RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES

FEBRUARY 1, 2022 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road. Copies of the Agenda, draft minutes of the previous meetings and Treasurer Reports were available to the public. Chair Robert Pipech called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. It was announced that the meeting was being recorded for preparing the minutes. Interior cameras were also recording the meeting.

ROLL CALL: Arnold

- here

Pipech

- here

Smith

- here

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident Karl Kaminski thanked the Supervisors for removing the two trees on Heslop Road. In response to Kaminski's questions, Pipech reported that the Heslop Road secondary access is part of the Woodberry Manor PRD, and maybe federal funds could help with its construction. Pipech reported that there is no update on the County bridge on Heslop Road.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Township Engineer Andrew Pasonick reported that the amount of water in the upper Ice Lake prevents any work being done on the dam. Pasonick added that the contractor may ask DEP to dewater the whole lake to allow the work on the sluice as required by DEP. In response to Arnold's question, Pasonick explained that DEP wants to assess the structural integrity of the sluice.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to accept the Minutes of the reorganization and regular meetings held on January 3, 2022.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for January, 2022. Treasurer Beck pointed out the \$1,500 payment to Big Haus Tree Service for the removal of dangerous trees. Referring to the General Fund Budget versus Actual, Beck noted the deficit of \$49,438.95 as normal for January and noted EIT receipts are little behind last year. Beck highlighted the continued repair costs for the older trucks in Liquid Fuels and noted the Orkin payment in the Recreation Fund relating to work from 2021. General Fund balances totaled \$374,918.72, Liquid Fuels balances totaled \$26,881.13 and Recreation Fund balances totaled \$5,433.82, all for a total of \$407,233.67 cash on hand. Restricted balances include \$500.18 in the DCNR grant account, \$5,003.36 in the Developers' Escrow Account and \$180,305.06 in the ARPA account for a total of \$185,808.06 of restricted funds, all as of January 31, 2022. MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, and all bills to be paid.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - ves

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

Received the Roadmaster's Report for January, 2022: Roadmaster Pipech reported that the Public Works crew has been plowing and salting regularly given all the nuisance storms. One of the 2005 GM trucks has a rotted frame and cannot lift the bed and will need to be repaired. Pipech also reminded that a grant was written seeking LSA funds to replace the two 2005 trucks. In response to Kaminski's questions, Pipech noted that we have purchased newer trucks and police cruisers to try to keep the fleet fresh and that we have added a part-time worker to the Public Works crew. Kaminski has heard good reports on the Public Works crew.

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 January, 2022 as presented by Chief Ehret:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Zoning Office Henry Mleczynski reported that no permits were issued in January.

There was no SEO report for January, 2022.

There was no SEO report.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to authorize Engineer Pasonick to advertise for bids for the 2022 Pave Project.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to adopt Resolution 2022-4 which adopts the updated EMA Plan as presented by the Township's EMC, Bryan Brown.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to ratify the decision by poll to renew the Geisinger Health Plan GFA All-Access \$250 PPO at an annual cost of \$192,715.80 which is \$5,716 over budget.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to hire Jenna Rajnes as a police officer upon the recommendation of Chief Ehret.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech reported that the Planning Commission met on January 26th, 2022 and draft minutes were available, and with the snow season here, the Police Department ask residents to remove all portable basketball hoops and refrain from parking on Township roads or rights-of-way during storms for safe snow removal.

Arnold reported on the Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Dean reported that the Ice House lease for parking at 40 Willoweby Street was ready to sign.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to amend the agenda by adding the Ice House lease agreement for consideration.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to approve the Ice House/Prumac lease effective 1/1/2022 expiring 12/31/2022 for \$1,250 with proof of insurance.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: In response to Planning Commissioner Mark Manosky, the court lights will be turned off until the weather warms up. Pipech also reported that a verbal agreement was reached with FirstLight to lease the one bay of the garage at 40 Willoweby Street for \$500 per month. EMC Bryan Brown reported that he had passed through training on the use of the new code red system which replaced the old 911 alert system for citizens.

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:32p.m..

Respectfully submitted:

Jeffrey D. Beck, Secretary/Treasurer