RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA 18707 MINUTES June 1, 2021

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday June 1, 2021, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop with limited attendance capacity at 50 percent. 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. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chair Robert Pipech called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. It was announced that the meeting is recorded for preparing the minutes. Interior cameras were also recording the meeting.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - here
Pipech - here

Smith - here

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Pasonick reported that New Enterprise Stone & Lime was the low bidder for the 2021 Pave Project. Pasonick summarized his telephonic meeting with Kirk Kreider, PA DEP dam expert. The existing sluice looks promising but capacity calculations must be rerun to ensure that the sluice and pipe meet the legal dewatering requirements. Pasonick will deliver the conceptual design to Kreider by next week. If Kreider approves the conceptual plan, then Pasonick will work on the extensive amendment application and operations and maintenance manual for the dam. Kreider said that the DEP review process of the application and manual may take several rounds. DEP is short-staffed and with new, inexperienced employees the review process could last into the fall. At that point, the lake would be dewatered again for the final construction. In response to a question by Planning Commission member Tom Romanyshyn, Pasonick said that the necessary gate and lifting mechanism for the sluice could take time to receive after the order was placed. While the actual construction might be only 3-4 weeks, the review process and gate order and delivery could drive the project into the winter. In response to Romanyshyn's desire to spray lily pads, Dean suggested that the Parks and Recreation Committee seek out prices and present options to the Supervisors, noting the need to follow 2nd Class Township bidding protocols. Resident Eric Breslin commented that the lakes were heavily used.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no further public comment.

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BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Minutes of the meeting on May 4, 2021.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - ves

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for May, 2021: Treasurer Beck referenced the General Fund check register which shows \$116,000 transferred to the Money Market account due to strong EIT receipts, the receipt of \$119,354 from the two existing LSA grants for the dam and the first payment to Fabcor of \$124,849.98. This transaction extinguishes the two LSA grants. Referring to the General Fund Budget vs Actual, Beck noted that tax receipts were about \$40,000 over budget and about \$60,000 over the previous year. Beck also pointed out that the current surplus of \$208,983.54 will be dramatically reduced by the pending 2021 Pave Project. In the same vein, the 2021 Pave Project will create a current year deficit in the Liquid Fuels account which will be made up by accumulated funds from last year. Beck concluded his report with General Fund bank balances of \$594,969.53, Liquid Fuels of \$212,614.56 and Recreation Fund of \$16,557.52 of which \$335 is restricted, and \$5,5001.47 in restricted funds, all as of May 31, 2021.

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, 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 May, 2021: Roadmaster Pipech reported that he surveyed the roads with Pasonick and will do as much as possible in the 2021 Pave Project. The Public Works team is working to mill and patch as much as weather allows. Depending on available time, they will move over to Ice Lake drive and Basswood. Arnold added that the repairs they are making are impressive.

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 May, 2021: Sargent Ehret 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 Zoning Report for May, 2021: Secretary Beck presented the Zoning Report.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont.):

Received the SEO Report for May, 2021: Secretary Beck presented the SEO Report.

MOTION by Arnold, 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 Arnold, to approve request #7 reducing the amount of financial security for Jennifer's Way by \$98,343.18 from the current balance of \$218,841.60 to the new balance of \$120,498.42 as recommended by the Township Engineer.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - ves

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to appoint Sargent Harold Ehret as Acting Chief effective June 25, 2021.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to award the Base Bid (Ice Harvest Drive base repair) for \$145,061.20, Alternate 2 (Lakeview Drive base repair) for \$58,976 and Alternate 3 (Wilderness Drive base repair) for \$54,664 totaling \$258,701.20 to New Enterprise Stone & Lime as low bidder for the 2021 Pave Project as recommended by the Township Engineer.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to purchase 230, 2021-2022 window recycle stickers, at a cost of \$5.85 each for a total of \$1,345.50 offset by a generous sponsorship of \$500.00 from First Keystone Community Bank for a net cost of \$845.50. Once available, residents may claim one (1) non-transferable sticker which must be placed on the vehicle windshield on the driver's side. There is no charge for the sticker.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to enter into the Rice Township Park Multipurpose Field Design, Construction, Permitting, Bidding and Construction Administration Agreement with Barry Isett and Associates for the soccer field, parking lot changes and associated items funded by the GRTP and DCNR grants.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Arnold asked about adding to the scope of work on the park project. Beck clarified that changes would be difficult within the current GTRP/DCNR grant funding, but additions funded outside of the grant would be fine.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont.):

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to attend the PSATS business meeting at Hershey Lodge as the voting delegate on October 15 with one overnight stay.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to attend the PSATS fall Forum in Wilkes-Barre on November 10 at the cost of \$75.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to contribute \$250.00 to the Wright Recreation and Environmental, Inc. for the 2021 fireworks on July 3rd, rain date of July 5th, from the Recreation Fund, the same as 2019.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech reported that the Planning Commission met on May 26, 2021 and draft minutes are available. Arnold added that the Planning Commission had accepted a minor subdivision for review at the meeting.

Pipech also reported that Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Fire Police Incident Recap. Arnold noted that the Fire Police had responded to 4 motor vehicle accidents and several house and brush fires. Arnold thanked the fireman and fire police for their service.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Dean offed the opinion that no LSA grants would be forthcoming this year. In response to the question from Arnold, Dean did not know if the lack of grants was limited to Luzerne County or not.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Contractor Bruce Fine asked to review a proposed change to the Jennifer's Way plans. Dean directed that, since the plan was already approved and filed with the County, Fine should take the proposal to Pasonick with the specifications of the change and that the proposal would have to work its way through the Planning Commission up to the Supervisors. Reporter Sodergren sought clarification that the upper Ice Lake might reopen for the summer based on guidance from the Township insurance agent. Pipech clarified that the recycle sticker will make it easier to identify residents using the recycled center and that the Barry Isett agreement was for the execution of the park plans funded by GTRP and DCNR. Planning Commission member Manosky noted that the Heslop road minor subdivision has just under review and awaiting County and Township Engineer comments.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7.43p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer