

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES

April 5, 2022

3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, April 5, 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 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 - yes
Pipech - yes
Smith - yes

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

Pipech announced that an executive meeting was held prior to this meeting to discuss legal matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident Tony Smigelski asked that the Supervisors resolve his request that Rice Township sell its interest in the property shared with Smigelski. Pipech noted the difficulty of selling donated property and Arnold suggested that the Township buy Smigleski's interest. Attorney Jeckell from the Solicitor's Office will look into it.

Resident Mr. and Mrs. Gomba from Ice Lake Drive asked that the road be paved. Resident Henry also noted the danger of the condition of the road for walkers. Engineer Pasonick reviewed the 2022 Base Repair and Overlay Project where Alternative 3 would repair some of Ice Lake Drive. After Secretary/Treasurer Beck reviewed grants received and applied for, the American Rescue Program funds and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act and the impacts of these on Rice Township, Pasonick noted that repaving all of Ice Lake Drive would cost at least \$1.1 million per mile.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Pasonick reported that he and contractor FABCOR were submitting shop drawings to DEP in order to get approval to order the new sluice gate. If approval can be obtained, then the plan is to dewater only one more time in order to clean the sluice and install the sluice gate and make the other repairs required. However, proceeding without DEP approval on the gate means multiple dewatering actions, both costly and not good for wildlife. The Supervisors expressed their frustration with the process.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting held on March 1, 2022.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for March, 2022: Treasurer Beck referenced the General Fund Check Register, noting the \$5,763.65 refund from Geisinger for last year and the \$5,500 transfer from ARPA to pay Zelenkofske Axelrod for ARPA consulting services. Beck noted the first quarter surplus of \$57,253.73 at the end of the General Fund Budget versus Actual report. Beck also noted the continued expenses in Liquid Fuels for

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

winter road supplies and truck repairs and that the first quarter Liquid Fuels surplus was very close to budget. General Fund balances totaled \$466,663.30, Liquid Fuels balances totaled \$125,708.50 and Recreation Fund balances totaled \$5,153.34, all for a total of \$597,806.04 cash on hand. Restricted balances include \$500.22 in the DCNR grant account, \$5,003.76 in the Developers' Escrow Account and \$180,377.93 in the ARPA account for a total of \$185,881.91 of restricted funds, all as of March 31, 2022.

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.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for March, 2022: Roadmaster Pipech reported that one truck was out of commission after it was struck by a pickup truck in the snow storm resulting in 1 operating truck out of a fleet of 4. The Public Works crew is patching and clearing drains as they can, hoping for another truck to return next week after repairs.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Police Report for March, 2022 as reported by Chief Ehret. Chief added that the speed minder trailer is now out on the road and the Department donated 6 bullet proof vests to Ukraine.:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Zoning Report for March, 2022 from Zoning Officer Mleczyński and noted that data flowing to the County assessor's office is up to date.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to adopt Resolution 2022-7 which authorizes the payment of \$100 to DCED for the submission of the GTRP grant application to fund a new pickleball court, new bocce ball court and upgrades to the tennis and basketball courts.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pasonick responded to Arnold's question by reviewing the details of the base bid and 3 alternatives in the 2022 pave Project, noting that the prices appeared to be favorably aggressive, and Ice Lake Drive in Alternate 3 will have 2000 square yards of repair. Pipech noted that the Township will also have \$200,000 this year for tar and chip of roads.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to award the 2022 Base Repair & Overlay Pave Project to New Enterprise as the low bidder for the base bid and alternates 1 through 4 totaling \$502,331.60 to be funded with \$360,172.00 from LSA grant C00080472, \$42,159.60 from Liquid Fuels and \$100,000 from the General Fund.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to agree to pay Breezeline \$290.99 for a three-year term for telephone and internet service to be automatically charged monthly to the Township's credit card. This cost represents a savings of just over \$3 per month from our current bill.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to contract with Ecological Solutions, Inc. for \$1,500.00 to treat the lower pond for lily pads and postpone treatment on the upper lake until the dewatering of the lake has ceased with the retrofit of the dam.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to accept the Planning Commission's Annual Report for 2021.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech announced that the Planning Commission met on March 23rd, 2022 and draft minutes are available and that in response to a resident question, the Township uses anti-skid and not sand because sand is not PennDOT approved.

Arnold reported on the Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap, noting that the Fire Company will be represented at the Easter Egg Hunt and that the Fire Company is hosting an electronics recycling event.

With the snow season still here, 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.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: No report but will look into the Smigelski issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Beck answered Rushton's question that the submission of the GTRP grant was a resubmission of last year's grant application which was not approved. In response to Planning Commission

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Vice-Chair Bob Smith's question, Arnold and Pipech noted that the owner of Ryan's Way has not contacted the Township to dedicate the road. The owner of the property has to want to dedicate it to the Township. Bryan Brown reported that he would attend EMA training on May 5, 2022.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m..

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff D. Beck', written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer