## RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA 18707 MINUTES July 6, 2021

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday July 6, 2021, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda, draft minutes of the previous meetings and Treasurer Reports were available to the public. Chair 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 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.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Pasonick reported that the Notice to Proceed (NTP) was sent to New Enterprise Stone and Lime (the contractor) for the 2021 Pave Project. The contractor has mobilized and should be complete within 45 days of the NTP. Pasonick also reported that all the required material has been delivered to DEP regarding the proposed retrofit of the Ice Lake dam in order to meet DEP dewatering regulations. The state employees are still working from home and DEP is reporting that they are reviewing the supplied material. Arnold noted that the Township will issue monthly press releases to keep residents informed of the process to bring this project to completion. Pipech noted that the lake reopened to use on July 1 with additional caution signage to protect public. Arnold thanked the Public Works crew for doing all the work to open the park.

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

#### **BUSINESS MATTERS:**

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to accept the Minutes of the meeting on June 1, 2021.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for June, 2021. Treasurer Beck reference the third page of the General Fund check register to note the large expenditures for fire protection and insurance totaling approximately \$57,000. Referring to the General Fund Budget versus Actual report through June 30, Beck noted that tax receipts exceed budget to date by \$35,000 and by \$55,000 compared to this time last year. Beck reported that year-to-date surplus was \$201,000 but that \$100,000 of that would be spent on the 2021 Pave Project. Beck concluded by reporting General Fund bank balances of \$585,694.52, Liquid Fuels of \$208,572.55 and Recreation Fund of

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### **BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):**

\$15,121.12 of which \$385 is restricted, and \$5,5001.89 in restricted funds, all as of June 30, 2021.

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 June, 2021. Roadmaster Pipech reported that the Public Works team was working on road repair as the weather permits. They are also maintaining the parks in good shape and cutting brush as they can.

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 June, 2021 as presented by Acting Chief Ehret.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Zoning Report for June, 2021 as presented by Beck:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

There was no SEO Report for June, 2021:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to enter into the agreement with Ecological Solutions Inc. to use approved herbicides on the upper and lower Ice Lakes to mitigate lily pad growth for a total cost of \$4,150.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - ves

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second Smith, to ratify adoption of Resolution 4 of 2021, which accepts the deed of dedication for that section of Woodberry Drive within Phase3, Section B. Part 1 of Woodberry Manor conditioned upon receipt of the necessary financial security as determined by the Township Engineer.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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### **BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):**

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to ratify the authorization by poll to purchase a 30-inch paddle rack for the pickleball court for up to \$200 payable from the Recreation Fund as proposed.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to ratify the authorization by poll for the Parks and Recreation Committee to create and manage a pickleball league as proposed.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Smith, to ratify the authorization by poll to place a ¼ page ad in the PSATS Commemorative Centennial Book at a cost of \$100.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Smith, to release the Subdivision Bond #SUR2002640 dated August 27, 2020 as all construction is complete at the Dollar General, as requested by Capital Growth Buchalter as recommended by the Township Engineer.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to authorize Acting Chief Ehret to begin the process of searching for a new police officer to return the complement to 6 officers on the force.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - ves

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Smith made the following motion: to place on the agenda consideration of the amendment to Jennifer's Way Final Plans. The motion was seconded by Arnold.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED

**MOTION** by Smith, second by Pipech, to approve the amendment to Jennifer's Way final plans to change the storm drainage system along Burma Road extension from the west side to the east side with 18' pipe which will be reflected in the final as-built drawings.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech reported that: the electronic recycling event will be held on Saturday, August 7 from 2pm until 5 pm at the Wright Township recycling center. Flyers are in the lobby, posted on the door and posted on the website. Any questions call the office at 570-868-6400 option 1; Rice Township completed the application to the

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Department of Community and Economic Development for the Township's allocation of American Rescue Program Act funds which should total \$371,157.02 spread over two years; The 2021-2022 recycling stickers have arrived. Residents may obtain their sticker by turning in their 2020 recycling permit to the office. Call 570-868-6400 option 1 with any questions; The Ice Lake Park has reopened for the summer until dam construction resumes after the Department of Environmental Protection grants permission to complete the project to their specifications. Note the new signage at the park. Boats must stay away from the dam construction site; the Planning Commission met on May 26, 2021 and draft minutes are available; received a thank you letter from Wright Township for the \$250 donation to the fireworks. Arnold recapped the Fire Police report for the month and thanked them for their service.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Kristyn Giarratano from the Solicitor's office noted that there was no report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Burt Scouten, a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee, asked if a meeting could be held. Scouten stated that he did not understand the park master plan and asked for the soccer field grant funds to be diverted for other projects. Arnold explained that grants were awarded for specific projects and could not be diverted, and that the Supervisors would have Barry Isett, engineers for the park, make a presentation at a Supervisors meeting in the future to discuss the master plan. Supervisor Smith noted that there were a lot of projects on going at the Township including the latest park grant application. Beck reviewed the scope of that grant application in response to Pat Rushton's question. Mark Manosky, member of the Planning Commission, questioned the electrical work being performed at Henry Drive and Nuangola Road. Beck will call PPL. Resident Steve Pantalone requested that the Supervisors grant him an easement through the old fire company property. Arnold responded that they would seek the advice of counsel. EMA Bryan Brown reported that new training will be held on July 28 and that a new Incident Action Plan (IAP) will have to be created in coordination with the Supervisors. Brown also reported that \*911 has been replaced with Code Red that is download to the cell phone.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jeffrey D, Beck Secretary/Treasurer