

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES
JANUARY 6, 2020

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, January 6, 2020, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda, Minutes of the previous meetings and Treasurer Reports were available to the public. Chair Robert Pipech called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.. It was announced that the meeting was recorded for preparing the minutes. Interior cameras were also recording the video.

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

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Pasonick reported that work on the pickleball court was on hold due to the weather, and the demolition of the fire hall was awaiting historical commission clearance. Pipech asked Pasonick to be ready to advertise for its demolition when the clearances are received.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting on December 5, 2019 and the minutes of the special meeting on December 12, 2019.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for December, 2019, as presented by Treasurer Jeffrey Beck. Beck noted in the Actual versus Budget report that Transfer Tax receipts were down by about \$26 thousand while Earned Income Receipts were up by about \$60,000 thousand, leaving total receipts for the year up about \$30,000 more than expected. Beck added that Berkheimer, the earned income tax collector, guessed that the high receipts were due to catch up from last year. Looking at expenses, Beck noted the approximate \$25 thousand savings in insurance, primarily due to prior claims falling away, and the approximate \$28 thousand savings in health care due to Geisinger lowering rates to buy business. The net result, about \$30 thousand more income and about a net \$30 thousand savings in expenses, explains the unaudited expected surplus of just under \$60 thousand for 2019. There was nothing unusual in Liquid Fuels. The Recreation Account had no expenses, but did receive a donation of \$1,500 from FirstLight, a cable installer thanking the Township for letting them park some vehicles back in the recycle area. Beck reported that General Fund balances totaled \$370,651.42; Liquid Fuels totaled \$73,829.41 and Recreation Funds totaled \$5,495.83 for total cash on hand of \$449,976.66 as of December 31, 2019. Arnold thanked Beck for his work on the dental plan saving \$2,000 for the Township while increasing benefit coverage for employees. The report was filed.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, and all bills to be paid.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

Received the Roadmaster's Report for December 2019: Roadmaster Pipech reported that the road crew has been cold patching potholes, clearing slippery roads and providing significant work on the pickleball court. Pipech complemented them as a great road crew, and thanked Matt McGowan for his assistance on the court as well.

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 December 2019 and the full year 2019 as presented by Chief Franks, and filed:

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Zoning Report for December 2019, presented by Secretary Beck, and filed:

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to submit a new Salt Contract Participation Agreement to DGS COSTARS for the August 2020-July 2021 Season. We requested 500 tons for the 2019-2020 Season.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to pay the Secretary/Treasurer's Health Care Premiums for 2020 not as compensation, saving the Township an estimated \$19,019 this year.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to grant final approval for Woodberry Manor Phase 3 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to donate \$100.00 to the Hospice of the Sacred Heart in Dunmore in memory of Jean Gwen Arnold Davis, mother of Supervisor Richard Arnold.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Arnold thanked the supervisors for this gesture, and Pipech and Smith offered their condolences.

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Pipech announced that the Planning Commission met on December 18th, 2019 and draft minutes are available.

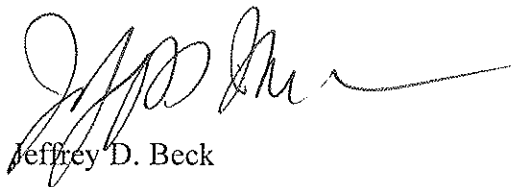
Pipech called for the Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap. Arnold responded that the report had not yet been issued. He reviewed the Fire Police report for the month, adding that they always do a good job for us and put themselves in harms way. Pipech also noted the good work that they do. Pipech continued his announcements that the Rice Township books were closed December 31, 2019 and an audit of the Township books will be conducted; with the snow season here, the Police Department asks that residents remove all portable basketball hoops and refrain from parking on township roads or rights-of-way during storms for safe snow removal; and that the 2020 Census is hiring enumerators (census takers) in Rice Township. This is an ideal part-time job paying \$14 per hour and \$.58 per mile. Veterans get hiring preference. Applicants, when accepted, are trained in the census office in Allentown office and are issued tablets for data entry. After being sworn in, the census bureau pays mileage to come and go to class and hourly for class time. See the Township Secretary if you are interested.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Attorney Giarratano noted that there was no report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Matt McGowan raised the issue that he needs to install 4 street lamps but PPL will only enter into an agreement with the Township. Beck will contact PPL and work to resolve this issue, and Presidential Lands will pay for the install and the lamps. McGowan also raised the issue of residents who persistently park on Woodberry Manor streets. After discussion, other than the current process of writing a \$10 ticket, the Chief Franks suggested that the best process would be to take the offender to Magistrate Court as a covenant violation. McGowan also inquired about the timing of signing of the maps for Woodberry Manor Phase 3. Pipech and Beck will sign them and call McGowan when they are ready.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m..

Respectfully submitted:



Jeffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer