RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES

July 5, 2022 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road. Copies of the Agenda, draft minutes of the previous meeting and Treasurer reports were available to the public. Chair Robert Pipech called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Pipech announced that the meeting was being recorded for preparing the minutes. Interior cameras were also recording the meeting.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - here

Pipech - here Smith - here

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

Pipech announced that an Executive Session was held prior to the meeting to discuss potential litigation issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Planning Commission member Mark Manosky thanked the Supervisors for all the road improvements. Pipech expressed regret that the planned section on Wilderness drive could not be done. Pipech and Engineer Pasonick agreed to have Fairwood Blvd and Heslop striped up to the end of the new pavement.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Pasonick reported that inquiries regarding possible sluice gate solutions remain unanswered from DEP. Inquiries have been made to Harrisburg to make sure that domestically sourced steel is not required by the grant. Such a requirement would likely double the cost and take a year to complete. Arnold expressed his frustration at the pace of getting the project done. Secretary/Treasurer Beck will review the documents in our possession.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting held on June 7, 2022.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - ves

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for June, 2022: Treasurer Beck referenced the General Fund Check Register as the first three pages of the report did not show any unusual activity, and that the Budget versus actual through June was showing a \$105,608 surplus. Beck reported that the Liquid Fuels surplus to date was \$21,000 below budget due to higher-than-expected repair costs for the trucks. Beck also noted that the surplus for the Recreation Fund was low pending receipt of the \$100,000 DCNR grant. Beck reported that the General Fund balances totaled \$689,217.71, Liquid Fuels balances totaled \$87,937.93 and Recreation Fund balances totaled \$5,232.07, all for a total of \$782,387.71 cash on hand. Restricted balances include \$500.28 in the DCNR Grant Account, \$5,004.39 in the Developers' Escrow Account and \$4,915.61 in the ARPA Account for a total of \$10,420.28 of restricted funds, all as of June 30, 2022.

MOTION by Smith, 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

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

Received the Roadmaster's Report for June, 2022: Pipech reported that the 2022 Paving Project was close to completion and asked Pasonick to pursue the double tar and chip project for \$200,000. Pipech also reported that the grinder pump for the lower Ice Lake bathroom had to be replaced. Arnold noted that the parks look good due to the Public Works crew's efforts.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - ves

Smith - ves

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Police Report for June, 2022: Chief Ehret presented the police report and added that the two polemounted radar speed signs had been delivered and would be mounted soon.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Zoning Report for June, 2022 as presented by Zoning Officer Henry Mleczynski. Pipech noted that the Zoning Officer would be putting in more hours since demand for his services was increasing.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to accept the Zoning Report as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the SEO Report for June, 2022: There was no SEO report for this month.

MOTION by

, second by

, to accept the SEO Report as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold -

Pipech -

Smith -

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Arnold, to ratify the decision by poll to order a title search for the two parcels comprising the property known as 40 Willoweby Street.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, that the updated IRS mileage rate of 62.5 cents per mile for July 1 through December 31, 2022 be paid for Township matters to Township employees and officials.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to approve the attendance of the Supervisors and staff at the Luzerne County Association of Township Officials annual meeting on September 22, 2022 in Trucksville at a cost of \$25.00per person.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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Pipech reported that the Planning Commission did not meet on June, 2022 for lack of agenda items, the 2021 Liquid Fuels Audit has been completed with no findings and that we received a thank you note from Wright Township for our donation to the fireworks display. Arnold reported using the report delivered by the Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap.

Pipech also reported that Curt Hardiman, our long-time recycle attendant, had fallen ill and we have a substitute recycle attendant.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: There was no Solicitor's report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: EMC Bryan Brown reported that the FEMA/PEMA IDA reimbursement of \$12,004.40 will be forthcoming. He also noted that Code Red will start in August, that he attended training and knows that grant funds are available for an incident command vehicle (a small box truck) and for EMC space in a Township Building. He also noted that he is searching for a small trailer for mobile EMC supply storage and emergency movement. Arnold reported that the historic train sign that had been vandalized at the old train platform on Henry Drive had been repaired and reset.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer