May 3, 2022 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 3, 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. and called for the Pledge of Allegiance. It was announced that the meeting would be 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.

An executive meeting was held prior to this meeting to discuss legal matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Residents Ed Wiernusz and Frank Voyak complained about the condition of 1st street. Roadmaster Pipech said that he would take care of it but the Township did not have the funds to pipe stormwater around 1st Street.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Pasonick reported that his office and Fabcor were offering ideas to DEP for their approval regarding the gate for the sluice at the Ice Lake Dam. Arnold stated that Fabcor needs to get the approval by the next meeting and that the Supervisors would be meeting with two State Senators about the delay. Pasonick explained the 2011 State Law requiring the Dam Retrofit project and that DEP would not waive the requirement nor grandfather the dam. Resident Karl Kaminsky suggested that the project be abandoned and the lake be dewatered permanently. Pasonick reported that the Notice to Proceed would be issued that week to New Enterprise for the 2022 Pave Project. Pipech reviewed last year's pave project and the 2022 Pave Project including the funds coming from both the General Fund and Liquid Fuels to stretch the projects as much as possible.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting held on April 5, 2022.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for April, 2022: Treasurer Beck referred to the General Fund Check Register, noting the property tax receipts and the transfer of \$10,000 to the Recreation Fund to cover early soccer field expenses. Supervisor Arnold stated that no more payments should be made to Barry Isett until the bid documents had been delivered for the soccer field. Beck referred to the Budget versus Actual for the General Fund and noted the better-than-budget tax receipts and the current surplus year-to-date of \$48,634. Beck reported that the General Fund balances totaled \$479,281.14, Liquid Fuels balances totaled \$113,850.33 and Recreation Fund balances totaled \$5,068.44, all for a total of \$598,199.91 cash on hand. Restricted balances include \$500.24 in the DCNR grant account, \$5,003.97 in the Developers' Escrow Account and \$174,914.01 in the ARPA account for a total of \$180,418.22 of restricted funds, all as of April 30, 2022.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

MOTION by Smith, 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 April, 2022: Roadmaster Pipech reported that the Public Works crew was down to one truck out of 4 and had to plow the 22 miles of Township roads with the one truck. Pipech praised the crew for their efforts. The hope is that one truck would come back from repairs this week, the third soon, but the 4th is still undergoing repair and assessment from being driven into by a pickup truck during the large March storm. Pipech noted that no word has been received regarding LSA grants that we applied for to replace two of the older trucks. Pipech also welcomed back Curt Hardiman to the recycle center following his absence for health reasons.

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 April, 2022:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Zoning Report for April, 2022:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the SEO Report for April, 2022:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech directed beck to contact Hildebrand to get the swale installed behind the Township building.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to amend Resolution 2022-7 which changes the request grant amount to \$212,084 for the submission of the GTRP grant application to fund a new pickleball court, new boccie ball court and upgrades to the tennis and basketball courts and changes the match for this grant to \$37,427.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to ratify the decision by poll to purchase a Canon ImageRUNNER DX C257IF, Advanced printer for the Police Department from Golden Business Machines for the COSTARS price of \$3.800.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Smith called for the following motion to be made:

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to approve the purchase of an exterior LED exterior sign 4' high by 8 feet wide from KC Signs for the COSTARS price of \$39,995.00 and engage Diversified Electrical to install the required electrical power at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Kaminsky suggested that improving the website would be more valuable than the sign. Smith responded that a new website has been on the list. Beck noted that there are 3 providers to look at.

Arnold called for the following motion to be made:

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to authorize Elliott Greenleaf and Dean to offer to Affordable Housing Alternatives LLC, through its attorney, the purchase of its 3/5s undivided interest in parcel #s 53L8S1 010006000 and 53L8S1 010005000 at their cost plus interest and confirm that the Supervisors will not sell the Township's 2/5s undivided interest in the property. ..

In response to Manosky's question, Arnold explained that the property straddled Henry Drive and our interest was received as a donation for recreation purposes. Attorney Jeckell added that the donation was made early in the 2000s. Arnold and Pipech noted that the Township will not sell the property as requested by the other owner, so the fair step was to offer to buy out the other owner. Resident Felicia Bierzynski wondered if it ever would be used, and Arnold noted that currently no one can use it.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech reported that: the 2021 annual audit has been completed with no issues; the Planning Commission met on March 23rd, 2022 and draft minutes are available; and 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. Arnold thanked Holly and the Guydish family, the Fire Department and the Police Department for all their help and participation in the Easter Egg Hunt. The Fire Department is looking for volunteers and will be running an electronic recycle event on Saturday, May 21 from 9-noon, small items only.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: There was no report from the Solicitor's office.

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PUBLIC COMMENT: Manosky suggested that none of the options to fix the sluice gate would work since they would all rust. Planning Commission member Smith observed that the County's Heslop Road bridge had been marked by continues to deteriorate. In response to Smith's question, Beck said that other than notifying the County of the issue and their response of their being aware, no other communication had been received from the County.

EMC Bryan Brown noted the need to enter into a contract with Luzerne County regarding Code RED which replaces Swift 911. Training on the program will conclude on May 20 and the system goes live on May 27.

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeffeev D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer