

**RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MINUTES**

November 1, 2022

3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, November 1, 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 was 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 asked if anyone knew about a new owner of the parcel contiguous to the PennDOT salt shed but no one knew. Planning Commission member Bob Smith asked about a gate across the back of the RTVFD impeding access to the State Game lands and Pipech noted that the sluice gate was on private property, not the Township's. Beck reported that Burke Surveyors would be doing the survey of the RTVFD property.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Engineer Pasonick reported that the 2022 Pave Project was successfully completed and recommended payment to New Enterprise. Pasonick reported that Fabcor has ordered the gate for the Ice Lakes Dam but there is no delivery date yet. The Department of Environmental Protection has not responded to Pasonick's mailing to them over 2 months ago. Lastly, Pasonick reported that the survey work for the stormwater management at Vista Drive was completed and it was in the design phase.

**BUSINESS MATTERS:**

**MOTION** by Smith, second by Pipech, to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting held on October 4, 2022.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for October, 2022: Treasurer Beck referenced the General Fund Check Register showing the payment of \$100,000 and the receipt from the LSA grant and payment of \$360,172 to New Enterprise for the 2022 Pave Project. Beck then turned to the General Fund Budget versus Actual report, pointing out that tax receipts exceeded budget year-to-date by about \$65,000, primarily from the property transfer tax and EIT receipts. Beck also noted the increase in property rental, expecting a 2022 surplus to equal or exceeding the \$80,730.39 showing on the report. Referring to Liquid Fuels, Beck pointed out the payment to New Enterprise of \$24,814.05 and almost \$16 thousand for truck repairs. Beck also noted that the Recreation Fund had expended about \$3,300 for the Halloween Extravaganza. Beck reported that the General Fund balances totaled \$876,257.80, Liquid Fuels balances totaled \$44,500.22 and Recreation Fund balances totaled \$3,730.82, all for a total of \$924,488.84 cash on hand. Restricted balances include \$501.48 in the

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**BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):**

DCNR Grant Account, \$5,016.34 in the Developers' Escrow Account and \$192,056.12 in the ARPA Account for a total of \$197,573.94 of restricted funds, all as of October 31, 2022.

**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 October, 2022: Roadmaster Pipech reported that pothole patching continues a weather permits. He noted that the truck struck by another vehicle in March is now back fully repaired and in good shape, and all have their spreaders installed. One truck will go this week to Feussners Ford for minor repair and another is at PennPowerGroup but should be back soon. Smith expressed his concern for the fleet of 4 older trucks but Pipech assured him that they were all in good shape.

**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 October, 2022:

**MOTION by** Arnold, second by Pipech, to accept the Police Report as presented by Chief Ehret.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION by**                                 , second by                                 , to accept the Zoning Report for October, 2022 as presented by Zoning Officer Mieczynski.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Beck reported that there was no SEO Report for October, 2022:

**MOTION by** Arnold, seconded by Pipech, to authorize Engineer Pasonick to create specifications and bid documents for the Vista Drive and Nuangola Drive stormwater projects and to advertise the same.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Chief Ehret displayed and demonstrated the use of a pepperball launcher.

**MOTION by** Smith, seconded by Pipech, to approve and pay for 3 pepperball launchers for a price not to exceed \$3,500.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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**BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):**

Kaminski questioned the need for a K-9 unit. Chief Ehret and Supervisor Smith explained the need. Beck reported that insurance would go up by \$1,5000 including the life of the dog. Ehret noted the donations would cover all the costs.

**MOTION** by Smith, seconded by Arnold, to authorize the Police Department to raise funds for a K-9 unit within the Rice Township Police Department to serve the Mountaintop area with a goal of no cost to the Rice Township taxpayer.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Arnold, seconded by Smith, to ratify the decision to pay New Enterprise Stone and Lime for the 2022 Pave Project as recommended by the Township Engineer, the payment to be comprised of \$100,000 from the General Fund, \$24,814.05 from the Liquid Fuels fund, and the remaining \$360,172.00 coming from LSA contract C000080472.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Smith, second by Arnold, to adopt Resolution 2022-11 which declares a revenue shortfall for all funds including the final second tranche received from the American Rescue Program Act in accordance with Final Treasury Guidance and as recommended by consultant Zelenkofske Axelrod.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Arnold, second by Smith, to adopt Resolution 2022-12 which directs the expenditure of second tranche of ARP funds received in 2022 as revenue shortfall for reimbursement of payroll since 3/3/2021 in accordance with Final Treasury Guidance and as recommended by consultant Zelenkofske Axelrod.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Arnold, seconded by Smith, to close the bank account designated for ARPA funds since the program distribution has ended and the received funds have been dispersed.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, seconded by Arnold, to adopt Resolution 2022-13 in accordance with Act 57 to implement property tax penalty waiver provisions

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

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Arnold, seconded by Smith, to accept the offer by the Birk family to provide one metal bench for the Rice Township Park, which will not include a QR code or any other link to social media on the bench, in memory of their son, Ronald Daniel Birk, III.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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**BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):**

**MOTION** by Smith, second by Pipech, to adopt the following proposed budget for Rice Township for 2023 and authorize its advertisement.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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<b>RICE TOWNSHIP GENERAL FUND</b>		<b>PROPOSED BUDGET 2023</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Total 300.00 · TAXES		\$ 1,160,700
Total 320 · LICENSES AND PERMITS		\$ 19,700
Total 331.00 · FINES AND FORFEITS		\$ 5,800
Total 340.00 · INTEREST, RENTS AND ROYALTIES		\$ 55,774
Total 354.00 · STATE CAPITAL & OPER GRANTS		\$ 400,000
Total 355.00 · STATE SHARED REV. & ENTITLEMENT		\$ 77,835
Total 356.00 · STATE PMT IN LIEU OF TAXES		\$ 1,277
Total 357.00 · LOCAL GOVT. GRANTS ,CAP. & OPER		\$ 34,000
Total 358.00 · LOCAL GOV PMT CONTRACTED SVCS		\$ 34,000
Total 360-370 · CHRGS FOR SERVICE(DEPT EARNING)		\$ 52,500
Total 380 · Miscellaneous Income		\$ 61,264
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>\$ 1,902,850</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Total 400-409 · GENERAL GOVERNMENT		\$ 162,995
Total 410-419 · PUBLIC SAFETY CAT		\$ 735,615
Total 426-429 · PUBLIC WORKS-SANITATION		\$ 24,250
Total 430-439 · PUBLIC WORKS-HWYS /STREETS		\$ 662,050
Total 450-459 · CULTURE/RECREATION		\$ 2,750
Total 481-484 · EMPLOYER PAID BENEFITS \$ WITHHO		\$ 156,747
Total 486.00 · INSURANCE		\$ 59,900
Total 487.00 · HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT		\$ 205,200
Total 491.00 · REFUND PRIOR YEAR REVENUE		\$ 10
Total 492.00 · INTERFUND TRANSFERS		\$ 70,000
Total 493.00 · EMPLOYEE RELATED BENEFITS		\$ 500
6560 · Payroll Expenses		\$ 1,150
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>\$ 2,081,167</b>
		<b>\$ (178,317)</b>
<b>Drawn from prior year's surplus</b>		<b>\$ 178,317</b>
<b>2023 Budget Surplus/Defict</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

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<b>RICE TOWNSHIP</b>		<b>PROPOSED</b>
<b>LIQUID FUELS</b>		<b>BUDGET</b>
		<b>2023</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
	Total 341.00 · INTEREST ON DEPOSITS	<b>\$290</b>
	355.02 · LIQUID FUEL TAX	<b>\$132,505</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>\$132,795</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
	Total 432.00 · SNOW REMOVAL	<b>\$40,000</b>
	Total 433.00 · ROAD SIGNS	<b>\$1,000</b>
	434.00 · Street Lighting	<b>\$23,000</b>
	Total 437.00 · REPAIRS & MAINT. TO EQUIPMENT	<b>\$30,250</b>
	Total 438.00 · MAINT. & REPAIRS TO ROADS	<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>\$109,250</b>
<b>Surplus</b>		<b>\$23,545</b>

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<b>RICE TOWNSHIP RECREATION FUND</b>		<b>PROPOSED BUDGET 2023</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
	Total 341.00 · INTEREST EARNINGS	\$ 8
	Total 360 · Charges for Services	\$ 3,500
	392.00 · Transfer from General Fund	\$ 70,000
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>\$ 73,508</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
	Total 450 · Recreation	\$ 67,000
	457.00 · CELEBRATIONS	\$ 6,000
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>\$ 73,000</b>
<b>Surplus</b>		<b>\$ 508</b>

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Pipech thanked Henry and Andy for taking notes at last month's Supervisor's meeting, and thanked Arnold for the highly successful Halloween Extravaganza. Arnold responded with thanks to all that helped make it successful, including Holly Guydish and her family, the Blanchard and Clower families, Cavanaugh Electric for their wiring help, Henry Mleczynski's donation, the Crestwood Sr. Class PTA for the food, Old Post for the decorations, and the Crestwood Glee Club. Arnold also announced a tree lighting event coming for the holidays. Pipech announced that the pickleball and tennis courts lights are turned off for the winter. Smith reported that players were already complaining but Pipech noted complaints from residents about the lights shining into their homes. Pipech announced that leaf drop off concludes on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>; that leaves can be left by the dumpster in the recycle area and must be in clear plastic bags; and that branches cut to a length of 3 feet and no more than 1" in diameter may also be left. Pipech noted that only holders of the Rice Township 2021-22 Recycle Permit will be allowed to leave their leaves and that cameras record the area.

Pipech reported that the Planning Commission did not meet on October 26, 2022 for lack of agenda items and that Form 706B was filed with the Auditor General's office.

Supervisor Arnold reported on Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police activity and thanked them for their participation in the Halloween Extravaganza.

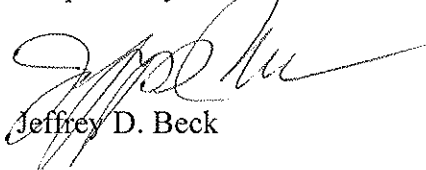
**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** There was no report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Planning Commission Member explained that he had asked the County Council to address the Heslop Road bridge issue at their Council meeting. Pasonick added that the project was slated to be advertised in the spring of next year as he reported at the Supervisors' meeting last month. Kaminski asked that holes in the bridge deck be patched but Pasonick said that was not practical. Manosky expressed his concern for pedestrians crossing the bridge.

EMC Brown reported the G420 class was being held on November 10 at the County EMA building and noted that the Supervisors should attend.

**MOTION** by Smith, second by Pipech, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:51p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Jeffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer