

**RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
3000 CHURCH ROAD, MOUNTAIN TOP, PA
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road. Copies of the Agenda, draft minutes of the previous meetings and Treasurer Reports were available to the public. Chair Robert Pipech called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.. It was 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Pipech asked Secretary Beck to read a letter from the Supervisors addressed to the Department of Environmental Protection requesting their focus on the replacement of the Heslop Road Bridge.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Pipech explained that Engineer Pasonick could not attend the meeting due to a health issue. Pipech reported that he is working with Pasonick on the 2023 Pave Project to be put out to bid this month. Pipech met with Smith Paving to see about repairs on Van Avenue and the entrance to Aspen Drive. Pipech also noted that the change order for the dam was on the agenda.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to accept the Minutes of the reorganization and regular meetings held on January 3, 2023.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for January, 2023: Treasurer Beck reviewed the General Fund Check Register and noted that expenses normally paid by Liquid Fuels were paid this month from the General Fund since the Liquid Fuels funds were essentially exhausted. Beck noted that tax receipts were above budget for the month but the month ended with a small deficit. Beck reported that the General Fund balances totaled \$747,650.04 with \$42,164.83 restricted for K-9 donations, Liquid Fuels balances totaled \$4,959.24 and Recreation Fund balances totaled \$3,454.58, all for a total of \$756,063.86 cash on hand. Restricted balances include \$504.11 in the DCNR Grant Account and \$5,042.76 in the Developers' Escrow Account for a total of \$5,546.87 of restricted funds, all as of January 31, 2023.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
3000 CHURCH ROAD, MOUNTAINTOP, PA
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2023

BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

Received the Roadmaster's Report for January, 2023: Roadmaster Pipech reported that the Public Works crew patches roads as weather permits but the cold weather and nuisance storms have chewed up time and salt. On the good side, the old trucks are working fine.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Police Report for January, 2023 as presented by Chief Ehret.:

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 January, 2023 as presented by ZO/BCO Mlczynski. He also noted that the two appeals to the Zoning Hearing Board were approved.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Beck reported that there was no SEO report for January, 2023.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to authorize Engineer Pasonick to advertise for bids for the 2023 Pave Project.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, that the IRS mileage rate of 65.5 cents per mile for 2023 be paid for Township matters to Township employees and officials.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to approve Fabcor change order #2 for the Ice Lakes Dam retrofit project incorporating the catwalk platform to access the sluice gate lifting mechanism for an additional cost of \$39,038.24. This cost will be offset by not having to bore a 24" hole through the dam, that cost included in the original bid.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
3000 CHURCH ROAD, MOUNTAINTOP, PA
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2023

BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

MOTION by Pipech, second by Smith, to approve the new zoning permit application and zoning hearing board application as redesigned and proposed by Zoning Officer Mleczynski upon Solicitor approval.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech reported that the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General released its compliance audit report for the uniformed and non-uniformed pension plans covering January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2021. There were no findings associated with the police pension plan. The non-uniformed pension plan is administered by Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS). PMRS had not released its 2021 activity statement in time for this audit and the Auditor General finds that the Municipal Officials should have somehow compensated for the lack of the report. Otherwise, the non-uniformed pension plan audit was routine; the Planning Commission met on January 25th, 2023 and draft minutes were available; and with the snow season here, the Police Department asks that residents remove all portable basketball hoops and refrain from parking on township roads or rights-of-way during storms for safe snow removal.

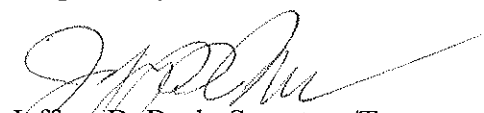
President Gary Price presented the Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap. Price noted that training was heavy during the winter months. Price requested that the Supervisors start the conversation regarding the fire coverage contract. Pipech added that the Township will coordinate the possible installation of a functioning dry hydrant at the upper Ice Lake.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: The Solicitor had no report but noted the Executive Session to be held after the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Planning Commission member Mark Manosky requested that the letter to DEP concerning the Heslop Road bridge be made available to the public. Beck also explained the Rents and Royalties income line on the budget to answer Manosky's question. Smith announced that he is seeking reelection for his second term, noting the smooth running of the Township over the last 5 years. Smith commented that none of the Supervisors had a personal agenda. Arnold added that Smith was a great member of the team. Pipech noted that the new recycle permits were available to residents only.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted:


Jeffrey D. Beck, Secretary/Treasurer