

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA
December 5, 2023

The duly advertised meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors is held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023. Copies of the Agenda, draft Minutes of the November 8, 2023 meeting, and Treasurer's Reports for November are available to the public. Chairman Robert Pipech calls the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and calls for the Pledge of Allegiance. It is announced that the meeting is being recorded for preparing the minutes. Video cameras are also recording the meeting.

ROLL CALL: Arnold -
 Pipech -
 Smith -

Also present were:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by _____, second by _____, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on November 8, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____
MOTION CARRIED?

Received the Treasurer's Report for November, 2023:

MOTION by _____, second by _____, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and all bills to be paid.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____
MOTION CARRIED?

Received the Roadmaster's Report for November, 2023:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____
MOTION CARRIED?

Received the Police Report for November, 2023:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____
MOTION CARRIED?

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BUSINESS MATTERS Cont.

Received the Zoning Report for November, 2023:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____

MOTION CARRIED?

Received the SEO Report for November, 2023:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____

MOTION CARRIED?

In compliance with the Police Contract:

MOTION by _____, second by _____, to approve Resolution 2023-9 which states that payments into the police pension fund by members of the police department are eliminated for the year 2024, 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 - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____

MOTION CARRIED?

In compliance with the Police Contract:

MOTION by _____, second by _____, to approve the cost-of-living increase (COLA) to Robert Franks, Jr. of 3% for 2024.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____

MOTION CARRIED?

MOTION by _____, second by _____, to approve the calendar of meeting dates for the Board of Supervisors as the first Tuesday of every month, 2024, except November, when the Board shall meet on Wednesday, November 6 to avoid election day, and the calendar of meetings for the Planning Commission as the fourth Wednesday of every month, 2024, 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 - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____

MOTION CARRIED?

MOTION by _____, second by _____, to adopt the following budget for Rice Township for 2024.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____

MOTION CARRIED?

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		PROPOSED
Rice Township-General Fund		BUDGET
		2024
Income		
	Total 300.00 · TAXES	\$ 1,173,150
	Total 320 · LICENSES AND PERMITS	\$ 17,000
	Total 331.00 · FINES AND FORFEITS	\$ 6,260
	Total 340.00 · INTEREST, RENTS AND ROYALTIES	\$ 26,350
	Total 354.00 · STATE CAPITAL & OPER GRANTS	\$ 1,261,500
	Total 355.00 · STATE SHARED REV. & ENTITLEMENT	\$ 96,510
	Total 356.00 · STATE PMT IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$ 1,277
	Total 357.00 - Local Govt Grants	\$ 443,000
	Total 358.00 · LOCAL GOV PMT CONTRACTED SVCS	\$ 34,067
	Total 360-370 · CHRGS FOR SERVICE(DEPT EARNING)	\$ 23,000
	Total 380.00 · MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$ 5,020
	Total 389.00 - UNCLASSIFIED OPERATING INCOME	\$ 1,000
Gross Profit		\$ 3,088,134
Expense		
	Total 400-409 · GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 195,994
	Total 410-419 · PUBLIC SAFETY CAT	\$ 601,840
	Total 426-429 · PUBLIC WORKS-SANITATION	\$ 19,010
	Total 430-439 · PUBLIC WORKS-HWYS /STREETS	\$ 1,595,845
	Total 450-459 - CULTURE/RECREATION	\$ 22,250
	Total 481-484 · EMPLOYER PAID BENEFITS \$ WITHHO	\$ 150,868
	Total 486.00 · INSURANCE	\$ 71,448
	Total 487.00 · HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT	\$ 242,136
	Total 489.00 - UNCLASSIFIED EXPENDITURES	\$ 1,800
	Total 491.00 · REFUND PRIOR YEAR REVENUE	\$ 50
	492.00 · INTERFUND TRANSFERS	\$ 450,500
	Total 493.00 · EMPLOYEE RELATED BENEFITS	\$ 3,750
	6560 · Payroll Expenses	\$ 1,200
Total Expense		\$ 3,356,691
Net Income		\$ (268,557)
	Transfer from Prior Years	\$ 268,557
	Net surplus (deficit)	\$ -

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		PROPOSED
RICE TOWNSHIP 2024		BUDGET
LIQUID FUELS		2024
Income		
341.00	· INTEREST ON DEPOSITS	\$ 1,800
355.02	· LIQUID FUEL TAX	\$ 132,985
Total Income		\$ 134,785
Expense		
430.00	- PUBLIC WORKS ADMIN	\$ 10
432.00	· SNOW REMOVAL	\$ 40,000
433.00	- ROAD SIGNS	\$ 1,000
434.00	· Street Lighting	\$ 24,000
437.00	· REPAIRS & MAINT. TO EQUIPMI	\$ 25,000
438.00	· MAINT. & REPAIRS TO ROADS	\$ 78,250
Total Expense		\$ 168,260
Net Income		\$ (33,475)
SURPLUS FROM PRIOR YEAR		\$ 33,475
Net Surplus (deficit)		\$ -

RICE TOWNSHIP		PROPOSED
RECREATION FUND		BUDGET
		2024
Income		
341.00	· INTEREST EARNINGS	\$ 6
392.00	· Transfer from General Fund	\$ 450,500
Total Income		\$ 450,506
Expense		
454.00	· PARKS	\$ 443,000
457	· CIVIL AND MILITARY CELEBRATIC	\$ 7,500
Total Expense		\$ 450,500
Net Income		\$ 6

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Rice Township Tax Rates

Total.....0.26 mills (property assessed value x \$0.00026)
Real Estate Transfer Taxes.....1/2 of 1% collected
Local Services Tax.....\$5.00 Township; \$5.00 School District

There is NO tax increase for 2024.

BUSINESS MATTERS Cont.:

MOTION by _____, second by _____, to pass Resolution 2024-1 that the above millage and tax rate for Rice Township for 2024 be adopted as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____

MOTION CARRIED?

MOTION by _____, second by _____, to approve the following dues payments for 2024:

\$295.00 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 - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____

MOTION CARRIED?

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____

MOTION CARRIED?

MOTION by _____, second by _____, to give full-time employees a holiday bonus of \$75 as a thank you for their dedicated service.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____

MOTION CARRIED?

MOTION by _____, second by _____, to adopt Solar Panel Ordinance 2023-2.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____

MOTION CARRIED?

MOTION by _____, second by _____, to adopt Stormwater Management Ordinance 2023-1.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____

MOTION CARRIED?

MOTION by _____, second by _____, to join the PSATS Short-term Disability Level 2 Plan at an annual cost not to exceed \$2,200.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____

MOTION CARRIED?

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BUSINESS MATTERS Cont.:

MOTION by _____, second by _____, to approve Pay Application #3 from Fabcor in the amount of \$206,824.61 for the Ice Ponds Dam Retrofit Project as recommended by the Township Engineer.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____
MOTION CARRIED?

MOTION by _____, second by _____, to adopt the decision by poll to allow the Secretary/Treasurer to attend the PSATS QuickBooks webinar on November 30, 2023 at a cost of \$55 and the Conservation District Municipal Session on December 8, 2023 at a cost of \$28.52.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____
MOTION CARRIED?

MOTION by _____, second by _____, to enter into the one-year contract with Geisinger for the Geisinger Funding Alternative Plan from 2/1/2024 to 1/31/2025 at a maximum cost of \$224,667.72, an increase of 4.67%.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - _____ Pipech - _____ Smith - _____
MOTION CARRIED?

The Supervisors want to thank 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.

The Planning Commission met on November 15.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap was received.

The reorganization meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., and the first regular meeting of the Board will be held immediately following. The reorganization meeting of the Township Auditors will be held on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 5:00 p.m..

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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The Board of Supervisors, Police and Employees wish everyone a very happy, safe and healthy Holiday Season.

MOTION by _____, second by _____, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at _____ p.m.

DRAFT