

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
3000 Church Road
Mountaintop, PA 18707
MINUTES
April 4, 2023

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, April 4, 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. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. It was announced that the meeting was being recorded to aid in drafting 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 called for public comment. Resident John Rogers introduced members of the Mountaintop Area Little League (MALL) and proposed an indoor baseball training facility at the park. MALL has \$250,000 in hand and Rogers asked if the Township could support MALL financially up to \$100,000 for this project and said that he would work to get the Ambulance Building which could be part of the training facility. Solicitor Jeckell asked Rogers to call her about the Ambulance building. Arnold expressed his interest. Resident Karl Kaminsky stated that we had enough recreation, did not need any more pickle ball courts, and asked why we did not get any County ARP funds? Rogers answered that the application was made and denied. Planning Commission member Bob Smith raised concern about inadequate parking at the park. Pipech and Arnold responded that the park master plan has more parking being added. Kaminsky, Arnold and Rogers continued the discussion centered around population growth in Rice Township and the Mountain in general, demand for recreation facilities and Kaminsky's question as to whether the recreation was really needed. Bob Smith asked for tree trimming along Henry Drive and fixes for broken telephone poles. Beck noted that the calls to utilities are made but poles are not replaced for fixed as long as wires are not broken. Charles Kirkutis, resident in Wilderness Estates, complained about water damage and drainage and the poor condition of the northern leg of Wilderness Drive. Pipech responded that the Public works crew will work on the road repair. Kaminsky asked about the bridge on Heslop Road. Pipech responded that the bridge is a County bridge and the Supervisors have done everything they can to get it replaced this year.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Pasonick reported that a meeting will be held on April 6 to work on proceeding with the Dam project, that the notice to proceed had been issued regarding the 2023 Pave Project, and that the Vista Drive and Nuangola Drive stormwater project would be advertised next week.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting held on March 7, 2023.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

Received the Treasurer's Report for March, 2023: Treasurer Beck reviewed the General Fund Check Register and pointed out the check to Barry Isett for soccer field work with DEP and the Conservation District, the payment of about \$70,000 to Blaise Alexander for the new work truck and the transfer of the same from the Money Market Account to pay for it. Beck noted that the LSA grant will reimburse the Township for the cost of the truck. The budget report showed that the tax receipts in the General Fund through March were below budget and the General Fund showed a small deficit through the first quarter. Beck reported nothing remarkable for the Liquid Fuels account and for the Recreation Fund. Beck reported that the General Fund balances totaled \$827,282.65 with \$45,322.75 restricted for K-9 donations, Liquid Fuels balances totaled \$129,389.65 and Recreation Fund balances totaled \$3,334.54, all for a total of \$960,006.84 cash on hand. Restricted balances include \$506.15 in the DCNR Grant Account and \$5,063.16 in the Developers' Escrow Account for a total of \$5,569.31 of restricted funds, all as of March 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.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for March, 2023: Roadmaster Pipech reported that the Township secured a truck and it would go to Powell to be upfitted. Pipech explained that we would retain the 4 older trucks in order to have a spare. He noted that hole patching would start when the hot mix plants open up and that the Public Works crew would repair the upper part of the northern leg of Wilderness Drive.

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 March, 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 March, 2023 from Zoning Officer Mleczynski:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to ratify the decision by poll to adopt Resolution 2023-4 authorizing Chairman Pipech as signer to all contracts.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to ratify the decision by poll to purchase a 2022 Chev. 5500 truck from Blaise Alexander for the COSTARS price of \$70,554.47 and to send the truck to Powell's Sales and Service for upfitting per estimate #32007 at a COSTARS cost of \$50,868.91. The LSA grant will pay 100% of the cost.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to ratify the decision by poll to amend the dollar amounts adopted at the March 7, 2023 meeting awarding the 2023 Pave Project to H&K Group as follows: Alternate B cost of \$72,065.81 to replace \$72,062.81 and total cost of \$251,170.23 to replace \$271,167.23, each amount higher by \$3.00, due to the error by the Secretary/Treasurer.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to ratify the decision by poll to participate in the joint electronics recycling event with Wright Township on August 12, 2023.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to ratify the decision by poll to approve the Mountaintop Area Little League use of the park baseball field from March through October, 2023, in cooperation with other users, the insurance certificate having been delivered.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech thanked Arnold for the successful Easter Egg Hunt, along with the tree lighting and Halloween extravaganza. Arnold thanked the Guydish family, Henry Mleczynski,, the Police, Carl and Bob for their support and help. Pipech announced that the Planning Commission met on March 22nd, 2023 and draft minutes are available.

The Board of Supervisors and the Solicitor will hold an executive session immediately following the meeting regarding contract negotiations.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: The Solicitor had no report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Pipech called for public comment but there was none.

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MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:47p.m..

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Beck', written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey D. Beck, Secretary/Treasurer