

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES
JULY 3, 2018

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, July 3, 2018, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda, previous meeting minutes 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 the purpose of 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.

Robert Pipech, Chair, reported the following:

that the contractor inactivity at the Ice Lakes Dam has been referred to legal counsel for review. Pipech invited Vice-Chair Richard Arnold to elaborate. Arnold reported that discussions with the contractor and attorneys resulted in the contractor recommencing operations. Rock and equipment has been delivered to the lake. Residents Marty Wentz and Karl Kaminski expressed their displeasure with the delay, hoping for a way to prevent contractor breakdowns on future projects. Arnold explained that the Board and Township followed established process and procedure, and instituted reactive processes early on in the project. Arnold added that payments were only made in accordance with the presentation of schedule of materials and review by the Township Engineer. Arnold and Carl Smith noted that contractor payments cannot be arbitrarily withheld;

that the County Engineer reported that bids were received on June 6th to replace the Blytheburn bridge and the project was awarded to Minichi. When the pre-construction meeting is scheduled, he will contact the Township office;

that PPL has contracted with Davey Tree Service to inspect and mark trees at risk for damaging electric lines along 89 miles of road. This includes Blytheburn, Prospect and Henry Drive. This action was prompted by tree damage cause by gypsy moths and ash borers. The removal may start as early as July of this year;

that the Supervisors thanks Dorrance and Fairview Township supervisors, and the council of the Borough of Nuangola, for their letters of support to DCED for the pickleball court grant application;

that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection received an anonymous complaint regarding a property on Blytheburn Road. Investigation by the Township Sewer Enforcement Officer determined that the complaint was totally without merit. This action cost the taxpayers \$100.00. The report is filed;

and that Wright Township fireworks would begin at 9:30 PM tonight.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Kaminski inquired about the tree at the corner of Heslop and Nuangola Roads, and Pipech responded that he was searching for a contractor to remove it. Mary Anne Keefe of Nuangola Road expressed concern about the low water level of the lake and the impact on wildlife. Marty Wentz asked if the Township could remove the exposed tires, and Pipech responded that they are not accessible. Planning

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES
JULY 3, 2018

Commission Member Bob Smith asked if the SALDO was going to be amended to require curbs for developments. Arnold responded that such an amendment was under discussion. Felicia Bierzynski and Janeann Lokken reported that DEP required the Blytheburn Lake Association to give DEP \$30,000.00 in order to prevent DEP from seizing the dam and breaching it, and now charge \$1,500 per year to inspect it.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Township Engineer Pasonick reported that inspections of the dam site have been ongoing and operations had resumed at the site. He also reported that the Notice to Proceed had been delivered to Barletta Materials for the 2018 Paving Project. He and Roadmaster Pipech would review the roads to be paved/repaired on Friday, July 6th.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on June 5, 2018.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for June, 2018, as presented by Treasurer Jeffrey Beck. Beck noted the bills to be paid as presented on the General Fund, State Fund and Recreation Fund check register reports, reporting that the General Fund expenditures for this month were high due to the payment of annual insurance premiums. However, the PIRMA payment was about \$16,000 lower than last year and a change in carrier for Workers Compensation saved another \$5,000 compared to the alternative quote. Beck noted the ending bank balances as of May 31, 2018: General Fund checking, \$107,310.67; General Fund MM, \$209,501.16; EDCIP Fund, \$60,034.69, Liquid Fuels checking, \$319.06; Liquid Fuels MM, \$156,016.52; Recreation checking, \$253.95; Recreation MM, \$2,502.09; for total cash on hand of \$475,903.45. The report was filed.

Arnold added that Hallmark Homes makes a contribution to the recreation fund for every home that it sells.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, and all bills to be paid.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for June, 2018 as presented by Roadmaster Robert Pipech. Roadmaster Pipech reported that the road crew continues to patch and cut brush to improve traffic sight lines. Park maintenance continues, with the park appearance improved.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Police Report for June, 2018 as presented by Chief Robert Franks. Franks also reported the installation of the drug drop off box in the police vestibule. The report 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.

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES
JULY 3, 2018

BUSINESS MATTERS: (Cont'd)

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Zoning Report for June, 2018 as presented by Secretary Beck. The report was filed.

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

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to pay \$50,877.00 to PIRMA for Liability insurance, effective August 1, 2018. This compares to the August 1, 2017 premium of 67,043.00.

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

AmTrust, our current carrier for Workers Compensation and Heart and Lung Insurance, has quoted a premium for the August 1, 2018 to August 1, 2019 period of \$31,699 compared to \$27,009 for the prior year. By switching this coverage to EMC, the Township can save \$5,236. In addition, the entire EMC policy is within a dividend program which can result in a return of partial premium depending on claim experience.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to change Workers Comp and Heart and Lung Insurance from AmTrust to EMC and to retain EMC for Property, Equipment and Auto insurance, for a total cost of \$36,166 versus \$36,506 in 2017, a savings of \$340.00, and to pay H.A Thomson Co. \$9,049.78 for the first installment for the period August 1, 2018 to August 1, 2019.

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

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the bid from Dave's Custom Construction, LLC for \$2,050.00 to install two sinks and faucets and soap dispensers in the park bathrooms.

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

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to approve the extension of time by 90 days for consideration of the proposed major subdivision known as Jennifer's Way as requested by Milnes Engineering.

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

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to allow up to two supervisors, the Secretary/Treasurer and 1 road crew to attend the Luzerne County Association of Township Officials 2018 Annual Convention at a cost of \$25.00 per attendee.

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

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to attend the PSATS webinars, at a cost of \$30.00 each as follows: The Land Development Approval Process and Helping Residents Finance On-Lot Sewage System Repairs in July; and Township Regulation of Wireless Facilities in August.

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

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES
JULY 3, 2018

BUSINESS MATTERS: (Cont'd)

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer and Supervisor Carl Smith to attend the PSATS class Developing Your Township Budget in August at a cost of \$35.00 each.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to attend the PSATS fall forum in October at The Woodlands in Wilkes-Barre for a cost of \$75.00 and \$60.00 for PMGA credits.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap. Arnold thanked all for their support of the Bazaar, and repeated that the Church Road closure will not adversely affect response times. The Fire Company is always looking for new volunteer members. Pipech asked if the Fire Department could back flush the dry hydrant off of Nuangola Road. Beck will email the Fire Chief and make that request.

The Planning Commission met on June 27th and draft minutes of that meeting are available. Pipech thanked the Planning Commission for all their efforts regarding the Jennifer's Way project.

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 7, 2017 from 4pm to 9pm at the Wright Township Park.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Attorney Charles McCormack reported that the Solicitor's office had been involved in the dam and Jennifer's Way discussions.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Emergency Management Coordinator Bryan Brown reported that he had completed IS-271 - Anticipating Hazardous Weather and Community Risk, and C-191 - EOL Interface Workshop and C-300 training. He noted that the Supervisors needed to complete IC-100 and IC-700 training. He noted that he had received the inundation maps for the Ice Lakes from Pasonick. Pipech explained that given the tight budget the Township had suspended donations to the kite festival and the fish derby. Arnold responded that he hoped they could be made in the future. Bierzynski complained about the anonymous complaints. Arnold also reported that the Church Road bridge project was slightly ahead of schedule. Pipech concluded the meeting by noting that Supervisor Smith was working with the Police Department on a new contract.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey D. Beck
Secretary/Treasurer