

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA 18707
MINUTES
April 6, 2021

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday April 6, 2021, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop with limited attendance capacity due to social distancing requirements. The meeting was also being conducted using ZOOM, but with technical difficulties experienced. Copies of the Agenda, draft minutes of the previous meetings and Treasurer Reports were available to the public at the meeting and electronically by request to the Secretary/Treasurer. Chair Robert Pipech 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 meeting.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - here
 Pipech - here
 Smith - here

Also present were: Curt Hardiman, Burton Scouten and James Mack in the room; Nanci Romanyshyn, Marcia Thomas, Rebecca Sodergren, Pat Rushton, Andrew Pasonick, Kristyn Giarratano and Holly Guydish via ZOOM.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chairman Pipech called for public comment but there was none.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Township Engineer Pasonick reported that the coffer dam was still leaking some but that Fabcor has been able to keep the water side of the dam clear and have located the inlet and outlet of the original sluice. The existing gate for the sluice is also present and may be usable. The sluice will be investigated by camera to determine if it is usable. PennEastern is on-site to survey the dam and will be sending their findings and proposals to DEP. This state agency's review will determine the length of the project. In response to Arnold's question, the actual work time may be 4-6 weeks after DEP gives a go-ahead. Arnold expressed the need for a sense of urgency about the timing if we to have to follow a plan B and to get a gate made.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to accept the Minutes of the meeting on March 2 2021.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Marcia Thomas asked for a copy of the Treasurer's Report before the meetings and Beck will send to her.

Received the Treasurer's Report for March, 2021: Beck referred to the \$19,302.10 deposit on the second page of the General Fund check register as the Geisinger return of premium for 2020, 2% of which will be returned to the contributing employees and noted that 3 checks had to be voided as duplicates. Beck noted that tax receipts were running \$20,777 ahead of budget, that surplus to date was \$77,000 above budget but to not count on that continuing. Beck pointed out the higher expenses due to the harsh winter in the Liquid Fuels account and that there was no activity in the Rec Fund. Beck reported bank balances as of March 31, 2021 as follows: Total General Fund at \$487,513.14; Total Liquid Fuels at \$227,161.80; and Total Rec Fund at \$16,555.69 of

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

which \$335 were restricted donations for the next pickleball court, for Total Cash on hand of \$731,230.63, and \$5,001.26 in the Developer's Escrow Account.

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.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for March, 2021: Roadmaster Pipech reported that the Public Works crew was patching with cold patch as weather permitted. The plants making hot mix will not open up until mid to late April. Pipech noted that the crew could repair sections of Ice Harvest Drive. Engineer Pasonick has marked those areas which will need base repair. Pipech asked Pasonick to inspect the northern leg of Wilderness Drive and Lakeview Drive. Marcia Thomas complemented the crew on their snow removal over the winter.

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, 2021 as presented by Sargent Ehret.:

MOTION by Smith, 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, 2021 as presented by Beck. Pipech asked that the Zoning Office investigate event signs going up relative to the Zoning Ordinance.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the SEO Report for March, 2021 as presented by Beck:

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech asked Arnold to comment regarding the motion. Arnold thanked Pipech, Smith and Beck for getting the Board to this point. He reviewed the qualifications of the appointees and noted that John Rodgers would call their meeting shortly. Smith congratulated the appointees.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to appoint John Rodgers for a 5-year term as Chair, Rick Arnold for a 4-year term, Holly Guydish for a 3-year term, and Nanci Romanyshyn and Burton Scouten to 1-year terms to the Parks and Recreation Board.

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

In response to Pipech, Pasonick confirmed the recommendation to pay Fabcor and Arnold added that he had reviewed the schedule of values with Pasonick.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold to approve Pay Application #1 for \$124,849.98 after 10% retainage from Fabcor, Inc. as recommended by the Township Engineer regarding work performed on the Ice Pond Dam Outlet Works Improvement Project to be presented to the appropriate agency in Harrisburg for payment.

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

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to make a payroll deduction of \$5/pay for the members of the Rice Township Police Benevolent Association, payable to the Rice Township Police Benevolent Association monthly, at their request.

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

Pipech explained that he had been approached by a Supervisor of Wright Township and that this event would be valuable for Rice Township residents to be able to dispose of electronic equipment. For larger items, residents would have to pay a disposal fee. Pipech added that the Rice Township recycle operation would be closed on August 7th and Curt Hardiman will work the event for Rice Township. Each Township will have an attendant to ensure only residents participate.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to join Wright Township and Fairview Township to sponsor an electronic recycling event at the Wright Township Municipal recycling location on Saturday, August 7th, 2021 at an estimated cost of \$850.00.

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

The Board of Supervisors will advertise a public hearing to be held on May 4, 2021 at 6:30 PM at the Township Building and via ZOOM to allow comment on the request by Shri Giriraj, LLC to transfer a liquor license within Luzerne County to the owner's location at 3765 Nuangola Road in Rice Township. The Supervisor's decision may occur at their meeting immediately following the hearing.

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The Planning Commission did not meet on March 24, 2021 for lack of agenda items.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap. Arnold reported that the Fire Company responded to 10 calls in Rice Township. Arnold commented that the Fire Company had closed its Fire Hall for rental due to COVID and is trying to find ways to raise funds. In response to Pipech, Beck reported that he had met with Pettit at Ice Pond and will work on a drawing regarding the relocation of the dry hydrant.

Wednesday recycling from 4PM to 7 PM starts tomorrow.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Kristyn Giarratano from the Solicitor's Office noted that there was nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Burt Scouten complimented the new speed monitor trailer and wondered if it was going to be moved around the Township. Ehret responded in the affirmative and reviewed the conversation for Marcia Thomas as the audio over ZOOM was not clear.

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted:


Jeffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer