

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
December 1, 2020

The duly advertised meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, December 1st, 2020, with limited attendance capacity due to social distancing requirements. The meeting was also being conducted using ZOOM. Copies of the Agenda, draft Minutes of the November 4th, 2020 meeting, and Treasurer's Reports for November 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 Curt Hardiman in the room and via ZOOM: Engineer Andrew Pasonick, Attorney Chad Sweigart from the Solicitor's office, Patrick Meehan from FABCOR, and residents Michael Grochowski, Tom Romanyshyn, Rosanna ____, and Rebecca Sodergren and Patrick Rushton from the press.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Pipech called for public comment. Grochowski asked if comment could come later in the meeting and Pipech affirmed. There was no other comment.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Pasonick reported that the pre-construction meeting would be scheduled with Fabcor hopefully later this week, The Notice to Proceed will be issued following that meeting. He explained that the project must follow the process created by the H20 grant. Pipech and Arnold acknowledge Grochowski's apprehension concerning the project, and that the contractor was highly capable of completing the project and that the grant process must be followed. Pasonick also noted that he is working on drawings for an ADA-compliant access to the front entrance door of the Township

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on November 4, 2020.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for November, 2020: Treasurer Beck reviewed the report, noting the \$6,490 payment for the pickleball court lighting and the \$100,000 transfer from checking to savings due to the higher EIT receipts. He also reported the strong tax receipts this year compared to budget which shows a current surplus over budget of \$88,000. There was nothing of note to report concerning Liquid Fuels or Recreation. Beck reported that the General Fund bank balances totaled \$459,846.52, Liquid Fuels totaled \$139,099.00, and Recreation totaled \$16, 218.90 for a total cash on hand of \$615,164.42, Beck noted the restricted developer's

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BUSINESS MATTERS Cont.:

account totaled \$5,000.44.

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 November, 2020: Roadmaster Pipech reported that the trucks were ready for winter work, the salt shed filled and antiskid on site. He noted that the Township may need to build a lean-to to cover the antiskid instead of using a tarp. Regarding recycling, Pipech explained that a second dumpster had been added to accommodate the volume. He noted that the clothing boxes had not been removed and Beck will call again to get them retrieved.

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 November, 2020 as presented by Beck: .

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 November, 2020 as presented by Beck:

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to accept the Zoning Report as presented.
ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

Received the SEO Report for November, 2020:

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, second by Smith, to appoint Grevera & Associates to conduct the 2020 Audit at the cost of \$3,555.

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

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to give full-time employees a holiday bonus of \$50 as a thank you for their dedicated service.

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

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BUSINESS MATTERS Cont.:

In compliance with the Police Contract:

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to approve Resolution 2020-15 that payments into the police pension fund by members of the police department are eliminated for the year of 2021, and no deductions should be made from the pay of the members for the purpose of contributing to the police pension fund.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to approve the calendar of meeting dates for the Board of Supervisors as the first Tuesday of every month, 2021, except November when the Board shall meet on Wednesday, November 3, and the calendar of meetings for the Planning Commission as the fourth Wednesday of every month, 2020, except for November and December when those meetings are held on the Wednesday one week prior to avoid holidays, and for said meeting dates to be advertised.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to adopt the following budget for Rice Township for 2021.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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

11:57 AM

10/27/2020

January through December 2021

Cash Basis

ADOPTED

Jan - Dec 21

Income		
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
Gross Profit		\$ 2,254,830.17
Expense		
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
Total Expense		\$ 2,304,830.17
Income		\$ (50,000.00)
Transfer of prior year surplus		\$ 50,000.00
Budget +/-		\$ -

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RICE TOWNSHIP - LIQUID FUELS BUDGET		ADOPTED	Jan - Dec 21
Income			
	341.07 · INTEREST ON MONEY MARKET		\$ 264.00
	355.02 · LIQUID FUEL TAX		\$ 121,217.10
	Total Income		\$ 121,481.10
Expense			
	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
	Total Expense		\$ 214,620.82
	Net Income		\$ (93,139.72)
	Transfer from prior year surplus		\$ 93,139.72
	Budget +/-		\$ -

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

Rice Township Tax Rates

Total.....0.26 mills (property assessed value x \$0.00026)
Real Estate Transfer Taxes.....1/2 of 1% collected
Local Services Tax.....\$5.00 Township; \$5.00 School District

There is NO tax increase for 2021.

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BUSINESS MATTERS Cont.:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to pass Resolution 2021-1 that the above millage and tax rate for Rice Township for 2021 be adopted as presented.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to ratify the decision by poll to purchase one (1) FireKing 4-drawer fireproof lateral file for \$5,488.49 which is cheaper than the COSTARS Hon cabinet on a volume adjusted basis to secure and protect permanent records.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to ratify the decision at the budget meeting to purchase one (1) Microsoft Surface Pro 7 computer with accessories for ZOOM meeting management and to provide emergency offsite support due to COVID-19 for up to \$3,000.00 and to seek County COVID-19 reimbursement for the same.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to hire Pinnacle Cleaning Service for monthly service at a monthly rate of \$80.00. Pinnacle Cleaning Service is bonded and insured.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to approve the following dues payments for 2020:

\$275.00 to Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance;
\$125.00 to Pa State Association of Boroughs Training Discount Program;
\$30.00 to the Luzerne County Boroughs and Townships Association
\$150.00 to the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech stated that the Supervisors want to thank residents for their cooperation and participation in the fall leaf program. Leaves brought to the recycle center by residents resulted in 3 dumpsters being filled and is estimated to have saved close to \$30,000 in taxpayer expense, allowing our Public Works Crew to patch roads and prepare the trucks for inclement weather; reported that the Planning Commission did not meet on November 18 for lack of agenda items; that the Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Fire Police Incident Recap was received And Arnold asked Beck to follow up with the Fire Company about moving the dry hydrant at the Ice Lakes when the lake is dewatered; that an executive session will be held prior to the 2021

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Reorganization. Copies of the Township Officials list will be given to the Board of Supervisors. The reorganization meeting of the

Board of Supervisors will be held on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.as set by State Law, and the first regular meeting of the Board will be held immediately following. The reorganization meeting of the Township Auditors will be held on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

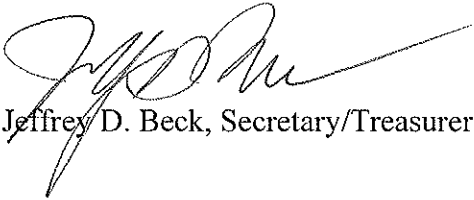
SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Attorney Sweigart from the Solicitor's office had nothing to report.

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

The Board of Supervisors, Police and Employees wish everyone a very happy, safe and healthy Holiday Season.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m..

Respectfully submitted:



Jeffrey D. Beck, Secretary/Treasurer