

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES
MARCH 3, 2020

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda, meeting minutes of the previous meeting and Treasurer's Reports were available to the public. Chair Robert Pipech called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mark Manosky, member of the Planning Commission, had a question regarding last month's minutes. Ed Wiernusz resident of 455 First Street, asked that potholes be filled there. Pipech responded that they would be filled tomorrow. Jude Fritz, resident on 114 Catalpa Avenue, asked Engineer Pasonick if Basswood would be paved this year. Pasonick answered that it was on the list but he did not know if grant funding had been received or not. Beck noted that it was on the list for the grant. and questioned whether there was a list of roads and we did not have a priority list with a timetable for repair. Fritz concern was that we are reactive rather than in a plan with projected timing for repair. Roadmaster Pipech responded that lists are nice but the winter weather attacks roads differently. Arnold added that the list is there but the Roadmaster and Public Works crew monitor the condition of the roads and work with the Township Engineer to decide on repair, but it is reactive due to winter damage and available funds. Fritz wondered if the mild winter would allow more road work. Pipech noted that salt contracts were set and we have truck repairs to make, and most likely less traveled roads will be tar and chipped while the more heavily traveled roads may be paved.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Pasonick reported that the County had not provided clearance on the demolition of the fire hall but the work on the bid documents was progressing. He had no news on the pickleball court. Pipech added that the fence was started. Pipech asked Andy to call him to review the roads for base repair and tar and chip.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to request extensions of grants C000067279, C000063843 and C000065241 to 6/30/2021 related to the Ice Dam Retrofit Project. Robert Pipech and Carl Smith are the designated signers for the contract extensions.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES
MARCH 3, 2020

BUSINESS MATTERS Cont.:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on February 4, 2020.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for February, 2020, as presented by Treasurer Jeffrey Beck. Beck referenced the report of the Check Register and the increase in earned income tax receipts. The General Fund shows the reversal of the transfer from Money Market of \$30,000 in January given the increase receipts in February. Beck noted the audit payment of \$3,500.00. The surplus through February is a timing issue. Beck pointed out the almost \$5,100 payment for truck repair in Liquid Fuels. The Recreation Account had no activity. Beck reported that General Fund balances totaled \$394,033.69; Liquid Fuels totaled \$55,646.19 and Recreation Funds totaled \$5,496.14 for total cash on hand of \$455,176.02 as of February 29, 2019. The report was filed.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

The 2019 Municipal Annual Audit and Financial Report from Grevera & Associates was received. Copies of the Concise Financial Statement are available to the public and the full report is available for public inspection. There were no findings in the 2019 Audit.

A direct deposit of \$134,505.71 was made to the Liquid Fuels Checking Account on March 2, 2020. As recommended by the PennDOT Liquid Fuels Auditor, the full amount was transferred into the Liquid Fuels Money Market Account, which is interest bearing.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for February 2020: The Public Works crew continues to patch potholes. Roadmaster Pipech reported that significant repairs were required by 3 of the trucks. Some of the problem may be due to bad fuel or clogged injectors. When spring arrives, the crew can start milling and a roller will be sought.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Fritz inquired about the age of the trucks, and Pipech responded that 2 are 15 years old and one about 5 and the other is new. Pipech answered Supervisor Smith that the problems with the trucks returned are fixed.

Received the Police Report for February, 2020: Chief Franks presented the report and it was filed.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to accept the Zoning Report for February, 2020, as presented by Beck.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES
MARCH 3, 2020

BUSINESS MATTERS can't:

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to purchase a Ford 2020 Responder under COSTARS from Kovatch/Rottet Motors for \$36,527.51 from the General Fund after trade-in of the old police cruiser.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Last February, the Board of Supervisors authorized the investment of \$299 to become a Staples Advantage customer with the understanding that if savings in the account does not exceed the cost, that the annual fee will be returned to the Township. Analysis shows that the savings did not exceed the \$299 cost. The account has been closed and we have received the \$299 refund.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to ratify the decision by poll to cancel the Staples Advantage program and seek the refund of the annual cost of \$299.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to extend the Gallagher proposed subdivision review to April 8, 2020 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

In response to a question from Fritz, Dean answered that the property was at the end of Burma road and extended down to the Big Wapwallopen Creek in Wright Township.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to resume summer hours for the recycling center beginning April 4th. Saturday hours will be from 9am to 2pm and Wednesdays from 4pm to 7pm.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, approve the Supervisors' and Secretary's attendance to the Luzerne County Boroughs and Township Association Meeting on March 26th at a cost of \$12.00 each.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

The Planning Commission met on February 26th at 7pm. Draft minutes are available to the public.

A representative from Representative Mullery's office will be on site at the Township building every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 10 am until noon to help you with issues.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap was presented by Ryan Carter and received.

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES
MARCH 3, 2020

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Dean noted that the Conditional Use Hearing would reconvene on April 7 at 6:30 pm. regarding the Dollar General site.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Bob Smith, member of the Planning Commission, asked about the Ice Lake gate opening and Pipech responded that it would be April when the restrooms could be opened without risk of freezing. Bob Smith also suggested hiring an intern for the public works crew to cut grass and learn road work, grooming a younger person. Arnold noted that it could be put on our sign. Manosky asked if Atlantic Broadband was going to repair the driveways in Wilderness Estates with hot patch and noted that a section on the road needed cold patch, and Pipech responded that ABB will and Beck will call about the cold patch. Wiernusz also inquired about the trucks around the fire hall and Pipech explained that FirstLight Fiber, a cable installing company, was leasing the land for \$1,500 per month.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7.35 p.m..

Respectfully submitted:



Jeffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer