

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES

October 2, 2018

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on October 2, 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. Chairman 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 reported that the Board of Supervisors met on September 25th, 2018, in executive session to discuss personnel matters and also that due to the wet weather, the Blytheburn Bridge replacement by the County will likely be postponed until next year.

Pipech then called on Barry Izett to present an updated park master plan. During the presentation by Bryan Smith, discussion including Planning Commissioner Bob Smith, Vice-Chair Richard Arnold, and Pipech concluded that additional parking would be needed. Smith will update the master plan with cost estimates to support possible grant applications to LSA and DCNR. Beck restated that the meeting was being recorded.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on September 4, 2018.

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

Received the Treasurer's Report for September, 2018, as presented by Treasurer Jeffrey Beck. Beck reviewed the check register for the General Fund, noting that this was a period where receipts grew and expenses were somewhat constrained, allowing a build in cash balances primarily due to receipts from Harrisburg for pensions and Foreign Fire receipts which create wide swings in balances, but are simply transfers in and out. He noted the expenses in the Liquid Fuels Fund, reporting no activity in the Recreation Fund. Beck noted the ending bank balances as of September 30, 2018: General Fund checking, \$207,573.43; General Fund MM, \$134,638.46; EDCIP Fund, \$60,087.67; Liquid Fuels checking, \$320.92; Liquid Fuels MM, \$149,070.54; Recreation checking, \$253.95; Recreation MM, \$2,502.31; for total cash on hand of \$554,447.38. 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.

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PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident Martin Wentz requested an update on the dam project. Arnold responded that discussions were taking place between attorneys and the bonding company. Local contractors were inspecting and preparing bids that could facilitate resumption of the project. Arnold hoped that this phase could be done this year. Supervisor Carl Smith noted that the dry hydrant at the Ice Lake on Nuangola Road would be moved in concert with the resumption of the dewatering of the lake. Resident Michelle Millington asked for contractor names, but Pipech and Arnold deferred until contracts were signed.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Pasonick had no information to add to the dam discussion and noted that the paving project was complete. Pipech asked Pasonick to add the pickleball court to his list to begin the process to allow work to start this winter.

BUSINESS MATTERS: (Cont'd)

Received the Roadmaster's Report for September, 2018 as presented by Roadmaster Robert Pipech. Pipech reported that some storm water issues had been worked on in Wilderness Estates and that road patching continued. He noted that he was investigating new equipment that might make road repair more effective and efficient, and that the Township has to modernize its equipment and processes to maintain the roads.

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 September, 2018 as presented by Chief Robert Franks, and filed.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Zoning Report for September, 2018 as presented by Secretary Beck.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to appoint a certified public accountant at the November 7, 2018 regularly scheduled Supervisor's meeting to perform the 2018 annual audit in place of the elected auditors and to advertise the same.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to increase the Secretary/Treasurer's salary by \$5,000 annually to \$37,987.50, prorated for the 4th quarter of 2018.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS: (Cont'd)

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to ratify hiring Ronald Miller as Road Worker in the Public Works Division effective October 2nd, 2018 at \$18.88 per hour.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech added that he had worked with Miller at Luzerne County for 16 years and that Miller was CDL-licensed and was very capable, a good addition to our Public Works crew. Arnold noted his qualifications and complemented the existing staff. Pipech consolidating Public Works and Building and Grounds and the combined crew will handle the combined work.

Pipech reported that:

notification was received from the PA Department of Transportation(PennDOT) that Rice Township's Estimated Liquid Fuels(Act 655) for 2019 will be \$132,197.11, \$1,790.87 above last year;

the Commonwealth's 2018 state aid allocation supporting the Volunteer Fire Relief Association of the Wright Township Fire Company in the amount of \$19,438.05 was received September 17, 2018, \$1,694.38 less than last year. Funds will be distributed to Wright Township Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association in October in accordance with Act 205. Form 706-B will be completed and returned to the Department of the Auditor General;

the 2018 refund of LCB fees was received on September 21, 2018 in the amount of \$250.00;

the Pension Plans' Minimum Municipal Obligation Reports were completed and filed by September 30, 2018;

the 2018 Commonwealth allocation of GENERAL MUNICIPAL PENSION SYSTEM STATE AID funds in the amount of \$62,784.45 were received on September 20, 2018. As directed by the PA Auditor General, a check in the amount of \$50,289.40 will be directed to Principal Financial Group for deposit into Rice Township Police Pension Fund #4-50708; and \$16,796.00 will be distributed to PMRS for Rice Township Plan (40-168-5N). This satisfies the Minimum Municipal Obligation for 2018;

budget preparations would begin in October. Departments were asked to submit their budgetary needs for 2019;

the County is providing used tire drop-off events at Drums Elementary on October 6th and Hanover Area Junior/Senior High on October 13th. Details can be found on the table in the lobby;

the leaf drop off will begin on Monday, October 15th and conclude on Friday, November 16th. Leaves can be left by the dumpster in the recycle area and must be in clear plastic bags. Branches cut to a length of 3 feet and no more than 1" in diameter may be left. Cameras record the area;

Pipech called for the Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap which was presented by Patrick Irvin.

Pipech announced that the Planning Commission met on September 26th and draft minutes of that meeting were available, and the Township received a note of thanks from Mrs. Alayne Rosner, daughter of Joan Malkemes

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and from the Board of the Miriam Sutherland Kirby Library for the Township's donation in memory of Joan Malkemes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Samantha Hazen of the Solicitor's Office had no report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Robert Smith asked Pipech to expand on the issues in Wilderness Estates. Pipech noted that swales were washing out and had been filled with R3 rock to stabilize the swale. He noted that geotec fiber may have to be added later. Pipech asked Beck regarding the trees referenced in the last meeting. Beck reported that PPL represented by Davey Tree confirmed that they will not remove the tree trunk at the corner of Heslop and Nuangola Roads but that they will return to do work on the dead trees on Heslop around Wilderness Estates.

Rebecca Sodergren confirmed with Pipech that the next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, November 7th since election day is Tuesday, November 6th.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Jeffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer