

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES

August 7, 2018

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, August 7, 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 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.

Pipech reported the following:

that the Ice Lake coffer dam has been installed. Pipech explained that excavation on the upstream side of the spillway will allow the Township engineer to survey and create drawings of the plans to bore the 2 foot diameter water release pipe opening. This plan will then be submitted to DEP for their approval;

that the Township has requested that Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission restock the Ice Lake in 2019. Pipech noted that we are awaiting a response;

that the Roadmaster is working with Wright Township Volunteer Fire Department to determine the best plan to relocate the dry hydrant on Nuangola Road on the Ice Lake park to improve performance;

that the improvements on the Rice Township Park bathrooms have been completed and the contractor did a great job installing sinks and soap dispensers, and the Township crew installed the towel dispensers;

and that, between the PennDOT Church Road bridge project and the Township's 2018 Pave Project, clean fill dirt, modified stone and millings have been deposited behind and across from the recycling center. This activity was cleared with DEP representatives prior to accepting the material. A best management practice silt fence has been installed and a silt sock will be installed as a gift from HRI. A storm water management plan is being filed with the Conservation District.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Township Engineer Andrew Pasonick reported that the 2018 Pave Project, awarded to Barletta Materials, should be completed by next week after his final inspection. Given the bid amount and the LSA grant, approximately 3 times the amount of anticipated base repair was completed on Ice Lake Drive. Pasonick also noted that A.R. Popple requested a payment of just over \$33,000, leaving approximately \$14,000 held back. Discussion ensued including Michael Grohowski, Marty Wentz, Rosanna O'Donahue, Pasonick and the Supervisors concerning the completion of the coffer dam and its effectiveness of retaining water to allow dewatering between the spillway and the coffer dam. Residents also noted the lack of activity on the part of AR Popple personnel and the fact that the coffer dam was not performing as required. Pipech, Arnold and Smith all

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voiced their displeasure with the contractor's lack of performance, and noted that the Township's special counsel on this matter would be contacted immediately. Also reinforced was the requirement that the Township accept the lowest bid as long as the contractor was bonded. After further discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to accept the recommendation by the Township Engineer, in accordance with the contract provisions, to pay AR Popple Construction, Inc., \$33,345.00, for dewatering and installation of the coffer dam at the Ice Lake.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - no Pipech - no Smith - no
MOTION FAILED.

Arnold followed up that the attorney will be contacted and that Popple must get it done now or an alternative contractor will be found and the project completed. In response to Wentz's question, a timeline cannot be set now but the time for delay is over. After further discussion, Arnold concluded that Popple's bonding company needed to move forward on this project.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on July 3, 2018.

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

Received the Treasurer's Report for July, 2018, as presented by Treasurer Jeffrey Beck. Beck presented the bills to be paid, noting that there were no bills of special note. Beck also reported that operations through July ended a few thousand dollars to the positive primarily due to the savings in insurance expenses. Beck noted the ending bank balances as of July 31, 2018: General Fund checking, \$79,469.85; General Fund MM, \$134,548.50; EDCIP Fund, \$60,052.54; Liquid Fuels checking, \$259.61; Liquid Fuels MM, \$154,268.95; Recreation checking, \$253.95; Recreation MM, \$2,502.20; for total cash on hand of \$371,303.06. 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.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for July, 2018 as presented by Roadmaster Robert Pipech. Pipech reported that the repaved Laurel Drive was completed and looked good, with appropriate crowning and berming for storm water management. The base repair on Ice Lake Drive was completed, with 3" BCP and 1" top, and the Township crew continues to patch potholes. He also reported that most of the tree at the corner of Heslop and Nuangola Roads has been removed by PPL. The master plan for the park is going to be updated and the dump site behind the recycling center was being managed for storm water management purposes:

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

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

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Received the Police Report for July, 2018 as presented, noting that the Police were in attendance at the National Night Out: Since not presentation was made, no motion to accept was made.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

The Township received notification that the WTVFD Workers' Comp premium for the year totals \$23,409.00. A previous Board negotiated to pay 37% of the premium which makes our obligation total \$8,661.33 for the period 8/28/18 to 8/28/19. Last year the premium totaled \$26,496.00 and our obligation totaled \$9,803.52 for the period 8/28/17 to 8/28/18, resulting in a savings of \$1,192.19 from last year.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to confirm the decision by poll to pay \$8,661.33 to Wright Township for our portion of Wright Township Fire Department's Worker's Compensation coverage for the period 8/28/18 to 8/28/19.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to engage Barry Izett to update the Rice Township Master Plan for a cost of \$2,000.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Karl Kaminski asked how many people would really use these amenities, like a soccer field and pickleball court. Carl Smith commented that pickleball was the fastest growing sport in the US. Meeting attendees said that they would use the court. Barbara Miller asked for a time frame for the plan, and Pipech and Beck responded that it would likely take months. Arnold noted that a usage study would be done. Mark Manosky of Wilderness Estates asked that the canopy on Heslop Road be cut back since so many dead trees existed along that road. Pipech noted that it was hard to find tree people, but that PPL had removed the overhanging limbs from the dead tree at Heslop and Nuangola Road.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to donate \$100.00 to the Kirby Library in memory of Joan Malkemes. The Township donated \$250.00 last year.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to adopt Resolution 2018-13 authorizing the application requesting a 2019 block grant of \$62,950 from the Office of Community Development of Luzerne County for the demolition of the RTVFD social hall.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap. Arnold noted that the Fire personnel were at the National Night Out and reiterated that the fire company was on top of route changes due to road repair, and that the Fire chief was working with Pipech on the dry hydrant relocation project.

The Planning Commission met on July 25th and draft minutes of that meeting are available.


The Rice Township Police Department are joining Wright Township and Fairview Township Police Departments for "National Night Out." The event is taking place tonight from 4pm to 9pm at the Wright Township Park.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: The Solicitor had no report other than to invite everyone to St. Jude's.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Robert Biggs of Wilderness Drive asked that the water erosion of Wilderness Drive in front of his property be examined and repaired. He noted that his was a second request. Pipech said that he would look at the problem.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:41p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Jeffrey D. Beck
Secretary/Treasurer