

September 7, 2021

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Andy Pasonick reported that the 2020 Pave Project was complete and recommended payment to New Enterprise. Pasonick then explained that DEP wants the Ice Lake Dam sluice framing removed, power washed and video pictures taken to determine the structural condition of the sluice. While DEP has not made any final decision, but it appears that DEP supports using the sluice and the 14" pipe as the dewatering mechanism to meet the legal requirement. During the work, Pasonick explained that the outside of the dam, both streamside and downstream will be repaired with shotcrete and the spillway repaired with concrete. Pasonick also reported that the County Bridge on Heslop Road was down to one lane and that communication was taking place with the County. Residents Biggs, Manosky, Miller and Mateo all expressed concern about the damage to the bridge. Pipech added that the proposed secondary access road from the upcoming Woodberry PRD would solve the safety issue and asked Beck to pursue funding from Cartwright's office. Arnold clarified that the bridge was owned by the County and we could not initiate any repairs, but were communicating with the County to get the repairs made. Biggs also complained about a blocked stormwater pipe at the foot of the northern leg of Wilderness Drive. Resident Wojtowicz from Nuangola Ave. complained about stormwater flooding his property.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

payments required by the grant for the pickleball court. Beck pointed out the two \$50,000 offsetting entries on page two because of the funds required for the Pave Project payment, pointing to that payment on page 3. Referencing Actual versus Budget, Beck pointed out that tax receipts were well above budget and last year's actuals and pointed out the \$185,000 representing ARPA restricted funds. Beck concluded that the current surplus in the General Fund was about \$80,000. Beck noted the Pave Project payment out of the Liquid Fuels fund and the payments to Barry Isett for soccer field preliminary work which will be reimbursed by the grant. Beck concluded with bank balances as of 8/31/2021; General Fund balances totaled \$590,215.77; Liquid Fuels balances totaled \$203,114.41; Recreation Fund balances totaled \$13,253.22 of which \$385 are restricted donations for a new pickleball court, all for a total of \$806,583.40 cash on hand. Restricted balances include \$500.08 in the DCNR grant account, \$5,002.31 in the Developers' Escrow Account and \$185,578.51 in the ARPA account for a total of \$191,116.24 of restricted funds. Discussion with Arnold and Smith concluded that no action should be taken regarding ARPA funds until final guidance is received from the US Treasury.

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 - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for August, 2021: Pipech referred to the general discussion concerning the bridge and Heslop Road and expressed his frustration that the Township really cannot do anything since it is a County bridge.

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 August, 2021 as presented by Acting Chief Ehret. Pipech asked Ehret to have his officers keep an eye on the Heslop Bridge.

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 August, 2021:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS:

Received the SEO Report for August, 2021:

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

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

MOTION by Pipech, seconded by Arnold, to approve Pay Application #2 regarding Change Order #1 from Fabcor, Inc. in the amount of \$4,689.00 which recognizes 10% retainage of the expended amount of \$5,210.00, to be submitted for reimbursement from existing grants.

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

Treasurer Beck explained a desire to change the dollar figures in the motion to pay New Enterprise. After discussion, the following motion was made to amend the motion.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to amend the amounts of the original motion in order to cap the Liquid Fuels amount at \$150,000 to conform with the original motion to proceed with the 2021 Pave Project, and not have to explain the difference during a Liquid Fuels audit.

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

MOTION by Arnold, seconded by Pipech, to approve the request for payment by New Enterprise Stone and Lime Co. for a total of \$251,595.20 in completion of the 2021 Pave Project as recommended by the Township Engineer, \$101,595.20 from the General Fund and \$150,000 from Liquid Fuels.

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

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to adopt Resolution 10 of 2021, which authorizes the Secretary/Treasurer to apply for an LSA grant not to exceed \$225,000 for the purchase of two Chevrolet 4500 trucks appropriately outfitted to replace the 2005 Chevrolet and GMC trucks for which parts are becoming difficult to source.

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

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to ratify Resolution 11 of 2021 declaring a State Of Emergency for the Township on September 1, 2021 due to tropical storm Ida.

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

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to attend the PSATS seminar "Budget with QuickBooks" on September 20 in Covington cost at a cost of \$55.00.

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

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BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold to renew the annual maintenance agreement with Guyette Communications for a total of \$324.00 payable quarterly.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech announced that Tropical storm Ida severely impacted Rice Township on September 1, 2021. Nuangola Road, Henry Drive, and Aleksander Boulevard were closed due to flooding conditions. A section of Prospect Road was taken down to one lane. Ten families in Valley Stream were evacuated due to the flooding. The County bridge on Heslop Road was flooded and is seriously damaged. That bridge is now reduced to one lane. The experience with this bridge merely reinforces the current plan to build a secondary access to Heslop Road as the Woodberry PRD is constructed; other stormwater issues exist throughout the Township. The Roadmaster and Township Engineer are currently reviewing those issues to determine those that can be fixed and the cost and process to do so. Some of the ARPA funds may prove useful for these repairs; the 2021-2022 recycling stickers have arrived. Residents may obtain their sticker by turning in their 2020 recycling permit to the office. Call 570-868-6400 option 1 with any questions; The Ice Lake Park has reopened for the summer until dam construction resumes after the Department of Environmental Protection grants permission to complete the project to their specifications. Note the new signage at the park. Boats must stay away from the dam construction site; Luzerne County is offering free tire collection on Saturday, October 9th, 2021 at the Hanover Area Jr/Sr/High School at 1600 Sans Souci Parkway. Flyers are available at the Township Office and is posted on our website; and the Planning Commission met on August 25, 2021 and draft minutes are available.


Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap. Arnold reported that response occurred to 60 emergencies and the Fire Police responded to a number of issues. Arnold thanks the first responders for their dedication.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: There was no report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Developer Bruce Find delivered a proposal for a change in the drainage for Jennifer's Way and the matter was referred to the Planning Commission.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Jeffrey D. Beck
Secretary/Treasurer