

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES

MARCH 6, 2018

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda and Treasurer's 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 is being recorded for preparing the minutes. Interior cameras were also recording the video.

ROLL CALL: Arnold here-
 Pipech here
 Smith - here

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Robert Pipech called for public comment. There was none.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Township Engineer Andrew Pasonick reported that the Ice Pond Dam Project was started with the contractor mobilizing equipment and commenced dewatering the lake. Rock had been laid down on the access road to support the equipment. The contractor will use an inflatable coffer dam to support the project which is a more flexible option then using rock. Pipech also added his observations, adding that the use of an inflatable coffer dam will add flexibility. He also clarified that the plan to complete is within 90 days, but there are likely some weather days in there. Pasonick reported that he had received the first request for payment from AR Popple. He reviewed the request and is recommending payment of \$7,875. Treasurer Jeffrey Beck noted that the LSA grant will reimburse the Township for this amount.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Richard Arnold, to pay AR Popple Construction \$7,875.00 as recommended by the Township Engineer.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

As announced by press release, the Supervisors want to thank the Department of Community and Economic Development for the \$60,000 grant to be applied to the ice pond dam project, and to thank Representative Gerald Mullery for all his efforts to have this grant awarded to the Township.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Carl Smith, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on February 6, 2018.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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MARCH 6, 2018

BUSINESS MATTERS Con't:

Received the Treasurer's Report for February, 2018: Treasurer Jeffrey Beck reviewed the report. He pointed out the increased revenue due to Earned Income Tax receipts, while expenses remained normal, resulting in a monthly surplus of \$104,210.99 in the General Fund. He noted the salt and maintenance expenses in the Liquid Fuels fund, adding that the Liquid Fuels deposit was received on March 1st. He reported the income to the Recreation Fund of \$500.00 from the Ice House Pub lease, and noted the expenditure for the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt. He noted the bills to pay, with bills for the truck repair already paid, and reported that the General Fund bank balances totaled \$301,335.57, Liquid Fuels totaled \$57,394.40, and the Recreation Fund totaled \$4,184.88, for total cash on hand at the end of February of \$362,914.85. 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

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

A direct deposit of \$132,008.20 was made to the Liquid Fuels Checking Account on March 1, 2018. As recommended by the PennDOT Liquid Fuels Auditor, the full amount was transferred into the Liquid Fuels Money Market Account, which is interest bearing.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for February 2018: Robert Pipech, Roadmaster, reported that the Road Crew had been cold patching, clearing storm drains, and clearing downed trees during the month. They had logged 10 days during the month plowing and salting the roads, plus 57 overtime hours doing the same. He praised the crew for keeping the roads clear.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Roadmaster's Report as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to resume summer hours for the recycling center beginning April 4th. Saturdays will be from 9am to 2pm and Wednesdays from 4pm to 7pm.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Police Report for February, 2018: Chief Franks presented the report, which was filed.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Secretary Beck presented the zoning report, which was filed.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to accept the Zoning Report for February, 2018, as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS Con't:

The reopening of the Ice Lakes Park will be delayed until the effects of the reconstruction of the dam can be accessed on the property. Pipech asked Mr. Marty Wentz, resident of the Ice Lakes, to spread the word that residents with boats should refrain from boating on the upper lake until the project is complete.

The Planning Commission met on February 28th at 7pm--Draft minutes are available to the public. The Planning Commission delivered their annual report to the Board of Supervisors on March 1st.

A representative from Representative Mullery's office will be on site at the Township building every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 10 am until noon to help you with issues.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap--was presented by Patrick Urban. He noted that they cannot exit the Fire Hall garage without electricity. Arnold offered to show them how the doors work without electricity in an emergency setting. The Wright Township will attempt to have a fire truck available for the Easter Egg Hunt.

The Mountain Top Garden Club will meet here next Tuesday, March 13th, at 6:30 PM, and will host a speaker from the Penn State Extension program. The topic will focus on "bloodsuckers", mosquitoes and ticks.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to appoint Barbara Wasiakowski as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer at a pay of \$20 per hour, on an as-needed basis.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to allow the Mountaintop Men's Softball League, soccer and little leagues to utilize the field contingent on their cooperation on field use and supply proof of insurance.

Certificate of liability is on file for the Softball League.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith -yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to support the Crestwood High School PTSA with their Senior Lock-in for 2018 with a donation of \$150.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, approve the Secretary/Treasurer's attendance to the Luzerne County Boroughs and Township Association Meeting on March 22nd at a cost of \$10.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS Con't:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to approve the Letter of Intent to DCED to seek QuickBooks training for the Secretary/Treasurer's at no cost to the Township.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Dean reported that Matt McGowan of Presidential Lands made a presentation for a Planned Residential Development (PRD) to the Planning Commission on February 28th. The application did not quite meet the requirements of the Ordinance and will be re-presented at the March 28th meeting. A public hearing will be held on April 3rd, at 6 PM at the Township Building right before the Board of Supervisor's meeting. Essentially, a PRD trades off more open space for smaller lot sizes. Dean clarified that the Supervisors' are the deciding authority on the matter. Two comments from the County were addressed by Matt McGowan. One asked to confirm fire coverage, and noted that McGowan would contact the Fire Company. The other suggested bonding, which occurs as a matter of course.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Karl Kaminski asked, and it was confirmed, that the Planning Commission meeting on March 28th (and all Planning Commission Meetings) are open to the public. Kaminski also asked if the dead tree at the corner of Heslop and Nuangola Roads be removed.

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

Respectfully submitted:



Jeffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer