

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES

September 6, 2022

3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, September 6, 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. It was announced that the meeting will be 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident Karl Kaminski expressed concern that there is no secondary access for Heslop Road. Planning Commission member Bob Smith noted that the secondary road was part of the Woodberry Manor PRD and was at least a decade away. Bob Smith asked if the Wright Township Fire Department could write a letter to the County Manager concerning the difficulty of getting fire apparatus across the one-lane bridge. Planning Commission member Mark Manosky noted that it has been over a year since the Heslop Road bridge was damaged. Residents Sabastian LaCoste and Caitlyn Hanson from 155 and 145 Nuangola Drive respectively complained about storm water flooding on their property. Pipech said that he and Engineer Pasonick would investigate.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Pasonick reported that the 2022 Pave Project was under final review and that he had not received any response from Kirk Kreider at DEP. Pasonick will find the delivery date for the dam gate and assured all that the lift mechanism would be above water.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting held on August 2, 2022.

ROLL CALL: Arnold -yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for August, 2022: . Referring to the General Fund check register, Beck noted the strong EIT receipts during the month such that \$50,000 was transferred to the Money Market Account. Beck noted the following payments: \$20,220 for the LED sign, \$15,682.50 for the upgraded cameras and door locks, \$15,280.50 as a catch-up payment to the Fire Company and the transfer of \$6,5000 to the Rec Fund. Referring to Budget Versus Actual, Beck pointed out the tax receipts exceeding budget by about \$27,000 and the current surplus of \$129,234.90, which he forecast will diminish. Liquid Fuels expenses are dominated by equipment repairs. Beck reported that the General Fund balances totaled \$730,088.80, Liquid Fuels balances totaled \$76,364.19 and Recreation Fund balances totaled \$3,781.77, all for a total of \$810,234.76 cash on hand. Restricted balances include \$500.53 in the DCNR Grant Account, \$5,006.87 in the Developers' Escrow Account and \$5,505.08 in the ARPA Account for a total of \$11,012.48 of restricted funds, all as of August 31, 2022.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

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 - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for August, 2022: Roadmaster Pipech reported that pothole patching continues as weather allows and that the 2013 Ford 550 will be delivered to Powell for a new truck bed and repairs. When fixed the Public Works Crew will have four operating trucks. Smith wondered if we should keep them all when we get a new truck just to have a backup.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Police Report for August, 2022 as presented by Chief Ehret:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Zoning Report for August, 2022 as presented by Zoning Officer Henry Mleczynski:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the SEO Report for August, 2022 as presented by Beck:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to ratify the decision by poll to contract with Winfield Peters Enterprises to install berm and redirect stormwater from downspouts and repair partially collapsed waste pipe for \$4,500.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to ratify the decision by poll to order a 2023 Police Cruiser from Rottet Motors at the costars price of \$59,466.64 for delivery late this year or in 2023. Ford is no longer producing 2022 models.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes Pipech - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to renew the annual maintenance agreement with Guyette Communications for the telephone system for \$324.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to hire Zoning Officer Henry Mleczynski as the Building Code Official & Residential UCC Inspector for the Township in place of Barry Isett & Associates whereby compensation is 80% of the Building Permit and inspection fee, streamlining and improving the process for our residents.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech reported that the recycle center is now closed on Wednesdays as the attendant returns to college, thank Supervisor Smith and Beck for the work on the LED sign, and reported that the Planning Commission did not meet on August 24, 2022 for lack of agenda items.

Vice President Gary Price from the Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company reported on the past month activities.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: The Solicitor reported that she has been working with the Zoning Officer on Ordinance review and delivered Ordinance 2022-1 to the County.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident Kaminski stated that he was concerned that all the ARPA funds were gone. Smith replied that the grants have funded much of the extras. Arnold added that the 2022 budget skipped the police car replacement cycle and noted that the soccer field and pickleball courts and paving have been funded by grants. That said, Arnold explained that last year \$250,000 was taken out of the general fund for road paving. Smith added that aggressive use of grants have kept taxes low, and wants to introduce a truck replacement cycle. Pipech noted we have the lowest tax rate in the County other than Slocum, which has none. Arnold also noted that we still take clean glass and metal cans, but not scrape metal.

Candidate Alec Ryncavage was introduced.

EMC Brown noted that the previous training is no longer valid and he will have to devote up to 100 hours for the new training.

Planning Commission member Bob Smith suggested that the recycle shed be dedicated to Curt Hardiman.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m..

Respectfully submitted:


Jeffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer