

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES
FEBRUARY 6, 2018

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda and Treasurer Reports were available to the public. Chair Robert Pipech called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. It was announced that the meeting was being recorded for preparing the minutes. Interior cameras were also recording the video.

Prior to the meeting, an executive session was held pertaining to a legal issue.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - here
Pipech - here -
Smith - here -

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Bryan Brown, Township EMC, reported that the Emergency Action Plan for the Ice Lakes was rejected by the County. It is now required to submit an engineering study to create an inundation map. Township Engineer Andy Pasonick stated that he will investigate this requirement and present his findings to the Township. This issue will not affect the dam repair. There were no other public comments.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to approve the proposed change order presented by Andrew Pasonick for costs associated with the Ice Lakes Dam project-required interaction with the Fish and Boat commission and to secure "as built" drawings of the dam structure upon completion of the outlet retrofit and repairs, at a cost of \$5,000.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to accept the Minutes of the Reorganization and the Regular meeting held on January 2, 2018.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

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Treasurer Jeffrey D. Beck presented the report for January, 2018. Beck pointed out that the General Fund had declined because of the natural order of low receipts but standard expenses. He explained the transfer of \$7,450.00 from the General Fund to the Recreation Fund to cover the cost of the new merry-go-round for the park. The Recreation Fund will reimburse the General Fund when it is replenished this year. He reviewed the snow removal, street lighting and truck repair expenses in the Liquid Fuels account. He presented a total of \$34,110.01 in bills to pay, and reported that the General Fund bank balances totaled \$208,315.73, Liquid Fuels bank balances totaled \$66,852.99 and the Recreation Fund bank balances totaled \$4,784.73, for total cash on hand of \$279,953.45. The report was filed.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, and all bills to be paid.
ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes, except that he recused himself from a vote regarding the Samuel Sanguedolce payment; Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

Roadmaster Pipech reported that the Public Works crew had removed several of the outbuildings at the old Rice Township Volunteer Fire Company site during January, 2018. Given the effect of the bad weather on the roads, he noted that the crew was now focused on patching roads wherever possible, but that several roads were suffering under the freeze/thaw cycle. Pipech will look into a milling machine and hot patching to repair the roads where possible after the winter. He concluded that we will pave what we can given the tight budget. He reported that the big truck will need a new transfer case at the cost of over \$4,000. He concluded his report that the Township resigned its membership from the COG, noting that the cost was too high for little benefit.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to accept the Roadmaster's Report as presented.
ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

Chief Bob Franks presented the Police Report for January, 2018 and it was filed.
MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to accept the Police Report as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

Secretary Beck presented the Zoning Report for January, 2018 and it was filed.
MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Zoning Report for January, 2018, as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

The Planning Commission met on January 24th, 2018, at 7pm--Draft minutes are available to the public. Ray Fedor was named Chairman and Tom Romanyshyn was named Vice-Chair of the Planning Commission for 2018.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap were submitted. Supervisor Rick Arnold covered the reports, and noted the need for volunteers. Arnold also reported that the Wright Township Fire Company had worked out its alternative routes when the Church Road bridge over Henry Drive is removed in the spring.

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The Minutes of the Reorganization meeting of the Board of Auditors held on Tuesday, January 3, 2018 are available and the Board of Auditors approved the wages of Supervisors working for the Township.

Subcontractors for PPL will be begin tree work and vegetation management along the power line right-of-way that parallels the Big Wapwallopen Creek with access across Twins Lane. While the project is weather-dependent, it should not take more than a month to complete. Bucket trucks and chippers are the largest equipment that will access Twins Lane. Supervisor Smith noted that he has materials to give out to the residents on Twins Lane, and EMC Brown added that a message could be sent using Swift 911.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to make payment of \$1,740.00 to Samuel M. Sanguedolce for services rendered.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - recused Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to approve a budget of \$1,100.00 from the Recreation Fund to hold an Easter Egg Hunt in the Rice Township Park, tentatively to be held on Saturday, March 24 with a snow date of March 31.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to adopt Resolution 2018-10 which adopts the updated Emergency Operations Plan to be submitted to the County.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to ratify the approval by poll for the Secretary/Treasurer to participate in a webinar regarding LUCA 2020 Census presented by PSATS on January 17 at the cost of \$30.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to ratify the approval by poll for the Secretary/Treasurer to participate in training to achieve the Administration Certificate and the Planning Certificate from PSATS at an estimated cost of approximately \$1,500.00 over the 3 year training period.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to appoint the Secretary/Treasurer as the voting delegate to the annual PSATS Conference in place of Robert Pipech, who cannot attend.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED

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MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to name Jeffrey D. Beck the Rice Township Open Records ("Right to Know") Officer for the year of 2018.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to place two patron listings in the "Theatre at the Grove" Playbill that will appear for all plays for the 2018 year.. (Board of Supervisors \$75, Police Dept. \$50)

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to request that Wright Township Volunteer Fire Department add EMO Bryan Brown to their mobile phone dispatch alert system.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Attorney Charles McCormick of the Solicitor's office reported that there was no report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Janeann Lokken asked how leaves would be disposed in the future. Pipech noted Arnold made arrangements for a dumpster would be provided at the Township building for leaf disposal by residents. There would be no charge for the disposal as this method is expected to save money, and expand the service to more residents. Felicia Bierzynski asked and it was confirmed that leaves will not and cannot be dumped at the Township building sight. The leaves would end up in a landfill. Arnold noted that the Board will think about Christmas tree disposal. Pipech reviewed the costs of the leaf pickup program and it just was too expensive to continue. Mark Manosky inquired about the building rehabilitation across for St. Martin in the Fields, and Pipech replied that it still belonged to the Ambulance Association. Pipech was informally told that the Association might put an ambulance in that building. Pasonick will look into the trucks traveling on Prospect Road to be bonded by the lumber company. Pipech agreed that the sign on our front lawn should ask for fire fighter volunteers with the phone number. Pasonick reported the preconstruction meeting was held on February 6th and that the Ice Lakes dam construction will tentatively start on or about March 1st, with completion expected by May 7th, all dependent on weather. The Notice to Proceed has been issued. Arnold noted that the weather can have a significant impact on the siphoning process, and that the lake surface ice will not be stable once begun, and cautioned residents along the lake to stay off the ice. Karl Kaminski stated that the Township taking over ownership of the ice lakes was a bad decision, and it is only a matter of time before tragedy strikes and the Township issued. Pipech and Arnold countered that the lakes are a public resource, and if control passed to the Commonwealth, the dams would be breached, the lakes eliminate and a stream the only remaining water.

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MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer