

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA 18707
MINUTES
August 3, 2021

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday August 3, 2021, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda, draft minutes of the previous meeting and Treasurer Reports were available to the public. 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.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Pasonick reported that the 2021 Pave Project had been completed and that he was reviewing the payment request presented by New Enterprise Stone and Lime. Pasonick also noted that DEP had all the information that was presented to them by Pasonick over a month ago and that they were reviewing the material

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

BUSINESS MATTERS:

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for July, 2021: Treasurer Beck referenced the General Fund check register and noted the receipt of the first tranche of ARPA funds of \$185,578.51 which will be moved into its own bank account and its uses are restricted. Beck referenced the first page of the General Fund Budget versus Actual report and noted that tax receipts were \$19,667.67 over budget primarily due to real estate transfer tax receipts. Beck added that while the year-to-date report indicated a surplus of \$277,537.12, this number realistically zero with the removal of the ARPA funds and the \$100,000 payment for the pave project. Lastly, Beck explained that the year-to-date surplus in Liquid Fuels would be driven to a deficit by the \$150,000 payment for the pave project, the deficit being made up with surplus from prior years. Beck concluded with bank balances as of 7/31/2021; General Fund balances totaled \$660,973.37 of which \$185,578.51 are restricted ARPA funds; Liquid Fuels balances totaled \$206,560.46; Recreation Fund balances totaled \$14,852.95 of which \$385 are restricted donations for a new pickleball court, all for a total of \$882,386.78 cash on hand; \$500.06 in the DCNR grant account and \$5,002.10 in the Developers' Escrow Account, both restricted.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

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.

Resident Barbara Miller inquired how the ARPA funds would be used. Beck responded that significant restrictions existed and that the U.S. Treasury guidance was still evolving so that there could be no clear answer yet. Solicitor Dean added that stormwater projects may qualify.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for July, 2021: Roadmaster Pipech reported that the Township had received approximately \$561,000 in LSA grants from applications submitted over the last two years. Pipech is going over the road repair list with Pasonick to develop a plan to work on the roads in the spring of 2022. Part of the program will utilize double tar and chip with fog seal. The Public Works crew continues to patch when weather permits and cuts weeds when they cannot patch. Arnold noted the great job that they are doing.

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 July, 2021 as presented by Acting Chief Ehret:

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 July, 2021 as presented by Treasurer Beck:

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

There was no SEO report for the month of July.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to ratify adoption of Resolution 8 of 2021, which raises the micro-purchase amount associated with the American Rescue Program Act (ARPA) funds from the federal level of \$10,000 to the State level of \$11,500.00.

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 Resolution 2021-9 opening the Rice Township General Fund ARPA interest-bearing account as best management practice for the ARPA federal fund grant.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to enter into a contract with Zelenkofske Axelrod for their assistance with the management of ARPA funds at a cost of \$11,000 total, payable as \$5,500 in 2021 and 2022 from the ARPA funds in order to avoid fund expenditures that might not comply with ARPA.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to enter into a contract with R.A.T.T., Inc (an independent franchise of Orkin Systems, Inc.) to apply herbicide to selected sections of the park at a COSTARS price of \$1,025.00.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to advertise for a part-time Zoning Officer since Strategic Municipal Group is ceasing operation on August 31, 2021.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to ratify the decision by poll to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to attend the PSATS Centennial Dinner Thursday, October 14, at a cost of \$100.00.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech also announced 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; that Rice Township received the first tranche of the American Rescue Program Act (ARPA) of \$185,578.51. The Federal program limits the utilization of these funds and requires annual reporting to the U. S Treasury of the expenditures; that 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 and in response to Smith's question, noted that any resident can get a sticker with their driver's license showing proof of residency; that 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; that Ecological Solutions completed its first application of herbicide on the lower Ice Lake to control the lily pads and Naiad. The Company reports evidence of aquatic plant death upon its arrival

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to complete its application. The Lakes are part of the Township park system and unauthorized application of any chemical within the park system is prohibited. Any application of any chemical to the lakes violates PA Department of Environmental Protection and PA Fish and Boat regulations. Unauthorized applications of chemicals can harm the delicate ecology of the lakes; and that the Planning Commission met on May 26, 2021 and draft minutes are available.

Arnold reported that the Fire Police responded to 3 incidents and had to deal with multiple trees down as a result of the recent storms.

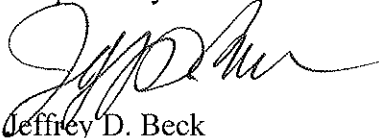
SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Dean reported that an update to the Sunshine Law requires that agendas be posted on the door and website no later than 24 hours before the meeting. The Secretary/Treasurer is aware of this change and will comply.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Pipech responded to Planning Commission member Manosky that the PennDOT has started to mill and repave South Main Road in Mountaintop and may continue on to Nuangola Road to Church Road. Arnold added that Representative Mullery and Senator Baker have aggressively supporting us so that gaming funds are coming back to us such as the recent \$561,000 previously noted.

Wilderness Estates residents Charles Kirkutis, Barbara Miller, and Christina and William Woronko complained about water flowing across Wilderness Drive at the north end of the road near its intersection with Heslop Road. Pipech and Beck noted that the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer had investigate the sand mound as a source of the water and determined that the sewage system on that property was operating properly. Miller asked if someone else could take a look. Pipech replied that this section of road will be bermed next year. The residents as asked why only part of that road section was repaired. Pipech and Arnold responded that the 2021 Pave Project of which Wilderness Drive was a part was funded by Liquid Fuels and the General Fund and there was simply no more funds available. C. Woronko appreciated the installation of cable given the issues surrounding the pandemic. Planning Commission member Tom Romanyshyn asked if there was a way for Atlantic Broadband to ensure that their subcontractors returned their installation areas back to the way they found them. Beck is working on this issue.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Jeffrey D. Beck
Secretary/Treasurer