

**RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**MINUTES**  
**November 4, 2020**

The duly advertised meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, November 4th, 2020, with limited attendance capacity due to social distancing requirements. The meeting was also being conducted using ZOOM. Copies of the Agenda, Minutes of the October 13th, 2020 meeting, and Treasurer's Reports for October were available to the public at the meeting and electronically by request to the Secretary/Treasurer. Chairman 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 was being recorded for preparing the minutes. Video cameras were also recording the meeting.

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

Also present were: See sign-in sheet; via ZOOM, Andy Pasonick, Chad Sweigart, Pat Rushton, Rebecca Sodergren, Nanci Romanyszyn, and Travis Martin.

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

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

**BUSINESS MATTERS:**

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on October 13, 2020.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for October, 2020: Treasurer Beck review the report, noting the purchase of the new police truck, the receipt of the County grant for the demolition of the fire hall, and the payment to the SEO, most of which is reimbursed. Beck noted that year-to-date performance was near balance and noted the donation to the Recreation Fund. Beck reported the bank balances as follows: General Fund totals of \$438,097.51; Liquid Fuels totals of \$141,538.07; Recreation Fund totals of \$16,218.78 for total cash on hand of \$595, 854.36 as of October 31, 2020. Total balances in the restricted developer's account was \$5,000.23.

**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.

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**BUSINESS MATTERS Con't:**

Received the Police Report for October, 2020: Beck presented the Police Report.

**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 Roadmaster's Report for October, 2020: Roadmaster Pipech reported that road milling had stopped for the season and the Public Works crew would be switching to cold patch for pothole repair due to the weather and shutdown of hot patch manufacture. Pipech commented that the salt spreaders were installed on the trucks and were ready for winter weather.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Zoning Report for October, 2020: Beck presented the zoning report totaling \$800.00 in receipts.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the SEO Report for October, 2020: Beck presented the SEO report.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Arnold and Pipech called upon Township Engineer Pasonick to report on the bids. Pasonick responded that 9 bids were received for the Ice Ponds Dam Project. Fabcor Corporation was the low bidder and deemed adequate given their performance on other projects and recommended awarding the bid to Fabcor if funds were available. Pasonick also reviewed the documentation process post-award to get payment and performance bonds and grant documentation in place. Pipech, Arnold and Pasonick added that their contacts, along with Solicitor Dean, confirmed positive reviews of Fabcor's performance on other projects. Pipech reiterated to Pasonick the need for speed to push this project along.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to award the Ice Pond Dam Outlet Works Improvements Project to Fabcor Corporation for the low bid of \$427,695.50

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Arnold confirmed that the notice of award would be sent tomorrow and asked that Pasonick ask Fabcor to submit a brief construction schedule as soon as possible.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Smith, to grant final approval to LIVIC Civil regarding the Dollar General land development plans as recommended by the Planning Commission.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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**BUSINESS MATTERS Con't:**

**MOTION** by Arnold, second by Smith, to approve the lease agreement with Pruma, Inc., t/a Ice House Pub for 1 year at \$1,250.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Arnold confirmed with Pasonick that he had performed the site review and verified the construction progress. Pasonick also explained that the reduction was 90% of the requested amount, accounting for the 10% retainage.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to approve the reduction in financial security for Jennifer's Way by \$66,449.61 which includes 10% retainage, as recommended by the Township Engineer, bringing the total of financial security on this project to \$361,849.33.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech asked Beck to comment on the proposed budget. Beck noted the Monday night public budget meeting and reported the addition of \$50,000 for an electronic outdoor sign to improve resident communication as requested by Supervisor Smith. Beck also noted the addition of the \$427,695.50 for income and expense related to the Ice Pond Dam Outlet Works Improvements Project. In answer to Smith's question regarding the Liquid Fuels and Recreation Budgets, Beck explained the road work of about \$150,000 was in the Liquid Fuels budget regardless any LSA grants, and noted that the State infusion for 2021 will be about \$10,000 less than last year. Turning to the Recreation Fund, Beck explained the assumption that \$150,000 of grant money will be sourced and spent to begin the construction of the new soccer field and the inclusion of a \$120,000 GTRP grant to a second pickleball court, repairs to the tennis and basketball courts and the installation of a bocce ball court.

**MOTION** by Smith, second by Arnold, to adopt the following proposed budget for Rice Township for 2021 and authorize its advertisement.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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**Rice Township-General Fund  
Profit & Loss Budget Overview**

January through December 2021

**PROPOSED**

11:57 AM

10/27/2020

Cash Basis

|  |  | Jan - Dec 21           |
|--|--|------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                                    |  |                        |
| Total 300.00 · TAXES                             |  | \$ 1,014,408.96        |
| Total 320 · LICENSES AND PERMITS                 |  | \$ 19,800.00           |
| Total 331.00 · FINES AND FORFEITS                |  | \$ 5,919.00            |
| Total 340.00 · INTEREST, RENTS AND ROYALTIES     |  | \$ 31,852.00           |
| Total 354.00 · STATE CAPITAL & OPER GRANTS       |  | \$ 1,027,695.50        |
| Total 355.00 · STATE SHARED REV. & ENTITLEMENT   |  | \$ 100,100.00          |
| Total 356.00 · STATE PMT IN LIEU OF TAXES        |  | \$ 1,276.71            |
| Total 358.00 · LOCAL GOV PMT CONTRACTED SVCS     |  | \$ 31,200.00           |
| Total 360-370 · CHRGS FOR SERVICE(DEPT EARNING)  |  | \$ 17,778.00           |
| Total 380 · Miscellaneous Income                 |  | \$ 4,800.00            |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>                              |  | <b>\$ 2,254,830.17</b> |
| <b>Expense</b>                                   |  |                        |
| Total 400-409 · GENERAL GOVERNMENT               |  | \$ 193,158.00          |
| Total 410-419 · PUBLIC SAFETY CAT                |  | \$ 496,020.06          |
| Total 426-429 · PUBLIC WORKS-SANITATION          |  | \$ 12,260.00           |
| Total 430-439 · PUBLIC WORKS-HWYS /STREETS       |  | \$ 809,813.21          |
| 440-449 · PUBLIC WORKS-OTHER SERVICES - Other    |  | \$ 427,695.50          |
| Total 440-449 · PUBLIC WORKS-OTHER SERVICES      |  | \$ 432,315.50          |
| Total 481-484 · EMPLOYER PAID BENEFITS \$ WITHHO |  | \$ 157,583.40          |
| Total 486.00 · INSURANCE                         |  | \$ 46,195.00           |
| Total 487.00 · HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT          |  | \$ 156,000.00          |
| Total 491.00 · REFUND PRIOR YEAR REVENUE         |  | \$ 15.00               |
| Total 493.00 · EMPLOYEE RELATED BENEFITS         |  | \$ 600.00              |
| 6560 · Payroll Expenses                          |  | \$ 870.00              |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                             |  | <b>\$ 2,304,830.17</b> |
| <b>Net Income</b>                                |  | <b>\$ (50,000.00)</b>  |
| <b>Transfer of prior year surplus</b>            |  | <b>\$ 50,000.00</b>    |
| <b>Budget +/-</b>                                |  | <b>\$ -</b>            |

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| <b>RICE TOWNSHIP - LIQUID FUELS BUDGET</b> |  | <b>Jan - Dec 21</b>   |
|--|--|-----------------------|
| <b>PROPOSED</b>                            |  |                       |
| <b>Income</b>                              |  |                       |
|  | 341.07 · INTEREST ON MONEY MARKET            | \$ 264.00             |
|  | 355.02 · LIQUID FUEL TAX                     | \$ 121,217.10         |
|  | <b>Total Income</b>                          | <b>\$ 121,481.10</b>  |
| <b>Expense</b>                             |  |                       |
|  | Total 432.00 · SNOW REMOVAL                  | \$ 28,662.19          |
|  | 434.00 · Street Lighting                     | \$ 19,200.00          |
|  | Total 437.00 · REPAIRS & MAINT. TO EQUIPMENT | \$ 10,060.41          |
|  | Total 438.00 · MAINT. & REPAIRS TO ROADS     | \$ 156,698.22         |
|  | <b>Total Expense</b>                         | <b>\$ 214,620.82</b>  |
|  | <b>Net Income</b>                            | <b>\$ (93,139.72)</b> |
|  | Transfer from prior year surplus             | \$ 93,139.72          |
|  | <b>Budget +/-</b>                            | <b>\$ -</b>           |

| <b>RICE TOWNSHIP - RECREATION FUND BUDGET</b> |  | <b>Jan - Dec 21</b>  |
|---|--|----------------------|
| <b>PROPOSED</b>                               |  |                      |
| <b>Income</b>                                 |  |                      |
|   | Total 341.00 · INTEREST EARNINGS       | 2.10                 |
|   | Total 350 · Intergovernmental Revenues | 270,000.00           |
|   | Total 360 · Charges for Services       | \$ 4,800.00          |
|   | <b>Total Income</b>                    | <b>\$ 274,802.10</b> |
| <b>Expense</b>                                |  |                      |
|   | Total 450 · Recreation                 | \$ 272,330.54        |
|   | 457.00 · CELEBRATIONS                  | \$ 1,520.00          |
|   | <b>Total Expense</b>                   | <b>\$ 273,850.54</b> |
|   | <b>Net Income</b>                      | <b>\$ 951.56</b>     |

Nanci Romanyshyn asked if there was funding in the Recreation Budget for the Ice Lakes. Pipech responded that dollars will not be appropriated until the dam is complete. Fish and Boat will restock the lake in the late spring after the dam is finished. Arnold noted that the LSA grants are due by the end of this month and Smith added that any grant had to be project specific. Arnold asked Tom Romanyshyn to consider proposing an Ice Lakes Committee for the reorganization meeting in January. Pipech suggested a small committee, not 10-11 people, and Arnold suggested consulting Solicitor Dean about its proposed formation and that membership should range across the Township. T. Romanyshyn asked if the stumps could be cut lower when the dam was dewatered since they represent a hazard. Pipech added that the stumps were the reason to prohibit swimming. Arnold and Pipech asked Beck to consult Fish and Boat and DEP about that. N. Romanyshyn asked if we could

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**BUSINESS MATTERS Con't:**

use left-over grant funds from the dam for other projects on the lake. Pasonick cautioned that the project is site specific and attempting to deviate from that project already approved is not a good idea. T. Romanyshyn raised the 2012 grant application to Pennsylvania Lake Management Society (PALMS) which included weed spraying and silt removal by suction. Beck reported that he was in discussion with PALMS to see if they ever received the application and if so, if any action was ever taken. PALMS is still doing their research. Beck noted that PALMS does not have grant money available every year which comes from DEP in Harrisburg. Any grant requires a 50% match.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Smith, to approve Resolution 2020-14 for the Local Share Account (Gaming) Grant Application of up to \$650,000 for the paving, double tar and chipping and base repair of various roads in Rice Township comprising approximately 33% of all Township Roads and associated application fees, and appoint Robert Pipech and Carl Smith to execute all documents.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Pipech added that if awarded the worst roads would be done first. Pipech noted that the new milling machine and repair process resulted in a longer lasting repair. Pipech and Pasonick will review the roads together.

The Motion for Resolution 2020-15 was withdrawn as Beck reported that the grant date extended into next year and this motion could be reintroduced then after more work was done on the grant itself.

**MOTION** by Arnold, second by Smith, to authorize Jeffrey D. Beck, Secretary/Treasurer, to execute and sign the Municipal Land Use Letter for Aqua Pennsylvania Wastewater's PA Department of Environmental Protection application for a Water Quality Management Permit.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

The Roadmaster announced that leaf drop off began on Wednesday, October 14th and will conclude on Saturday, November 21st. Leaves can be left by the dumpster in the recycle area during Saturday hours and must be in clear plastic bags. Branches cut to a length of 3 feet and no more than 1" in diameter may also be left. Holders of the Rice Township 2020 Recycle Permit only will be allowed to leave their leaves. Cameras record the area. The first dumpster has been filled and a second dumpster has arrived. Arnold noted that this process has saved considerable cost for our taxpayers and that there is no tax increase for next year. Arnold added that other townships have stopped recycling operations and leaf pickup but the Supervisors keep going full bore for the residents.

The Planning Commission met on October 28<sup>th</sup> and draft minutes are available.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap was received.

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**BUSINESS MATTERS Con't:**

Arnold reported that the Fire Police responded to 4 accidents along with other incidents totaling 11 hours of work.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Attorney Sweigart reported that beyond Solicitor Dean's work on Fabcor references there was nothing to report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Planning Commission member Mark Manosky asked for clarification of Fabcor's ability to perform and what performance indicators would be used. Pipech, Arnold and T. Romanyshyn reinforced the positive results of Fabcor's reputational search and expressed confidence in their ability to do the project. Arnold also thanked Representative Mullery for helping to secure the additional funds to complete this project. Arnold confirmed for Manosky that Fabcor would be paid in increments and that Pasonick, Arnold and Pipech would be reviewing any request for payment to ensure that the work had been completed. Pipech added that the improved access road will help with the start of the project.

Rebecca Sodergren from the Mountaintop Eagle asked about any unused grant funds for the dam project and Beck opined that about \$135,000 remained above the \$508,000+ from the new H2O grant and the current project is . Arnold noted that the dam was old and it was a good thing to have a little cushion should there need to be change orders. Arnold reviewed the Dollar General subdivision and application process, confirming that granting final approval was the last formal action required.

N. Romanyshyn question if the balance of the funds from grants received for the Ice Pond dam project could be used for anything else at the lake? Beck noted that the grants are project specific and cannot be used for another project around the lake.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Smith, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:50p.m..

Respectfully submitted:



Jeffrey D. Beck, Secretary/Treasurer