

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES

September 3, 2019

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on September 3, 2019, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda, previous meeting minutes 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 video.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - here

Pipech - here

Smith - here

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

Chairman Pipech stated that regarding the Ice Ponds Dam project, the Township Engineer has responded to the counter claims by A.R. Popple and the special counsel will file the comments and written discovery will be served.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Pipech asked for public comments. Resident Kaminski stated that the Henry Drive tar and chip was bumpy and will not last. Resident Jude Fritz asked about the guarantee, and Pipech noted the 1-year guarantee. Residents Kaminski, Barbara Miller, Bob Biggs, Christina Karonkas, Charles Kirkutis, and Planning Commission Member Bob Smith all expressed concern about the condition of Wilderness Drive, the incomplete status of the Atlantic Broadband (ABB) cable installation project, the costs associated with that project and the willingness of ABB to complete the project and the costs for individual hookup to the cable. Karonkas noted a petition sent to ABB, a copy of which will be delivered to the Township Office. Miller suggested using the franchise agreement as leverage against ABB. Resident Jude Fritz asked if there was a list of roads needing repair. Kirkutis also asked for the engineer cost estimates for the Wilderness cable installation project. Pipech acknowledged the condition of Wilderness Drive and that the bad section towards the western side of the northern loop is on the list to be repaired. He explained the problems with the current installation project and used the Verizon subcontractor as an example of reaching out to the Township early in the process and doing things correctly. Pipech noted that the engineer cost was \$65/hour, and that Secretary Beck had spoken with the ABB regional manager, Tom Carey, several times to deliver the message that the supervisors want to work with ABB to keep costs down and to have ABB comply with the Road Cut Ordinance. Vice-Chair Arnold added that they wanted to be helpful but that ABB's subcontractor created the problem with slipshod work. Pipech and Arnold explained that road repair plans were developed with the Township Engineer and Solicitor Dean added that Roadmaster Pipech juggled available dollars against those roads in the worst condition. However, there was no list created. Pipech mentioned that the Laurel and Lakeview Drive, Basswood and the northern leg of Wilderness Drive we likely to get done next year. Resident Harry Davies asked if the State could take over Heslop Road, but Pipech pointed out that the Heslop bridge was owned by the County. Miller asked that the canopy over Wilderness Drive be cut back. Dariel Stoltz worried that tar and chip would wear quickly, and offered to deliver information concerning grants that could be used for internet construction. Arnold assured her that the road might be a little bumpy but would wear well.

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BUSINESS MATTERS:

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Pasonick reported that Chis from Sealmaster would set the pickleball court posts , weather permitting.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on August 6, 2019.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for August, 2019: Treasurer Beck reviewed the report, noting the transfer from checking to money market of \$30,000 to increase interest revenue and the payment of \$7,942.79 for Workers Compensation for the Wright Township Fire Department. In looking at the actual to budget report, Beck said that he expected a small surplus for the year. There was nothing unusual in Liquid fuels and 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 \$295,305.96; Liquid Fuels totaled \$91,683.92; and Recreation Funds totaled \$3,995.19 for total cash on hand of \$390,985.07 as of August 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 August, 2019. Roadmaster Pipech:reported that the new machine was working to fix a problem area on Basswood, that patching continued as weather permitted, and that paving the pickleball court should occur soon. Arnold noted the road trimming that improved sight lines.

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 August, 2019 as presented by Chief Franks. The report was filed.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Zoning Report for August, 2019 as presented by Secretary Beck and filed.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to ratify the decision by poll to install an NEC telephone system to replace the Mitel 3000 system which was failing at a cost of \$3,115.75.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS: (Cont'd)

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to engage Chemung Supply to install a guide rail on the south side of Weyhenmeyer Road bridge and along the west side of Henry Drive across from the lower Ice Lake culvert at a total cost of \$2,925.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to deny the request from Piast Builders to release the bond on Polonia Phase 3.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to authorize the Township Secretary to attend the PSATS Zoning Seminar on September 18 in Lansdale at a cost of \$99.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Budget preparation will begin in October. Departments were asked to submit their budgetary needs for 2020.

The Pension Plans' Minimum Municipal Obligation Reports are being completed and will be filed by September 30, 2019.

The Township received \$1,276.71 from the Pennsylvania Gaming Commission for its payment in lieu of taxes for 2019.

The Roadmaster announces that leaf drop off will begin on Monday, October 14th and conclude on Friday, November 15th. Leaves can be left by the dumpster by the Township Building and must be in paper compostable bags. Branches cut to a length of 3 feet and no more than 1" in diameter may be left. Cameras record the area.

A Conditional Use Hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at the Township Building to consider the application made by LIVIC Civil/David Coleman on behalf of Dollar General. This hearing will be advertised as required by Second Class Township Code.

The County is providing used tire drop-off events at Drums Elementary on October 5th and Hanover Area Junior/Senior High on October 12th. Details can be found on the table in the lobby.

Vice-Chair Arnold gave the Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap. The Fire Department continues to train, their letter campaign will start soon and they continue to seek new volunteers.

The Planning Commission met on August 28th and draft minutes of that meeting are available.

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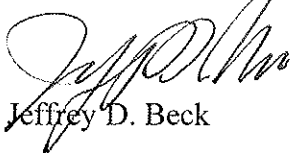
BUSINESS MATTERS: (Cont'd)

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: The Solicitor had no report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Kaminski inquired about trees along the road marked with an X, to which Pipech responded they were likely marked by PPL. In response to Miller's inquiry, Pasonick will send the Woodberry PRD traffic study to the County.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:43p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey D. Beck', is written over the printed name.

Jeffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer