### RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

November 5, 2019

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on November 5. 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. for the pledge of allegiance. 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 Karl Kaminski asked who made the polling changes and if the owner of a fallen tree was responsible for PPL lines. Solicitor Dean answered no to both. Supervisor Carl Smith added that the Bureau of Collections had called the Cornerstone Church. Planning Commission member Bob Smith noted that Atlantic Broadband's subcontractor, Advanced Fiber, has dumped bags of cold patch on the cut driveways. The Supervisors assured the residents that it was not their responsibility to patch the driveways. Kaminski also inquired about the PPL wire at the bottom of Wilderness drive and the Supervisors noted that they will ask PPL to relocate the trailer. Secretary Beck and Engineer Pasonick will work with Solicitor Dean on the poor performance in the cable installation along Wilderness Drive. Resident Felicia Bierzynski thanked Sargent Ehret for his service for the very successful Blytheburn Lake fish derby.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** There was no engineer's report.

#### **BUSINESS MATTERS:**

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on October 1, 2019 and the Minutes of the Special meeting held on October 21, 2019.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for October, 2019, as presented by Treasurer Jeffrey Beck. Beck reported that there was nothing noteworthy regarding the General Fund activity and in looking at the actual to budget report, Beck said that he continued to expect a surplus in the \$20,000 - 30,000 range for the year. There was nothing unusual in Liquid Fuels and there was no activity in the Recreation Account. Beck reported that General Fund balances totaled \$338,633.30; Liquid Fuels totaled \$87,167.63 and Recreation Funds totaled \$3,995.51 for total cash on hand of \$429,796.44 as of October 31, 2019. The report was filed.

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**BUSINESS MATTERS: (Cont'd)** 

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 October, 2019 as presented by Roadmaster Robert Pipech. Pipech reported that one 30-yard dumpster had been filled with leaves and replaced with an empty dumpster. The collection period has been extended through November 23<sup>rd</sup>. The pickleball court should be paved within the week or so, and all the trucks are ready for the snow season.

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 October, 2019 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.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Arnold, to appoint Grevera & Associates at the cost of \$3,500 to conduct the 2019 Audit.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - ves

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Resident Kaminski suggested that the holiday bonus for employees be raised to \$50.

**MOTION** by Arnold, second by Smith, to give full-time employees a holiday bonus of \$50, as amended, as a thank you for their dedicated service.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Smith, to approve the Joint Municipal Agreement for Law Enforcement Services for Nuangola Borough for 2020 through 2022.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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**BUSINESS MATTERS: (Cont'd)** 

Smith explained that this motion would allow EMC data to be taken off of personal electronic devices and placed on a Township device. Smith asked EMC Bryon Brown if this device would satisfy his needs and Brown responded in the affirmative.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Smith, to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to purchase a Galaxy Book 2 from Verizon for \$899.99 and contract a monthly data plan through Verizon for use by the Township EMC.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech reported that: the Pension Plans' Minimum Municipal Obligation Reports were completed and filed by September 30, 2019. Based on the reduction in the assumed rate of return used for the Uniformed Pension Plan, a revised MMO calculation and certification is required and that was deliver to the governing body on October 29, 2019; the Zoning Hearing Board conducted a hearing on October 10, 2019 regarding a Variance request from LIVIC Civil to reduce the proposed number of parking spaces for a possible Dollar General Store from 45 to 30. The Hearing was duly advertised and open to the public. The Variance request was denied; and that we received our check from the Commonwealth in the amount of \$906.17 for our distribution of Public Utility Realty Taxes (PURTA) on October 2, 2019.

The Supervisors extend heartfelt thanks to Larry Stets, resident of Nuangola, for his generous donation of \$500 towards the pickleball court.

The Roadmaster announces that leaf drop off will be extended to Saturday, November 23rd. Leaves can be left by the dumpster in the Township recycling center and must be in clear bags. Branches cut to a length of 3 feet and no more than 1" in diameter may be left. Cameras record the area.

The Planning Commission did not meet on October 23<sup>rd</sup> for lack of agenda items.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap. Arnold noted that the letter drive fund raiser was underway and asked for the support of the residents. He saluted and thanked the WTVFD and the Police for the safe Halloween night during terrible weather. He also complemented the Fire Department regarding the tree removal on Burma Road. Pipech echoed the thanks for their efforts on Burma Road.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Dean had nothing to report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Kaminski asked for an explanation of "assist call", and Chief Franks responded. Kaminski asked for an update on the Dollar Store, and Dean answered. Solicitor Dean answered Planning Commissioner Mark Manosky's questions regarding the makeup and selection process for the Zoning Hearing Board as well as Bierzynski's question regarding commercial parking places. Kaminski inquired about future use of the RTVFD property, and discussion ensued regarding possibilities. Resident Carol Duffy suggested a venue that would cater to young people.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:32p.m.

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Respectfully submitted:

Jeffred D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer