

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES
JANUARY 7, 2019

Chairman Robert Pipech announced that the duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, January 7, 2019, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda and Treasurer Reports were available to the public. The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m.. Pipech announced that the meeting was being recorded for preparing the minutes and that 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: Mr. Pipech called for public comment and there was none.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Pipech called for the Township Engineer's report. Engineer Pasonick reported no change in status from last month. Pipech expressed concern to Pasonick about the timing of the Henry Drive culvert replacement since the LSA grant would not be announced until March. The issue is that any engineering work expense done before a grant is announced cannot be covered by that grant. The concern is that we must get this project done in the summer while school is not in session. Resident Barbara Miller requested clarification about the project, and Pipech explained.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting on December 5, 2018.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for December, 2018. Treasurer Beck presented the Treasurer's report, noting the last payment for 2018 for Fire Protection and the payment of \$9,038.74 primarily for Workers Compensation. Beck also noted the two payments for road salt to American Rock Salt from the Liquid Fuels Fund. Beck reported the fund bank balances as of the end of December, 2018: General Fund, \$313,118.53; Liquid Fuels, \$124,636.60; and Recreation Fund, \$2,756.68, for total cash on hand of \$440,511.81. The report was filed.

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 December, 2018. Pipech reported that the Public Works team had moved little-used equipment from the garage at the Township building site to the old fire company garage. The team continues to patch potholes with cold patch as weather permits.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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Received the Police Report for December, 2018 and the full year 2018 as presented by Chief Franks, and the report was filed.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Zoning Report for December, 2018, as presented by Secretary Beck, and the report was filed.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to ratify adoption of Resolution 2018-21, by poll, supporting MAJSA in their LSA application for energy efficiency and HVAC improvements to their building.

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 2019-July 2020 Season. We requested 500 tons for the 2018-2019 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 2019 not as compensation, saving the Township an estimated \$13,798.32 this year.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to ratify adoption of Resolution 2019-4, which accepts the deed of dedication for that section of Woodberry Drive within Phase3A of Woodberry Manor.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech announced that the Planning Commission met on December 19th and draft minutes are available, that the Rice Township books were closed December 31, 2018 and an Audit of the Township books will be conducted, that the Township received an acknowledgement letter from the SPCA thanking the Township for the donation in memory of John Dean, and that 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.

There was no Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap at this meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Attorney McCormick responded that there was no report this month.

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PUBLIC COMMENT: Matt McGowan from Presidential Lands noted that any filing fees for the road dedication will be paid by Presidential Lands. Resident Barbara Miller requested a status update on the Woodberry Planned Residential Development (PRD) and the traffic study. During a lengthy discussion, the following points or questions were raised:

Miller: The traffic study that was made did not measure the safety, financial burden and impact on the Township roads in question, especially Heslop, but also including Fairwood and Aleksander. When will such traffic studies be done? Heslop does not have sufficient width and quality deck to support additional traffic. The project should only proceed if the costs of improving Heslop road are included and implemented. Will the Supervisors honor the petition presented at the September 4, 2018 meeting? What about the removal of the Church Road overpass on Henry Drive and the Township's role in that project?

Pipech: The issue of a secondary access road to Heslop is a safety issue not only for Heslop road residents but for other residents. In the past, a fire on Heslop road prevented ingress and egress for an extended period of time. Also, the concern about the County bridge on Heslop Road is valid, and that is a reason to have the secondary access. To widen Heslop would require acquisition of personal property. The Supervisors have to think of all the residents' safety in this issue.


Arnold: The PRD has not been given final approval. The actual building of such an access road is years away, and it is premature to spend funds on this issue. The study did not show an immediate impact on Heslop Road. The removal of the Church Road overpass was a PennDOT project and its comparison to this issue is not relevant. To completely rebuild Heslop Road would consume millions of dollars.

Smith: The Supervisors work well together and are here to listen to all residents' issues. There are no personal agendas at play on this issue.

McGowan: The PRD is in the detail development stage. Final approval comes after that is presented. Presidential Lands is following the Township ordinance for the PRD (SALDO). There is nothing in the SALDO that requires these traffic studies. The traffic study was requested by the Supervisors and it was done to meet that request. Previous Supervisors asked for the secondary access as the project was developing. The Township cannot impose conditions outside of the SALDO. The secondary access to Heslop road is many years away from being constructed, and the impacts noted by the traffic study are a decade or two in the future.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:50p.m..

Respectfully submitted;


Jeffrey D. Beck
Secretary/Treasurer