### December 6, 2022

The duly advertised meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, December 6th, 2022 at the Township Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA. Copies of the Agenda, draft Minutes of the November 1st, 2022 meeting, and Treasurer's Reports for November were available to the public. Chairman Robert Pipech called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and called for the Pledge of Allegiance. It was announced that the meeting was being recorded for preparing the minutes. Video cameras were also recording the meeting.

ROLL CALL: Arnold -

here

Pipech -

here

Smith -

here

Also present were: Please see sign-in sheet.

An Executive Session was held on November 16, 2022 at 4:30 PM at the Township Building to discuss personnel issues.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Pasonick reported that a meeting is being set up for next Tuesday or Wednesday to discuss progress regarding the Ice Lakes dam with DEP and Fabcor. In response to Arnold's question, Pasonick reported that no delivery date has been given on the ordered sluice gate. Bids will be sought for the stormwater management projects for Vista and Nuangola Drives early next year. Beck noted that we have to get a response from our H2O grant application before starting. Pipech asked Pasonick to get specs together for repair of the Laurel Drive culvert to seek bids early next year as well.

### **BUSINESS MATTERS:**

**MOTION** by Smith, second by Arnold, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on November 1, 2022.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for November, 2022: Treasurer Beck reported that there were no notable expenses for the month. Referencing the General Fund Budget versus Actual, he pointed out that the total, line 300 TAXES, showed that receipts were about even with the budget but he said that strong EIT receipts occur now through the end of the year. Beck concluded that the Township would again have a surplus for 2022. Beck also noted that Liquid Fuels continues to pay for truck repairs and that tree lighting expenses show in the Recreation Fund check register. Beck reported that the General Fund balances totaled \$730,696.62 with \$8,202.00 restricted for K-9 donations, Liquid Fuels balances totaled \$24,866.33 and Recreation Fund balances totaled \$3,842.01, all for a total of \$759,404.96 cash on hand. Restricted balances include \$502.26 in the

December 6, 2022

#### BUSINESS MATTERS Cont.

DCNR Grant Account and \$5,024.17 in the Developers' Escrow Account for a total of \$5,526.43 of restricted funds, all as of November 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

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for November, 2022: Roadmaster Pipech reported that plants are now only making cold patch and potholes will be repaired as weather permits. The trucks are ready for snow but one truck will have to go back to the dealer soon for service.

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 November, 2022 as presented by Chief Ehret. Chief announced that funds raised so far for the K-9 unit was over \$16,000.

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 November, 2022 as presented by Zoning Officer Mleczynski, noting that the Zoning Hearing Board continued their meeting from yesterday and would meet twice more concerning Zoning application denials.

**MOTION** by Smith, 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 November, 2022 as presented by Beck:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Smith, second by Pipech, to commit up to \$35,000 from the General Fund to proceed seeking the DEP permit for the soccer/multipurpose field by Barry Isett.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Smith, second by Pipech, to appoint Grevera & Associates to conduct the 2022 Audit at the cost of \$3,665.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

December 6, 2022

#### **BUSINESS MATTERS Cont.**

In compliance with the Police Contract:

**MOTION** by Arnold, second by Smith, to approve Resolution 2022-9 which states that payments into the police pension fund by members of the police department are eliminated for the year 2023, and no deductions should be made from the pay of the members for the purpose of contributing to the police pension fund.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

In compliance with the Police Contract: In response to Smith's question, Beck explained that the contract calls for a COLA for Franks and Commonwealth Act 600 limits an annual increase to no more than 3% and no more than a maximum 30% increase (10 years of 3% increases) over the life of the pension contract per individual. **MOTION** by Smith, second by Pipech, to approve the cost-of-living increase (COLA) to Robert Franks, Jr. of 3% for 2023.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - ves

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Arnold, second by Smith, to approve Resolution 2022-10 which authorizes the Secretary/Treasurer apply for a \$150,383 COVID-19 ARPA PA Small Water & Sewer grant for the 2023 Stormwater Project including the Vista/Laurel Drive and Nuangola Drive projects and to pay the \$100 application fee.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to approve the calendar of meeting dates for the Board of Supervisors as the first Tuesday of every month, 2023, except July, when the Board shall meet on Wednesday, July 5, and November, when the Board shall meet on Wednesday, November 8 to avoid election day, and the calendar of meetings for the Planning Commission as the fourth Wednesday of every month, 2023, except for November and December when those meetings are held on the Wednesday one week prior to avoid holidays, and for said meeting dates to be advertised.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - ves

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to adopt the following budget for Rice Township for 2023.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

December 6, 2022

,				Α	DOPTED
	RICE T	BUDGET			
	GENER	:			
		T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T			2023
Receipts					
	Total 300	.00 · TAXES		\$ :	L,160,700
	Total 320	·LICENSES	AND PERMITS	\$	19,700
	Total 331	00 · FINES	AND FORFEITS	\$	5,800
	Total 340.	00 - INTERE	ST, 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 · CHRG	S FOR SERVICE(DEPT EARNING)	\$	52,500
TR 1990 (AT 1911 (A 1846) A 1844 (1866)	Total 380	· Miscellan	eous Income	\$	61,264
Total Rec	eipts		·	\$ 1	,902,850
Expense			10 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		-
	Total 400-	409 · GENE	RAL GOVERNMENT	\$	162,995
	Total 410-419 · PUBLIC SAFETY CAT			\$	735,615
	Total 426-	429 · PUBLI	C WORKS-SANITATION	\$	24,250
	Total 430-	439 · PUBLI	C WORKS-HWYS /STREETS	\$	662,050
	İ	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	JRE/RECREATION	\$	2,750
	Ì		OYER PAID BENEFITS \$ WITHHO	\$	156,747
	Total 486.00 · INSURANCE			\$	59,900
	Total 487.00 · HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT			\$	205,200
			D PRIOR YEAR REVENUE	\$	10
P DA 2505 A School I I SA 1164 I as Albana Panda	Total 492.00 · INTERFUND TRANSFERS			\$	70,000
			YEE RELATED BENEFITS	\$	500
		roli Expens	,	, ; , \$	1,150
otal Expense			,081,167		
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		(178,317
Drawn from prior year's surplus				\$	178,317
2023 Budget Surplus/Defict				\$.	#10,311

**December 6, 2022** 

			Α	DOPTED
RICE TOWNSHIP			BUDGET	
LIQUID FUELS		2023		
Receipts				
ė.	Total 34	1.00 · INTEREST ON DEPOSITS	\$	290
21   1.5.7   1977   1978 - FEFFER FFF (175.7 )   446.8 A	355.02 · LIQUID FUEL TAX			132,505
Total Receipts			\$:	132,795
Expense				
Total 432.00 · SNOW REMOVAL		2.00 · SNOW REMOVAL	\$	40,000
	Total 433.00 · ROAD SIGNS		\$	1,000
434.00 · Stre		Street Lighting	\$	23,000
	Total 437.00 · REPAIRS & MAINT. TO EQUIPMENT			30,250
Total 43		3.00 · MAINT. & REPAIRS TO ROADS	\$	15,000
Total Expense			\$ 1	L09,250
Surplus	5			23,545

:	RICE TOWNSHIP RECREATION FUND		PROPOSED BUDGET	
i.				
			2023	
Receipt	:s			
	Total 341.00 · INTEREST EAR	NINGS \$	8	
	Total 360 · Charges for Servi	ces \$	3,500	
	392.00 · Transfer from Gene	ral Fund \$	70,000	
Total Receipts		\$	73,508	
Expense	9			
	Total 450 · Recreation		67,000	
	457.00 · CELEBRATIONS		6,000	
Total Expense		\$	73,000	
Surplus		\$	508	

### December 6, 2022

Rice Township Tax Rates

Total	0.26 mills (property assessed value x \$0.00026)
Real Estate Transfer Taxes	
Local Services Tax	\$5.00 Township; \$5.00 School District

There is NO tax increase for 2023.

### **BUSINESS MATTERS Cont.:**

**MOTION** by Arnold, second by Smith, to pass Resolution 2023-1 that the above millage and tax rate for Rice Township for 2023 be adopted as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Smith, second by Arnold, to renew the lease with FirstLight (Lessor) whereby Lessor pays \$3,500 per month from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 to lease space at 40 Willoweby Street.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Smith, second by Arnold, to renew the lease with Prumac, Inc. t/a Ice House Pub(Lessor) from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 to lease space at 40 Willoweby Street and Lessor pays \$1,250 by January 15, 2023 upon continent change.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes.

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Smith asked Beck to seek a cost of cleaning twice per month. Chief Ehret noted that the female officers are cleaning the bathroom themselves

**MOTION** by Arnold, second by Pipech, to hire Pinnacle Cleaning Service for monthly service at a monthly rate of \$80.00. Pinnacle Cleaning Service is bonded and insured.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith -yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to approve the following dues payments for 2023:

\$275.00 to Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance

\$30.00 to the Luzerne County Boroughs and Townships Association

\$150.00 to the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to ratify the decision by poll to purchase an

HIWMM.Y1.A.H.IM.OP19.AL.SB.T IGNITION office chair for the Zoning Office from HON/Stone Office for the COSTARS price of \$414.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**December 6, 2022** 

#### **BUSINESS MATTERS Cont.**

Arnold thanked the Police Department for all their help on the tree lighting event and FirstLight Fiber for their manpower and bucket trucks decorating the tree and Cavanaugh Electric for their help in suppling power for the Halloween Extravaganza and the Tree Lighting Event.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to authorize up to \$4,950 for the first annual Holiday Tree Lighting event.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Smith suggesting amending the motion to \$75, but Solicitor Jeckell stated that such a change needed to be taken up as a separate decision outside of this agenda.

**MOTION** by Arnold, second by Smith, to give full-time employees a holiday bonus of \$50 as a thank you for their dedicated service.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech thanked the residents for their cooperation and participation in the fall leaf program. Leaves brought to the recycle center by residents resulted in 2 dumpsters being filled and is estimated to have saved close to \$30,000 in taxpayer expense, allowing our Public Works Crew to patch roads and prepare the trucks for inclement weather.

Pipech also reported that the Planning Commission did not meet met on November 16 for lack of agenda items.

Gary Price reported that the Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap and added that the Fire Department would be at the Tree Lighting and would be transporting Santa on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Pipech also reported that the reorganization meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., and the first regular meeting of the Board will be held immediately following.

**MOTION** by Arnold, second by Smith, to amend the Agenda to correct the date of the Auditors meeting from 2021 to 2023.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

The reorganization meeting of the Township Auditors will be held on Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

### **December 6, 2022**

Pipech concluded the meeting wishing everyone a very happy, safe and healthy Holiday Season.

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted;

Jenrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer