

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES

August 6, 2019

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, August 6th, 2019, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda, Minutes for the previous meeting, and Treasurer's 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 video.

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

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident Marty Wentz asked for an update regarding the dam lawsuit. Solicitor Dean responded that there was a counterclaim filed by A. R. Popple, and the claim against the bonding company remains. Residents Carl Kaminski, Robert Biggs, Charles Kirkutis, and Ida Foster all expressed concern over the digging along Wilderness Drive and the need for the cable for internet speed. Supervisor Pipech explained that a Stop Work Order had been issued because the contractor had not applied for a pave cut permit in accordance with Ordinance 2016-1. Work has since resumed with a permit. Planning Commission members Mark Manosky and Robert Smith noted that the cable might not bring the internet speed anticipated and expressed concern for the cable being laid through the creek. In response to questions from Kaminski, Pipech said that the new backhoe was great and the pickleball court was under construction. Kaminski suggested mandatory overtime for road work.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Township Engineer Pasonick reported that we have received one estimate for paving the pickleball court for \$8,200, with other contractors declining to offer an estimate. PennEastern will also provide an engineer onsite at Wilderness Drive to ensure proper protection of the road.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to reject the bids tabled at the June 4, 2019 meeting and to authorize the Township Engineer to review the scope of work and rebid the Ice Pond Dam Outlet Works Improvements Project.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on July 2, 2019.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS Con't:

Received the Treasurer's Report for July, 2019. Treasurer Beck reviewed the report, noting the receipt of \$150,000 grant funds and the payment of \$154,501.70 for the purchase of the backhoe in the General Fund. The General Fund was currently running a small surplus through the first 7 months of the year. Beck noted the State Fund payment for the double tar and chip project for Henry Drive/Prospect road and noted the actual to budget difference was due to the decision to purchase the new truck rather than pay interest on a lease. There was no activity in the Recreation Account. Beck reported that General Fund balances totaled \$490,176.01; Liquid Fuels totaled \$152,860.47; and Recreation Funds totaled \$4,015.03 for total cash on hand of \$647,051.51 as of July 31, 2019. The report was filed.

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.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for July, 2019. Pipech reported on the illegal road cuts made on Aspen Drive and Nuangola Drive and in Wilderness Estates. The Henry Drive/Prospect Road double tar and chip, fog seal and line painting is complete, and feedback has been good. Pipech responded to Solicitor Dean that he was satisfied with Pocono Spray Patching, the contractor for the project. The Public Works crew continues to patch pot holes as weather permits during the morning and cuts down weeds in the afternoon.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to ratify the decision by poll to paint the double yellow line on Prospect Road and Henry Drive for \$1,800.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Police Report for July, 2019 as presented by Beck, and the report was filed.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to accept the Zoning Report for July, 2019, as presented by Beck, and the report was filed.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS Con't:

In response to the question by Smith, Dean explained that the lease agreement with the Ice House Pub expires on December 31st of this year and is assignable to the new owner, hence the need for this motion.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to accept the assignment of the Lease Agreement dated February 10, 2016 between Rice Township, Lessor and Silvio & Jeff, Inc, t/a Ice House Pub, Lessee to Prumac Inc., Lessee, expiring on December 31, 2019.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to authorize the attendance by Supervisors and staff to the Luzerne County Association of Township Officials Annual Convention on September 26th at a cost of \$25.00 per attendee.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer's attendance to the one-day session "Essentials of Township Planning" conducted by PSATS in Morgantown on October 4th at a cost of \$125.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer's attendance to the 2-day PSATS Fall Forum in Pocono Manor on November 15th and 16th at a cost of \$75.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech announced that: the Planning Commission met on July 26th and draft minutes were available to the public; a representative from Representative Mullery's office will be on site at the Township building every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 10 am until noon to help you with issues; the Rice Township Police Department was joining Wright Township and Fairview Township Police Departments for "National Night Out." The event was taking place the same night as this meeting from 4pm to 9pm at the Wright Township Park; and the Township received contract documents confirming the County Community Development grant for the demolition of the Rice Township Fire Hall.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to enter into a Cooperation Agreement between Luzerne County relating to the grant to demolish the existing Rice Township Volunteer Company social hall.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech also noted that the Roadmaster and Township Engineer were working with contractors for the paving of the pickleball court, and initial conversations have been held with contractors concerning the installation of a bocce ball court.

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BUSINESS MATTERS Con't:

Arnold reviewed the Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Report, noting the ongoing maintenance and training which has taken place. He reported that two dry hydrants were flushed and successfully tested. Arnold reminded the attendees that the mail fund raising campaign would be starting soon.

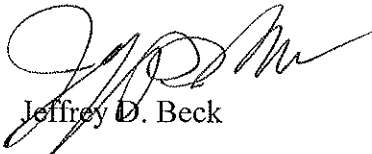
SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Dean stated that there was no report beyond his comments previously made.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Felicia Bierzynski praised the tar and chip on Henry Drive and noted that she had not complained about the double lines. Pipech asked Beck to review the \$92,000 left in Liquid Fuels and asked Pasonick to investigate base repair on Wilderness Drive and its connection with Heslop Road. He also noted that he will look into summer help for next year. Arnold said that we should set up a meeting with DEP to talk about limiting the scope of work at the Ice Ponds Dam. Arnold also commented that given the history and heritage of the train line on what is now Henry Drive, he would like to see the old train platforms cleaned up and signage erected.

Justin Ross from LIVIC Civil inquired about the status of the material they sent regarding a possible Dollar General across from the UniMart on Nuangola Road. After a discussion of the issues, Beck will give Ross the letter just completed detailing the issues required for an application.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer