so far and recommended that the Bond be reduced as the following motion reflects.

MOTION by Thomas, seconded by Pipech, to release the funds to make payment to Barletta as recommended by the Township Engineer for the Henry Drive pave project, including the change order for the parking lots.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, seconded by Arnold, to accept the Township Engineer's recommendation to reduce the Presidential Land Co. bond from \$320,650.00 to 62,150.00.

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 July 5, 2017.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for July, 2017: Treasurer Beck noted that for the first 6 months of the year net revenue was running about \$10,000 better than last year. Beck reviewed expenses for the month in the three accounts and presented the bills to be paid and bank account balances.

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 July, 2017: Pipech reported that Pasonick and he had reviewed Woodberry and finished the parking lots at Ice Lakes, as noted above. The two dead trees at Ice Lakes and the one at the main park will be removed. The road crew replaced a collapsed storm water pipe along Heslop Road with 30 feet of new pipe, at the corner with Nuangola Road. Pipech will investigate the need to flush pipes under Aleksander Blvd., and the cross pipe on Willowby, as noted by Thomas. Pipech instructed Pasonick to prepare the necessary documents to pave Nuangola Avenue in the fall, paid for by Liquid Fuels funds.

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 July, 2017: The report as presented by Chief Robert Franks.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES

August 1, 2017

Received the Zoning Report for July, 2017: Beck reported two road cut fines for failing to get a road cut permit. Pipech explained that the roads are being watched for any violations. Carl Smith asked who made the arrest this morning, and Chief Franks responded that the State Police did.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap. Arnold presented the report which is a part of these minutes. Arnold noted that the Wright Fire Department aerial truck was out of service and being repaired. A new such truck costs \$1.2 million. Much of the Department's activity in July was weather-related.

The Planning Commission meeting for July 28th was held and draft minutes are available to the public.

The Planning Commission received an informal briefing on a proposed Woodberry Manor Planned Residential Development covering some 520 acres with a net residential area of 240 acres totaling 205 housing units.

No formal application has been received.

Pasonick added that various plans may have to be developed for review. The proposed development will add about 4 miles of road, some with a slope of 15 degrees or more which exceeds Township requirements. Pasonick noted that, at the Planning Commission informal presentation, Presidential Lands commented that they would like a waiver for the Scale of the Plan, the Existing Resource and Site Analysis and the Preliminary Resource Impact and Conservation Plan. Given the size and scope of this PRD, consideration should be given to whether or not such waivers should be issued. Carl Smith asked when the project will start, and Pasonick responded that there is no timeline yet. Chief Franks noted the need for overflow parking in the townhouse section. While the twin units would have 2-car garages, they would share a driveway. Smith added that the Townhouses behind the Duncan Donuts in Fairview might be the model for this section. Solicitor Dean explained that the Township Ordinance for PRD's requires a public hearing. While the Planning Commission can provide review and recommendation, the final decision rests with the Board of Supervisors. Pipech added that the project would create an access to Heslop Road, providing the needed secondary access for Woodberry Manor. The installation of that road is pending receipt of a DEP to cross the existing stream near Heslop Road.

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.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to allow two supervisors, the Secretary/Treasurer and 1 road crew to attend the annual Luzerne County Association of Township Officials 2017 Annual Convention at a cost of \$25.00 per attendee.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES

August 1, 2017

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to pay \$9,497.00 to H.A Thomson Co. to renew the Rice Township Property, Equipment and Auto Insurance Policy for the period August 1, 2017 to August 1, 2018. The cost last year was \$10,606.00, a savings of 1,109.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, seconded by Arnold, to donate \$500.00 from the Recreation Fund to the Blytheburn Lake Association in support of the annual fish tournament. The donation last year was \$500.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor had no report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Robert Smith inquired about the fish derby and the purpose of the \$500.00. Thomas responded that the derby is open to all children 12 years of age and under, and they must be accompanied by an adult. While items are sold during the Derby, the donation goes to stocking the lake with the fish. Smith asked for clarification of the PRD process, with the public hearing coming before the Supervisor's decision in order that public input could be weighed. Thomas asked that Beck assemble the comments from this meeting to be used by the Planning Commission. The next Planning Commission meeting is August 23rd and is open to the public, as every meeting is. Solicitor Dean agreed that the PRD is a conditional use application.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Jeffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer