The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2019, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda, minutes and Treasurer's Reports were available to the public. Chair Robert Pipech called the meeting to order at 7:05 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.

Pipech reported that the Board of Supervisors met in executive session on February 5, 2019 after the regular meeting to discuss legal issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Pipech asked for public comment. Planning Commission member Bob Smith commented on the deteriorating quality of the roads. Pipech noted that the new machine with a milling head will help, but money is the issue. There is also a bad culvert on Henry Drive that needs to be replaced. Grant applications have been written and submitted. Arnold noted that this year's freeze/thaw cycle has been tough. Pipech asked Engineer Andrew Pasonick to work with him on testing double tar and chip.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Pasonick reported that the layout of the pickleball court has been delayed due to the weather but will start that process as soon as possible. Pipech and Pasonick discussed the timing of the Henry Drive culvert replacement, and work will start there as soon as we hear about the grant request.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to authorize the Township Engineer to prepare and execute the bid process to engage a capable contractor for the completion of the Ice Pond Dam Outlet Works Improvements Project.

Pipech - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to authorize Ray Wendolowski, special counsel, to proceed with lawsuit against A. R. Popple Construction Inc. and Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance Company, to recover costs inclusive of but not limited to the re-bidding process, A. R. Popple existing construction on the project that must be redone due to its failure to meet project goals, and overruns above and beyond the contract amount agreed upon with A. R. Popple regarding the Ice Pond Dam Outlet Works Improvements Project.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

Smith - yes

BUSINESS MATTERS Con't:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to request extensions of grants C000067279 and C000063843 to 6/30/2020.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on February 5, 2019.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - ves

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for February, 2019. Beck pointed out the increase in the General Fund balances due to earned income tax receipts. He noted the donation of \$3,375.00 each to the General Fund and the Recreation Fund by Presidential Lands. Beck also commented on the receipt of the Liquid Fuels funds. Beck reported that General Fund balances totaled \$326,139.28; Liquid Fuels totaled \$114,619.83; and Recreation Funds totaled \$6,631.92; for a total of \$447,391.03.

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.

Pipech reported that: the 2018 Municipal Annual Audit and Financial Report from Grevera & Associates was received. Copies of the Concise Financial Statement are available to the public and the full report is available for public inspection. There were no findings in the 2018 Audit;

the Limited Procedures Engagement (a type of audit to determine compliance) for the Uniformed and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans for the years 2015, 2016, and 2017 was completed and the results received from the Department of the Auditor General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The reports conclude that there is nothing which indicates that these accounts are not in compliance;

and a direct deposit of \$135,543.38 was made to the Liquid Fuels Checking Account on March 1, 2019. As recommended by the PennDOT Liquid Fuels Auditor, the full amount was transferred into the Liquid Fuels Money Market Account, which is interest bearing.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for February, 2019. Pipech commented that clearing snow and patching pot holes consumed the Public Works crew's time, and that they were doing a good job. He explained that hot patch would be used as soon as the plants started producing. He noted that the Township has exceeded the 300 ton minimum for salt orders.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS MATTERS Con't:

Received the Police Report for February, 2019. Chief Franks concluded his report with thanks to Presidential Lands and Clear Force 1 for their generosity in donating popshields costing over \$500 each.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Sewer Enforcement Officer's Report for February, 2019, as presented by Beck, and filed.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to resume summer hours for the recycling center beginning April 3rd. Saturday hours will be from 9am to 2pm and Wednesdays from 4pm to 7pm.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to approve the Hayden/Boop minor subdivision as recommended subject to conditions set by the Planning Commission at their February 27th meeting..

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to allow the Mountaintop Men's Softball League, soccer and little leagues to utilize the field contingent on their cooperation on field use and supply proof of insurance.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to support the Crestwood High School PTSA with their Senior Lockin for 2019 with a donation of \$150.00, the same amount as in 2018.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to attend a PSATS archived webinar concerning record retention requirements at a cost of \$30.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS MATTERS Con't:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, approve the Supervisors' attendance to the Luzerne County Boroughs and Township Association Meeting on March 27th at a cost of \$10.00 each.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Pipech, second by Arnold, to engage Grevera and Associates to audit the LSA 2018 Pave Project as required by the contract, at a cost of \$925.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech reported that: the Planning Commission met on February 27th at 7pm. Draft minutes are available to the public; Arnold added that the Hayden/Boop minor subdivision on the agenda was a simple property line adjustment, and that the discussion with Bruce Fine at the working session related to questions he had regarding a possible expansion of Jennifer's Way;

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;

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap was received; Arnold reported that the Fire Company was working on the detours to maximize response times, was winding down the 2018 fund raiser and was working on the bazaar this year, to be held in June;

the Supervisors and Police Department extend heartfelt thanks to Frank Pedriani and Matt McGowan of Hallmark Homes and Danielle Sciandra of Clean Force 1 for each donating a popshield, costing over \$500 each, to the Police Department for their safety;

we received notice that the Pennsylvania Compensation Rating Bureau has implemented a mid-year loss cost revision from April 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018, resulting in a return of premium to the Township of \$2,110, to be sent within the next several months;

and that the Mountain Top Garden Club will host Rich Troscianecki and Jim Walck at the Township Building at 6:30 pm on March 12th. They will present "A Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater". We encourage all residents to attend.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: The Solicitor had no report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Planning Commission member Mark Manosky inquired about the need for an LSA audit. Pipech explained that it was required in the contract. Journalist Pat Rushton asked if we knew the dollar amount of the law suit, and Dean responded that it was unknown at this time. Arnold commented that we needed to get the project done. He also noted the next Beekeepers meeting at the Township building on the 21st and asked all interested to come. Resident Burt Scouten suggested that a bocce ball court be added to the Park Plan, and the Supervisors' will look into it.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted;

leffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer