The duly advertised rescheduled regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda and Treasurer Reports were available to the public. Chair Marcia Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. It was announced that the meeting will be recorded for preparing the minutes. Interior cameras were also recording the video.

ROLL CALL: Arnold

-here

Pipech

-here

Thomas

-here

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

Chair Marcia Thomas stated that the election was held the previous day. She congratulated Carl Smith as supervisor-elect. She noted that it was her honor to serve the residents of Rice Township for over 26 years and that she is proud of the contribution she made to the benefit to the township in that time.

Supervisor-elect Smith added that Thomas was leaving the Township in better shape than when she became Supervisor and thanked her for her service.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Elvio Benzi complained about the removal of the Church Road bridge crossing Henry Drive and the installation of a 4-way stop sign. Thomas and Roadmaster Robert Pipech explained that Church Road was a state road and that the project was proceeding. The Township had no say in the matter. The homeowners in the area have met with PennDOT.

Cindy Dougherty from Pinnacle Court asked if the Township would start plowing their roads. Thomas responded that the roads in the original development were designed to be private roads under a Homeowners Association ownership and management. Thomas explained that the roads at Pinnacle Court are similar to those at the Village of Mountaintop. They were not designed to township and PennDOT standards specifically because the builder did not intend for them to be dedicated to the Township, but rather to remain in private hands. Theresa O'Dea asked why, then, a stop sign was placed at the end of the road. Chief Franks explained that the stop sign was placed at the point where their private road intersected Fairwood Boulevard, a Township road, for liability purposes. Arnold noted that the Township cannot do any work on a private road because of liability issues. Solicitor Dean explained that the homeowner's association should seek a copy of their covenants on file at the County Courthouse to clarify ownership, and then to determine if it is even feasible to bring the roads up to Township standards. Dean suggested that the association get the documents to the Township Secretary.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on October 3rd, 2017.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

Received the Treasurer's Report for October 2017: Treasurer Jeffrey Beck reported that the large expenditures for the month related to the pass through payments of pension and firefighter state aid received in the previous month and the payment of the principal and interest due on the loan for the Laurel Drive Culvert. Bank balances totaled \$126,053.94 for the General Fund, \$152,391.01 for Liquid Fuels and \$4,784.23 for the Recreation Fund. The report was filed.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - ves

Thomas - ves

MOTION CARRIED.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Township Engineer Andrew Pasonick reported that the Nuangola Ave Pave Project was completed with a savings reflected in the following motion to pay. Pasonick reported that the bids for the Ice Lakes Dam project were opened Monday, and that the low bid from AR Popple appeared to be in order. However, he recommended tabling the decision in order to allow time for the Township to determine funding sources since the bid was \$61,500 over the amount of LSA grants. The engineering preference is to find and use an operable sluice rather than bore through the hundred year old dam. Marty Wentz inquired about the coffer dam and the time to get the project started and completed.

After discussion, Thomas, Pipech, and Arnold concluded that a 30-day delay to work with Representative Mullery's and Senator Baker's office to seek funding would not imperil the project.

Supervisor Richard Arnold noted that the project was not being postponed indefinitely, and amended the following second motion. Wentz announced that he would be at the office at 8 AM on November 9th to inspect all the related documents.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to approve Change Order No. 1 to the Nuangola Ave Pave Project which zeros the quantities out for items not used, thereby saving \$3,443.40, and authorizing the payment from Liquid Fuels funds of \$42,471.60 to American Asphalt Paving for the project.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - ves

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to table the decision regarding bids on the Ice Pond Dam project at the recommendation of the Township Engineer until the Township has been able to seek counsel with our state senator and representative and to make a decision before the end of 2017.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for October, 2017: Pipech reinforced Pasonick reports that Nuangola Drive was done, bermed and painted. He also reported on the leaf program below:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

The Township Leaf Collection program will conclude on Thursday, November 16th. Leaves ONLY must be placed in CLEAR plastic bags. Leaves may be brought to the Mountain Top COG after the pickup period ends, and a COG permit is required. The Township Secretary issues COG permits at a cost of \$10. The Mountain

Top COG will be closed after November 30th. Bob Duffy reported that over 1000 bags have been picked up so far this year

Received the Police Report for October, 2017: Chief Franks displayed the Halloween bags that the Police distributed to all students in the Rice Township Elementary School. The report was read by Franks and filed. **MOTION** by Thomas, second by Arnold, to accept the Police Report as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - ves

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Zoning Officer Report for October, 2017: Read by Beck and filed.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Zoning Report as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

The Rice Township Planning Commission did not meet on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 for lack of agenda items.

The Board held a Public Hearing on the Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment. Solicitor Dean explained the need for these curative amendments. There were no public comments. The Hearing concluded at 6:34P.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to approve Ordinance #2017-1, amending the Zoning Ordinance regarding signs and Planned Residential Developments.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

The Zoning Hearing Board conducted a hearing on a Variance request from the developer of Polonia Estates regarding the setbacks in Phase 3. The Hearing was duly advertised and open to the public. It was continued and the day the Hearing resumes will be advertised.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to appoint Grevera & Associates at the cost of \$3,375 to conduct the 2017 Audit.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to give full-time employees a holiday bonus of \$32 (to cover taxes) as a thank you for their dedicated service.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to ratify the decision by poll to allow the Township Secretary to attend a PSATS webinar regarding website design at a cost of \$30.00 and a meeting in Wilkes Barre regarding Communities in Crisis on November 16, 2017 at the Westmoreland Club at a cost of 20.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - ves

MOTION CARRIED.

Due to the location within sight of the election machines, election laws required that the Township Office be closed on November 7th during the election. The Secretary worked remotely that day.

On this Veterans Day, November 11, 2017, the Board recognizes all Veterans of the Township for their service to our country and special remembrance to those who gave their lives for our country.

With the snow season coming, the Police Department asks that residents remove all portable basketball hoops and refrain from parking on Township roads or rights-of-way during storms for safe snow removal.

The Township Emergency Management Coordinator reports that the National Weather Service will begin to issue snow squall warnings beginning December 4th, 2017. He will have more information at the next Board of Supervisor's meeting.

BUDGET PREPARATION:

The Proposed 2018 Budget has been prepared and is available for review and will be posted and advertised. Adoption of the budget will be considered at the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors to be held Tuesday, December 5th, at 7:00 p.m. at the municipal building.

General Funds

Summary Estimated Revenue	2018
	\$
RECEIPTS FROM TAXES	932,550
	\$
LICENSES AND PERMITS (CABLE TV)	24,938
	\$
INTEREST, RENTS AND ROYALTIES	12,260
	\$
CONTRACT POLICE SERVICES	45,465
	\$
PENSION & FIRE STATE AID	90,769
	\$
FEES, UCC INSPECTIONS, RECYCLABLES	8,700
	\$
LIQUID FUELS	130,000
	\$
MISC. RECEIPTS	2,500
	\$
Total Receipts	1,247,182

SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:	2018
	\$
ADMINISTRATION	59,052
	\$
TAX COLLECTION	16,090
	\$
LEGAL SERVICES	15,000
	\$
GOVERNMENT BULDINGS	33,000
	\$
POLICE DEPARTMENT	362,961
	\$
FIRE DEPARTMENT	62,826
	\$
ZONING AND PLANNING	7,500
RECYCLING AND SEWAGE	\$
ENFORCEMENT	11,200
	\$
PUBLIC WORKS/GENERAL SERVICES	53,995
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	\$
SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL (SUPPLIES)	14,407
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	\$
GENERAL HIGHWAY SERVICE	80,259
LIQUID FUELS	130,000
	\$
PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS	5,750
	\$
POLICE PENSION	56,289
TOLICE TENSION	\$
NON-UNIFORM PENSION	16,796
NOW OWN OWN FENSION	\$
WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	52,500
WOMENS COME INSOMANCE	\$
PROPERTY AND BONDING INSURANCE	86,859
THOTENT AND BONDING INSONANCE	\$0,859
HEALTH INSURANCE	
HEALTH INSURANCE	138,478
EMBLOVED DAID DENEFITO	\$ 42.200
EMPLOYER PAID BENEFITS	43,299
MICC EVERNOTTIBEC	\$
MISC. EXPENDITURES	922
TOTAL FOUNDATED EVENING TURES	\$
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:	1,247,182

Solicitor Dean asked if there was any tax increase in this budget and Thomas replied in the negative.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to accept the proposed budget for the year 2018. ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Thomas - yes MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Planning Commission member Robert Smith asked if any Township funds had been used for the upgrades to the ambulance building adjoining Township property. Pipech assured him that no funds had been used

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Dean reported that he had no report. Pipech requested that Dean work on a new lease for the Ice House Pub since an increase in their lease payment was in order as the parking lot had been improved with millings.

Thomas announced that the Board of Supervisors will have an Executive Session prior to year-end to discuss personnel matters to prepare for the reorganization meeting.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:49p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer