

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA
December 7, 2021

The duly advertised meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, December 7th, 2021. Copies of the Agenda, draft Minutes of the November 3rd, 2021 meeting, and Treasurer's Reports for November were available to the public. 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 signup sheet

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to ratify the decision by poll to hire Autumn Atkinson for the position of patrol officer effective 11/18/2021.

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

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to appoint Harold Ehret Chief of Police effective 12/7/2021.

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

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to promote Shaun Zane to Sargent of Police effective 12/7/2021.

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

The three police officers were sworn in by Judge Webby.

Bryan Smith of Barry Isett and Associates presented an update of the soccer field project. Using a graphic of the park, Smith explained the new trails, parking addition and ADA compliance changes. Smith explained that the land has been surveyed, completed a wetlands check (negative) and conducted a soil test for infiltration (not great but should not require any extraordinary drainage requirements). The project will require an NPDES permit and that application should go to DEP in January. Smith expects the project to go out for bid in March or April, 2022. In answer to Arnold's question, Smith did not think the project will be too affected by cost escalation since so little of the project requires material. Smith will provide an updated cost estimate early in 2022. Smith added that retaining walls will be installed along the west side of the field and can act as bleachers, accommodating upwards of 100 people. Smith also suggested running a conduit up to the field to accommodate electric power later. In response to Planning Commission member Mark Manosky question, Arnold stated that the Township should retain control over stripping and field maintenance.

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BUSINESS MATTERS Cont.:

Received the Police Report for November, 2021 as presented by Beck.

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 November, 2021 as presented by Beck:

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 November, 2021 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.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to appoint Grevera & Associates to conduct the 2021 Audit at the cost of \$3,610.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, 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.

In compliance with the Police Contract:

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to approve Resolution 2021-13 which states that payments into the police pension fund by members of the police department are eliminated for the year 2022, 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 Smith, second by Arnold, to approve Resolution 2021-14 which authorizes the Secretary/Treasurer to sign contracts and documents on behalf of the Township.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to approve the calendar of meeting dates for the Board of Supervisors as the first Tuesday of every month, 2022, 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, 2022, 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 Arnold, second by Pipech, to renumber Resolution 2021-4 Road Dedication of a Section of Woodberry Drive to 2021-4A to avoid numeric duplication.

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

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to adopt the following budget for Rice Township for 2022.

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

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Rice Township-General Fund		BUDGET
ADOPTED		2022
Income		
Total 300.00 · TAXES		\$ 1,102,000
Total 320 · LICENSES AND PERMITS		\$ 18,000
Total 331.00 · FINES AND FORFEITS		\$ 5,650
Total 340.00 · INTEREST, RENTS AND ROYALTIES		\$ 32,180
Total 352.00 - Federal Sared Payments and Ent		\$ 185,579
Total 354.00 · STATE CAPITAL & OPER GRANTS		\$ 1,283,318
Total 355.00 · STATE SHARED REV. & ENTITLEMENT		\$ 92,310
Total 356.00 · STATE PMT IN LIEU OF TAXES		\$ 1,277
Total 358.00 · LOCAL GOV PMT CONTRACTED SVCS		\$ 31,249
Total 360-370 · CHRGS FOR SERVICE(DEPT EARNING)		\$ 13,100
Total 380 · Miscellaneous Income		\$ 3,500
Gross Profit		\$ 2,768,163
Expense		
Total 400-409 · GENERAL GOVERNMENT		\$ 165,130
Total 410-419 · PUBLIC SAFETY CAT		\$ 531,539
Total 426-429 · PUBLIC WORKS-SANITATION		\$ 23,400
Total 430-439 · PUBLIC WORKS-HWYS /STREETS		\$ 1,118,701
Total 481-484 · EMPLOYER PAID BENEFITS \$ WITHHO		\$ 167,731
Total 486.00 · INSURANCE		\$ 48,629
Total 487.00 · HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT		\$ 200,786
Total 491.00 · REFUND PRIOR YEAR REVENUE		\$ 100
492.00 · INTERFUND TRANSFERS		\$ 562,690
Total 493.00 · EMPLOYEE RELATED BENEFITS		\$ 500
6560 · Payroll Expenses		\$ 1,100
69800 · Uncategorized Expenses		\$ 100
Total Expense		\$ 2,820,406
Net Income		\$ (52,244)
Transfer from Prior Years		\$ 52,244
Net surplus (deficit)		\$ 0

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		ADOPTED
RICE TOWNSHIP 2022		BUDGET
LIQUID FUELS		2022
Income		
Total 341.00 · INTEREST ON DEPOSITS		\$ 200
355.02 · LIQUID FUEL TAX		\$ 124,601
Total Income		\$ 124,801
Expense		
Total 432.00 · SNOW REMOVAL		\$ 33,000
434.00 · Street Lighting		\$ 21,000
Total 437.00 · REPAIRS & MAINT. TO EQUIPMENT		\$ 20,000
Total 438.00 · MAINT. & REPAIRS TO ROADS		\$ 46,500
Total Expense		\$ 120,500
Net Income		\$ 4,301

RICE TOWNSHIP		ADOPTED
RECREATION FUND		BUDGET
		2022
Income		
Total 341.00 · INTEREST EARNINGS		\$ 10
Total 367 · - RECREATION		\$ 3,500
392.00 · Transfer from General Fund		\$ 562,690
Total Income		\$ 566,200
Expense		
Total 454.00 · PARKS		\$ 561,200
457 · CIVIL AND MILITARY CELEBRATIONS		\$ 5,000
Total Expense		\$ 566,200
Net Income		\$ -

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 2022.

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BUSINESS MATTERS Cont.:

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to pass Resolution 2022-1 that the above millage and tax rate for Rice Township for 2022 be adopted as presented.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to increase the hourly wage for Ron Miller, Jr. to \$15.00 per hour effective October 12, 2021.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to enter into an agreement with FirstLight (Lessor) whereby Lessor pays \$3,500 per month from December 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022 to lease space at 40 Willowby Street.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, 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 Smith, second by Arnold, to approve the following dues payments for 2022:

\$275.00 to Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance

\$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.

Chairman Pipech reported 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 2 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; that the Supervisors thank Abe's Hot dogs, not only for their participation during the Halloween Extravaganza, but also for their generous donation to the Recreation Fund of \$50.00. Pipech also thanked Arnold and Holly Guydish for the successful Halloween event;

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that the Supervisors thank Bruce Fine Construction and Matt McGowan/Hallmark Homes for their generous donation of \$1,500 each towards the purchase of electronic street speed signs; that the grant application submitted to the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program in April, 2021 for a new pickleball court and other court repairs was denied and that the Supervisors will develop a follow-up strategy; that the Planning Commission did not meet on November 17 for lack of agenda items; that the Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap was received; that an executive session will be held prior to the 2022 Reorganization where copies of the Township Officials list will be given to the Board of Supervisors; that the reorganization meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on Monday, January 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., and the first regular meeting of the Board will be held immediately following and that the reorganization meeting of the Township Auditors will be held on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.; that the Supervisors are pleased to announce that the Township Secretary/Treasurer is elected to the Board of Directors for the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Risk Management Association (PIRMA) of which Rice Township is a member and Jeff's 5-year term expires at the end of 2026.


SOLICITOR'S REPORT: The Solicitor's office had no report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Bob Smith inquired into Roger Duffy's surgery. Pipech noted that the plan is for Roger to return when he is able.

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 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Jeffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer