

**RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA 18707**  
**MINUTES**  
**May 4, 2021**

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday May 4, 2021, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop 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 previous meetings and Treasurer Reports were available to the public at the meeting and electronically by request to the Secretary/Treasurer. 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 meeting.

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

Also present are: Please see attached sign in sheet and via ZOOM: Marsha Thomas, Andrew Pasonick, Rebecca Sodergren, Pat Rushton, Al Mastalski.

Chairman Pipech announces that an executive session was held on April 6, 2021 to discuss personnel matters.

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

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Engineer Pasonick reported that the sluice in the Ice Lakes dam has been flushed, cameraed and the dam surveyed, all of which has been sent to PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on a thumb drive via FedEx for their review and decision about next steps. State employees working remotely may slow the decision-making process. Arnold, Pipech and Pasonick discussed the uncertain time line of completion and the decision-making process for either using the sluice or drilling the two foot hole, and whether the project should be delayed to refill the lake for the summer.

**BUSINESS MATTERS:**

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Minutes of the meeting on April 6, 2021.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Received the Treasurer's Report for April, 2021: Treasurer Beck referenced the first 3 pages of the report noting that check register included bills to be paid. He noted that Budget versus Actual through April showed reasonable tax receipts and a surplus in actuals, \$20,000 of which was a return of health insurance premiums due to good experience. Beck reported that there was nothing notable in Liquid Fuels and no activity in the Recreation Fund. He reported total General Fund bank balances as of April 30, 2021 were \$454,636.49, total Liquid Fuels balances were \$216,412.29, and total Recreation Funds were \$16,557.52 of which \$335 were donations restricted to the next pickleball court. He noted the new account for the DCNR soccer field grant,

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**BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):**

opened with \$500 and the balance in the restricted Developers Account of \$5,001.47.

**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 April, 2021: Roadmaster Pipech reported that the Public Works Crew (PWC) has started milling and rolling hot patch on Ice Harvest Drive. Pipech asked Pasonick to mark the road for base repair. Pipech concluded his report noting that the septic tank had been pumped and a new toilet must be ordered and installed in the Park restroom before it can open. Arnold added that the PWC has done good work on the roads and getting the park ready for the summer.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Police Report for April, 2021: Sargent Ehret presented the 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 Zoning Report for April, 2021: Beck presented the Zoning Report.

**MOTION** by Pipech, 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 April, 2021: Beck presented the SEO report.

**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 Pipech, second by Arnold, to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to complete and sign The Municipal Notification of Planned Land Development For Chapter 102 Permits relating to the PPL Harwood – Palooka Line Rebuild.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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**BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):**

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Smith, to approve request #5 and #6 reducing the amount of financial security for Jennifer's Way by a total of \$85,372.69 from the current balance of \$304,214.29 to the new balance of \$218,841.60 as recommended by the Township Engineer.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to adopt Resolution 2021-5 approving the request by Shri Giriraj, LLC to transfer liquor license R6281 from Kings Angelo, Inc. located in Plymouth, Luzerne County to 3765 Nuangola Road (known as the Nelly Travel Plaza) located in Rice Township, Luzerne County.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion with Pasonick and the Supervisors clarified that the motion deals with Ice Harvest, Lakeview, Wilderness and Basswood, and that alternates would be built into the RFP to make sure that we can meet our budget.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Smith, to authorize the Township Engineer to advertise for road repair including an Alternate 1 to allow flexibility in meeting budget constraints.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to approve Resolution 2021-6 to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer, in coordination with Barry Isett, to submit the Rice Township 2021 Courts Project grant application to Greenways, Trails and Recreation for \$202,640 and committing a match of 15% of the total cost of \$35,760.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Smith, to approve Resolution 2021-7 opening the Rice Township Recreation Fund DCNR BRC-PRD\_26-155 Grant interest-bearing account as required by the grant contract.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

The Planning Commission did not meet on April 28, 2021 for lack of agenda items.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap. Arnold reported that brush fires, wires down and motor vehicle accidents covered the month. After discussion, Beck will interact with DEP regarding the relocation of the dry hydrant at the Ice Lakes.

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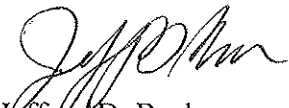
Pipech announced that Chief Robert Franks is retiring. His last day on the job is June 25. The Board of Supervisors thank the Chief for his decades of wonderful leadership for the benefit of the residents of Rice Township and wish him all the best in his retirement.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Attorney Sweigert had nothing to report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Resident Monosky inquired about the Harwood-Palooka project and Beck clarified.

**MOTION** by Smith, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7.25p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer