

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES

December 5, 2017

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors were held on Tuesday, December 5th, 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 was 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.

Thomas invited Rick Harmon and Kenneth Fenstermacher from Barry Isett & Associates to make their presentation at their request. Harmon introduced Fenstermacher, formerly of Code Inspections, and offered their services as building code inspectors related to the Uniform Construction Code. Supervisor Richard Arnold asked about the customer list, and Harmon noted that they serve Butler Township, the back mountain area, Salem and Conyngham Townships.

Robert Pipech thanked Marcia Thomas for her mentorship when he became a supervisor and for all her time devoted to the Township. He noted that it was his pleasure to have worked with her. Richard Arnold added that Thomas had devoted over 40 years of service to the Township, and he thanked her for her leadership, hard work, and service, keeping a steady hand for the Township. Thomas thanked them for their kind words and said that it had been a joy to be a part of the Township. Carl Smith thanked her for her service and wished her all the best for the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Minutes of the rescheduled Regular meeting held on November 8th, 2017.

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

Received the Treasurer's Report for November, 2017: Jeffrey Beck, Treasurer, referred to the report, noting the receipt of the \$200,000 LSA grant and the full repayment of the loan secured for the replacement of the Laurel Drive culvert. He reviewed Liquid Fuels and the Recreation accounts, and reported total bank balances as of November 30 for the General Fund, Liquid Fuels and Recreation as \$319,885.62, \$109,681.60 and \$4,784.39 respectively. The report was filed.

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

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

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ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Andrew Pasonick, Township Engineer, reviewed the low bid from AR Popple for the Ice Lakes dam. In response to Pasonick's question regarding the amount in the motion, Colin O'Boyle from the Solicitor's office explained that the number stated in the motion automatically covers an ultimately lower cost, such as for Alt.#2, should that become the strategy to pursue later.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to award the bid by AR Popple of \$179,500.00 for the base bid plus Alt.#1 for the repairs on the Ice Lakes Dam project at the recommendation of the Township Engineer.

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

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to direct the Secretary/Treasurer to seek loan options for \$70,000, with no prepayment penalty, to supplement the grant funds for the repair of the Ice Lakes dam.

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

Received the Roadmaster's Report for November, 2017: Roadmaster Pipech first read a 30-point accomplishments list for 2017, noting that a lot was done this year by these Supervisors. Thomas noted that the Township has recently been faced with 2 unexpected costly infrastructure projects, with the Culvert replacement complete and the dam to start without raising taxes. Pipech noted that tree removal continues at the Rice Township Fire Department property and behind the recycle center.

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

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

Received the Police Report for November, 2017: Chief Franks reads the police report and it was filed.

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

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

Received the Zoning Officer Report for November, 2017: Beck read the report and it was filed.

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

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

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to ratify the approval by poll to pay \$3,416.00 to Am Trust North America as the final Workers Compensation Insurance Policy payment following the annual audit.

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

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Thomas introduced the motion by noting that some adjoining townships had passed similar motions. Arnold added that these "mini-casinos" were actually quite large. O'Boyle explained that such a motion had to be passed and delivered to the PA Gaming Control Board by December 31, 2017. The position could always be reversed later, but the prohibition has to occur now.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to approve Resolution 2017-10 that prohibits Category 4 facilities within the boundaries of Rice Township.

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

In compliance with the Police Contract:

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to approve Resolution 2017-11 that payments into the police pension fund by members of the police department are eliminated for the year of 2018, and no deductions should be made from the pay of the members for the purpose of contributing to the police pension fund.

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

Thomas addresses the following resolutions as a group:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to approve Resolution 2017-12 for the Local Share Account (Gaming) Grant Application of \$225,000 for the paving of Laurel Drive and associated application fees, and appoint Robert Pipech to execute all documents.

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

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to approve Resolution 2017-13 for the Local Share Account (Gaming) Grant Application of \$120,000 for the paving of Ice Lakes Drive and associated application fees, and appoint Robert Pipech to execute all documents.

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

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to approve Resolution 2017-14 for the Local Share Account (Gaming) Grant Application of \$105,000 for the purchase of a new Case backhoe and associated application fees, and appoint Robert Pipech to execute all documents.

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

MOTION by Pipech , second by Arnold, to approve Resolution 2017-15 for the Local Share Account (Gaming) Grant Application of \$34,000 for the purchase of a new police cruiser and associated application fees, and appoint Robert Pipech to execute all documents.

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

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MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to approve Resolution 2017-16 for the Local Share Account (Gaming) Grant Application of \$1,500,000 to demolish and replace the Rice Township Volunteer Fire Co. social hall with a new Township building/community center and associated application fees, and appoint Robert Pipech to execute all documents.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to hire Pinnacle Cleaning Service for monthly service at a monthly rate of \$80.00. Pinnacle Cleaning Service is bonded and insured.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to approve the following dues payments for 2018:

\$275.00 to Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance;

\$125.00 to Pa State Association of Boroughs Training Discount Program;

\$30.00 to the Luzerne County Boroughs and Townships Association

\$150.00 to the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association

ROLL CALL: Arnold -

Pipech -

Thomas -

MOTION CARRIED.

The Township received notification from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection that the Township has received its requested waiver of MS4 storm water management requirements. This waiver expires on October 30, 2022. Thanks to staff and Andy Pasonick for steering this one-year project to a successful conclusion, saving the Township thousands of dollars.

The Rice Township Planning Commission did not meet on Wednesday, November 15th, 2017 for lack of agenda items.

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, 2017, 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

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PENSION & FIRE STATE AID	\$90,769
FEES, UCC INSPECTIONS, RECYCLABLES	\$8,700
LIQUID FUELS	\$130,000
MISC. RECEIPTS	\$2,500
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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
NON-UNIFORM PENSION	\$16,796
WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	\$52,500
PROPERTY AND BONDING INSURANCE	\$86,859
HEALTH INSURANCE	\$138,478
EMPLOYER PAID BENEFITS	\$43,299
MISC. EXPENDITURES	\$922
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TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:	\$1,247,182

Rice Township Tax Rates

Total.....0.26 mills (property assessed value x \$0.00026)
Real Estate Transfer Taxes.....1/2 of 1% collected
Local Services Tax.....\$5.00 Township; \$5.00 School District

There is NO tax increase for 2018

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MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to approve the budget for Rice Township for 2018 as presented, and to adopt it as of December 5, 2017.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to pass Resolution 2018-1 that the above millage and tax rate for Rice Township for 2018 be adopted as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Thomas - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

An executive session will be held prior to the 2018 Reorganization. Copies of the Township Officials list will be given to the Board of Supervisors.

The reorganization meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., and the first regular meeting of the Board will be held immediately following. The reorganization meeting of the Township Auditors will be held on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

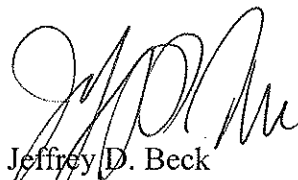
The Board of Supervisors, Police and Employees wish everyone a very happy, safe and healthy Holiday Season.

Thomas asked for public comment. While there was none, Pipech asked Pasonick to inspect Polonia 2 streets in anticipation that the developer might present them for dedication.

Janeann Lokken requested that all of Henry Drive be painted. Mr. Pipech responded that the temperature was too low now to paint, and apologized for missing that opportunity this year. He noted that a number of roads did get painted this year.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m..

Respectfully submitted:



Jeffrey D. Beck
Secretary/Treasurer