June 7, 2022 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road. Copies of the Agenda, draft minutes of the previous meeting and Treasurer Reports were available to the public. Chair Robert Pipech called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. 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: Planning Commission member Bob Smith asked the purpose of the Special Meeting held on May 27. Beck explained that the amended Resolution updated the Township's contribution amount for the submission of the 2022 Courts Grant application. Planning Commission member Mark Manosky expressed his concern about the condition of and safety aspects of the Heslop Road bridge. Engineer Pasonick explained that paving will occur on Heslop from Nuangola Road to just short of Ralph Street and that sections of Wilderness Drive will also be addressed. The County Engineer stated that the Heslop Road bridge will withstand triaxle traffic and is in design phase awaiting FEMA funding for its replacement.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Pasonick reported that the 2022 Pave Project will start within the next 2-3 weeks after a review of the roads with New Enterprise. Pasonick also reported that any concepts of submerged gears for the Ice Lake Dam sluice gate were abandoned and two alternative proposals were sent to DEP and they were awaiting a reply. In response to Arnold's question, Pasonick explained that the planned replacement sluice gate would be a standard size, not being built as a custom fit. The current sluice gate was too far damaged to be reused. Pasonick had circulated a time line of submissions to DEP for which there has not been a response to date. Arnold added that our elected state officials need to be kept in the loop with these submissions.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting held on May 3, 2022.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Since the approval of the minutes for the special meeting on May 27 was left off the agenda, the following was made:

MOTION by Smith, second Pipech, to amend the Agenda to add a motion to adopt the minutes for the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors held on May 27, 2022.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to accept the Minutes of the special meeting held on May 27, 2022.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for May, 2022: Treasurer Beck referred to the second page of the General Fund check register to note the transfer of \$72,000 to the Money Market Account due to strong EIT receipts. Beck also pointed out that year-to-date the General Fund shows a surplus of \$137,849.87. Beck explained the higher Liquid Fuels expenses on that check register were due to truck and backhoe repairs and maintenance but that the surplus on the Budget versus Actual report year-to-date was tracking the budget. Beck also noted the Recreation fund expenses for the Soccer Field Project and residual costs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Beck reported that the General Fund balances totaled \$737,909.17, Liquid Fuels balances totaled \$110,725.68 and Recreation Fund balances totaled \$6,499.05, all for a total of \$855,133.90 cash on hand. Restricted balances include \$500.26 in the DCNR Grant Account, \$5,004.18 in the Developers' Escrow Account and \$4,915.41 in the ARPA Account for a total of \$10,419.85 of restricted funds, all as of May 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 - ves

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for May, 2022: Roadmaster Pipech reported that the Public Works crew is skin patching and blacktopping as much as weather permits. They have also been doing a great job maintaining the parks. In response to Supervisors Smith's question, Pipech noted that we have 3 out of 4 trucks operating and that we have not heard anything about the LSA grants. He noted that the Ford 550 which was struck by another vehicle in March remains in the shop for repair and once done would have the damaged box replaced with a heavy duty aluminum box.

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 May, 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.

Received the Zoning Report for May, 2022 as presented by Zoning Officer Henry Mleczynski.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the SEO Report for May, 2022 as presented by Beck.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech to approve the purchase of a 2023 Ford Police vehicle from KOVATCH Ford at a cost not to exceed \$50,000 minus the trade-in value of the replaced cruiser.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to ratify the decision by poll to pay KC Sign \$445 for permit management.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to partner with Wright Township for an electronic recycling event similar to last year on Saturday, October 8, 2022. Details to follow.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to engage Emmet Burke, Surveyor, to survey the parcel owned by Rice Township known as 40 Willoweby Street.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to donate \$250.00 to the Wright Township fireworks display, same as last year.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to donate \$50.00 as a sponsor for the Luzerne County Township Conference on September 22, 2022.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to approve the request by the American Legion to use the Rice Township ball field for practice for its teams, cooperating with other groups who may wish to use the field, having received proof of insurance with the Township named as an additional insured.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to ratify the decision by poll to have the Secretary/Treasurer attend the PSATS QuickBooks payroll training in Point Township on June 23, 2022 at a cost of \$49.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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The recycling center will be closed on Saturday, June 18, for manpower reasons.

The Planning Commission met on May 25th, 2022 and draft minutes are available.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap. Assistant Chief Gary Price reported that the Fire Company will sponsor a paper shredding event in August – Supervisor Smith noting that Representative Mullery was hosting on this Saturday. Price also reported that the fire tax increase was adopted via referendum in Wright Township. Pipech noted the PPL work at the bridge over the Big Wapwallopen Creek and asked Chief Ehret to make sure that they had appropriate traffic control there.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Attorney Giarratano Jeckell from the Solicitor's office noted that an executive session would follow the meeting dealing with potential litigation issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Bob Smith suggested that game land access be clarified during the RTVFD survey. Arnold added that a title search may be required. Arnold also wondered if there was any activity regarding Ryan's Way since the developer/owner was doing construction in the development, all responding in the negative.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted:

Secretary/Treasurer