The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda, minutes from previous meetings and Treasurer Reports were available to the public. Chair Robert Pipech called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m and led the Pledge of Allegiance. It was announced that the meeting was being recorded for preparing the minutes. Interior cameras are also recording the video.

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

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Felica Bierzynski inquired about a clogged drain at the intersection of Henry Drive and Azalea and a small tree leaning on wires in front of 1725 Henry Drive. Pipech responded that he will investigate. Bierzynski also asked if anything could be done to preserve the Pine View Station platform on Henry Drive. Chief Franks and Pipech confirmed that the Township owned the platform since the railroad right of way was dedicated over to the Township. Bierzynski and Arnold suggested that we look at a historical grant.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Pasonick noted that there was no report on the pickleball court due to the weather. Pasonick reported that all information requested by the County Development Office had been delivered and once given the clearance from the County, Pipech asked him to be ready to advertise for the Fire Hall demolition.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to accept the Minutes of the Reorganization and the Regular meetings held on January 6, 2020.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

Received the Treasurer's Report for January, 2020, as presented by Treasurer Jeffrey Beck. Beck referenced the report of the Check Register and noted payments such as Smith Blacktopping would be reimbursed. The General Fund shows a deficit which is normal for this time of the year when tax receipts are low, and January was also a 3-payroll month. There was nothing unusual in Liquid Fuels. The Recreation Account had no activity. Beck reported that General Fund balances totaled \$306,331.54; Liquid Fuels totaled \$67,634.34 and Recreation Funds totaled \$5,495.99 for total cash on hand of \$379,461.87 as of January 31, 2019.

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, and all bills to be paid.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - ves

MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont.):

Receive the Roadmaster's Report for January, 2020: Roadmaster Pipech explained that the Public Works crew has been out clearing the roads and salting on every storm and has been cold patching as weather permits. Pipech noted that this process will continue until the weather breaks.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Receive the Police Report for January, 2020: Chief Franks presented the police report and it was filed.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to accept the Zoning Report for January, 2020, as presented by Secretary Beck.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to ratify the decision by poll to adopt a Geisinger Level-Funded PPO 250 Health Care Plan and to fund all employee deductibles and reimburse co-pays in excess of the costs of the previous plan which will keep employee costs equal to the previous plan and will save the taxpayer an estimated \$24,000 this year compared to the previous plan for 2020.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to approve the lot consolidation proposed by John Reese for 3 of his properties on Ralph Street, as recommended by the Planning Commission at its January 22, 2020 meeting.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to approve the extension of an additional 30 days for the Gallagher subdivision as requested by the owner and representing surveyor, Emit Burke, as recommended by the Planning Commission at its January 22, 2020 meeting.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont.):

Pipech explained that FirstLight will be leasing part of the property at the Fire Hall and may extend the lease after the one-year term is up. Pipech confirmed Bierzynski's question that the equipment and trucks to be stored there would be coming from behind the recycling center as well as additional equipment.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to approve a lease with FirstLight Cable to store equipment and supplies at the Rice Township Volunteer Fire Company site for one year at \$1,500 per month.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - ves

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to again join the Luzerne County Boroughs & Townships Association and pay the annual dues of \$30.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to authorize the Secretary/Treasurer to attend the PSATS seminar titled Capital Improvements, Project Bidding, and How Story Maps "Easify" Planning on February 12, 2020 at a cost of \$35.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to approve expenses not to exceed \$1,500 from the Recreation Fund to hold the annual Easter Egg Hunt in the Rice Township Park, tentatively to be held on Saturday, March 28th at 10:00 am, April 4th at 10:00 am, or Sunday, April 5th at 2 pm..

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - ves

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Arnold expressed concern that the motion below might prevent soccer from using the field. Pipech noted that a number of organizations use the field.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to authorize The Mountaintop Area Little League to use the Township ball field during March through October, 2020, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 4:00 pm until dark, cooperating with other groups who are interested in using the field, and providing proof of insurance coverage naming the Township as an additional insured..

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech reported that: the Planning Commission held its reorganization and regular meetings on January 22nd, 2020, at 7pm. Draft minutes are available to the public. Rick Arnold was named Chair and Bob Smith was named Vice-Chair of the Planning Commission for 2020; requested that Arnold report on the Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap, and Arnold noted that the Fire Company is in the running for a grant from Fidelity Bank, and urged everyone to go vote for them; the Minutes of the Reorganization meeting of the Board of Auditors held on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 are available; the Auditors approved the wages of Supervisors working for the Township; a new Salt Contract Participation Agreement for 500 tons was submitted to DGS COSTARS for the August 2020-July 2021 Season. We requested 500 tons for

the 2019-2020 Season; and the Township received an acknowledgement from the Hospice of the Sacred Heart for the \$100 donation in memory of Jean Davis.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Dean noted that related to the previous motion adopting a new health plan, the police have requested the Supervisors to sign a modification to the Police Contract, and Dean suggested that the Supervisors pass a motion to do so. Dean noted that he had reviewed the modification to the agreement, and it was satisfactory.

Motion by Pipech, seconded by Smith, to authorize the Township to enter into a modification to the police agreement clarifying the Township's responsibilities regarding the new heath care plan.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was none

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:20p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

, qui es p. Beek

Secretary/Treasurer