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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PUBLIC COMMENT: to Planning Commission member Bob Smith if any further communication had occurred with the County regarding their damaged bridge on Heslop Road. Pipech expressed his concern about the growing beaver dam but his hands are tied since the pond is on state game lands and the bridge is the County's. Pipech added that no communication had been received from the County. EMC Bryan Brown stated that the County has applied to PEMA and FEMA for funding for the bridge.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Pasonick reported that the water over the Ice Lake spillway was still too strong to allow any work to be done. The next step is to remove the formwork from the sluice, power wash and then camera the sluice when the spillway flow subsides. That video will then be sent to DEP for their review. Arnold asked that Fabcor build a hypothetical work schedule for 2022.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on November 3, 2021.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for November, 2021 Beck referenced Budget versus Actual noting the large surplus in the General Fund. Beck backed out the unexpected \$185,000 for ARPA funds noting that a surplus was still indicated. Beck reviewed the Liquid Fuels activity and noted the purchase of No Parking and Road Closed signs. Beck also noted that the Barry Isett bill in the Recreation Fund will be reimbursed by the grant. Beck concluded with bank balances as of 11/30/2021; General Fund balances totaled \$465,966.48; Liquid Fuels balances totaled \$41,057.35; Recreation Fund balances totaled \$6,628.52 of which \$385 are restricted donations for a new pickleball court, all for a total of \$513,652.35 cash on hand. Restricted balances include \$500.14 in the DCNR grant account, \$5,002.94 in the Developers' Escrow Account and \$180,228.51 in the ARPA account for a total of \$185,731.59 of restricted funds.

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, 2021. Roadmaster Pipech reported that the plants where not making hot mix given the cold weather so potholes are being filled with cold patch. Two of the old trucks have been down for repairs and we will seek Senator Baker's support for their replacement. Pipech noted that one load of salt has been received for bad winter weather.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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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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BUSINESS MATTERS Cont.:

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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| R | ice Township-General Fund | | BUDGET |
|---------------|--|----------------------|-----------|
| | ADOPTED | | 2022 |
| In | come | | |
| | 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 |
| 7.55 | 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 | 2,768,163 |
| Ex | pense | | • . • |
| | 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 | 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 | 2,820,406 |
| Net Income | | \$ | (52,244) |
| | Transfer from Prior Years | \$ | 52,244 |
| | Net surplus (deficit) | \$ | 0 |
| | | - Franklin berkenten | |

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| | Α | DOPTED |
|--|------|---------|
| RICE TOWNSHIP 2022 | E | 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 |
| et Income | | 4,301 |

| RICE | ADOPTED BUDGET | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|---------|
| REC | | | | |
| | | | 2022 | |
| Income | | 4 | | |
| | Total 34 | 1.00 · 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 | |
| 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 Willoweby 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 - ves

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 - ves

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman Pipech reported that the Supervisors want to the 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 met 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:

feffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer