The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on October 1, 2019, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda, previous meeting minutes and Treasurer Reports were available to the public. Chair Robert Pipech called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. It was announced that the meeting was being recorded for preparing the minutes. Interior cameras were also recording the video.

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

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident Jude Fritz requested that his name be correctly spelled on line two in the September 3rd minutes. Resident Marty Wentz requested an update on the Ice Pond Dam lawsuit, but there was no new information. Resident Dariel Stolpe reported that Atlantic Broadband was still determining whether or not to complete the project on Wilderness Drive. Upon question, Secretary Beck reported that grant money was not available to be used to pay expenses incurred by a for-profit company. Planning Commission member Bob Smith expressed concern that the driveway cuts made on Wilderness Drive be properly filled in before winter sets in. Pipech noted that the contractor should repair the driveway. Resident Charles Kirkutis requested that the other side of Wilderness Drive near Heslop be filled in. Fritz expressed concern about the condition of roads and asked for a plan regarding road repair and whether some cooperation agreement with other Townships would help manage the costs. Pipech and Engineer Pasonick responded that while a road survey was completed in 2015, there is no plan per se because it is dependent on available funding. They explained the grant process where a number of roads, including Basswood and Wilderness Drive, would be included in the effort to secure grant money for the roads. Pipech explained that low-impact roads would likely be double tar and chipped rather than paved since it is one third the cost. Ed Wiernusz requested that 1st street be swept at the intersection with Nuangola Road.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Engineer Andy Pasonick reported that the paving of the pickleball court was targeted to be done by Smith's since the net posts have been set in concrete. He also reported that he was working on bids for the demolition of the fire hall to be opened and submitted on November  $6^{th}$ .

#### **BUSINESS MATTERS:**

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on September 3, 2019.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

### **BUSINESS MATTERS: (Cont'd)**

Received the Treasurer's Report for September, 2019, as presented by Treasurer Jeffrey Beck. Beck reviewed the report, noting the receipts from Harrisburg for Firefighters and Pension which swell the cash position at the end of September, but offsetting payments are made on October 1 to drain all that cash away. In looking at the actual to budget report, Beck said that he continued to expect a small surplus for the year. There was nothing unusual in Liquid Fuels. There was no activity in the Recreation Account. Beck reported that General Fund balances totaled \$451,463.99; Liquid Fuels totaled \$91,074.54; and Recreation Funds totaled \$3,995.35 for total cash on hand of \$546,533.88 as of September 30, 2019. The report was filed.

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 September, 2019 as presented by Roadmaster Robert Pipech. Pipech noted the work on the pickleball court performed by the Public Works crew. The pavement will be set to cure over the winter and painting will be done in the spring. The fence and lighting can be installed during the fall-winter timeframe. He explained that the Public Works crew will also work on bringing water to the pressure washer through the interior of the garage. The trucks are being prepared for winter work.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Police Report for September, 2019 as presented by Chief Franks and the report was filed.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Zoning Report for September, 2019 as presented by Secretary Beck and the report was filed.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to accept the Sewer Enforcement Officer Report for September, 2019 as presented by Secretary Beck and the report was filed.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes-

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Smith, to renew the police "Alert/Care Software Service Agreement" with Metro Technology Services, Inc. for the period 11/1/2019 to 10/31/2020 at a cost of \$1,262.00. (This is only a \$49 increase from last year).

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**BUSINESS MATTERS: (Cont'd)** 

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to reduce the assumed rate of return on the Uniformed Pension Plan from 7.00% to 6.75% to reduce the risk of a shortfall in real returns.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to ratify the decision by poll to repair Wilderness Drive by Sealmasters at a cost of \$3,100.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Smith, to appoint Barry Isett as a provider of UCC building permit and inspection services in addition to Code Inspections to give our residents a choice.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech reported that: Budget preparation will begin in October. Departments were asked to submit their budgetary needs for 2020; the leaf drop off will begin on Monday, October 14th and conclude on Friday. November 15th. Leaves can be left by the dumpster by the Township Building and must be in clear bags, not compostable bags, as originally stated. Branches cut to a length of 3 feet and no more than 1" in diameter may be left. Cameras record the area; the County is providing used tire drop-off events at Drums Elementary on October 5th and Hanover Area Junior/Senior High on October 12th. Details can be found on the table in the lobby; the Planning Commission met on September 25th and draft minutes of that meeting were available; notification was received from the PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT) that Rice Township's Estimated Liquid Fuels (Act 655) for 2020 will be \$129,506.71, \$2,690.40 LESS than last year; the Commonwealth's 2019 state aid allocation supporting the Volunteer Fire Relief Association of the Wright Township Fire Company in the amount of \$21,143.33 was received September 16, 2098, \$1,705,28 MORE than last year and funds will be distributed to Wright Township Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association in October in accordance with Act 205. Form 706-B will be completed and returned to the Department of the Auditor General; the 2019 refund of LCB fees was received on September 21, 2019 in the amount of \$50.00; the Pension Plans' Minimum Municipal Obligation Reports were completed and filed by September 30, 2019; the 2019 Commonwealth allocation of GENERAL MUNICIPAL PENSION SYSTEM STATE AID funds in the amount of \$67,246.87 were received on September 18, 2019. As directed by the PA Auditor General, a check in the amount of \$54,217.06 will be directed to Principal Financial Group for deposit into Rice Township Police Pension Fund #4-50708; and \$15,564.00 will be distributed to PMRS for Rice Township Plan (40-168-5N). This satisfies the Minimum Municipal Obligation payment for 2019; the Wednesday recycling will close at the end of October. October 30 will be the last day; the Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap was not received but will be reviewed at the next meeting; and the Supervisors thank Representative Mullery for his efforts to secure the \$243,945 grant through the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program for the construction of the new multipurpose/soccer field at the Rice Township Park. This grant will allow the Township to continue to expand and upgrade the recreational opportunities for our community.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Attorney McCormick from the Solicitor's office had nothing to report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Planning Commission member Mark Manosky asked for the name of the SEO and clarified the roles of Code Inspections, Inc. and Barry Isett in order to offer a choice to residents. Fritz asked for and received a quick overview of Liquid Fuels funds and its restricted uses.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

effrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer