

**RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – MINUTES**  
**3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA**  
**JANUARY 2, 2024**

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop immediately following the Reorganization Meeting. Copies of the Agenda, draft minutes of the previous meeting and Treasurer Reports were available to the public. Chair Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:05 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  
Romanyshyn - here

Also present are: Please see sign in sheet.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was none.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Pasonick reported on the Ice Lake dam leak testing, gathering as-built plans for DEP, assembling the training and operations manual and securing the gate key at the Township building, all to be completed before the final payment is made. Romanyshyn inquired about removing the coffer dam and adding a step up for the gate bridge. Pipech asked that Pasonick review the condition of the Ice Ponds north road with him. The condition of the floating dock at the Ice Lake was also discussed. Pasonick reported that the contractor had mobilized for the 2023 Drainage Improvement project.

**BUSINESS MATTERS:**

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Romanyshyn, to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting on December 5, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes    Pipech - yes    Romanyshyn - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Romanyshyn, to accept the Treasurer's Report for December, 2023, as presented, and all bills to be paid.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes    Pipech - yes    Romanyshyn - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

Roadmaster Pipech reported that the storm had flooded out Aleksander Blvd. but all were safe. Pipech noted that all trucks were ready to meet the next snow storm on Sunday.

**MOTION** by Arnold, second by Romanyshyn, to accept the Roadmaster's Report for December, 2023 as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes    Pipech - yes    Romanyshyn - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes    Pipech - yes    Romanyshyn - yes  
MOTION CARRIED.

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**BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont.):**

**MOTION** by Romanyshyn, second by Pipech, to accept the Zoning Report for December, 2023, as presented.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes                                      Pipech - yes                                      Romanyshyn - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Secretary Beck reported that there was no SEO report for this month.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Romanyshyn, to submit a new Salt Contract Participation Agreement to DGS COSTARS for the August 2024-July 2025 Season. We requested 500 tons for the 2023-2024 Season.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes                                      Pipech - yes                                      Romanyshyn - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Romanyshyn, to adopt the proposed Geisinger health plan for 2/1/2024 to 1/31/2025 at an annual cost of \$227,868.06, an increase of 4.6%.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes                                      Pipech - yes                                      Romanyshyn - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Romanyshyn, to hire Pinnacle Cleaning Service for twice monthly service at a monthly rate of \$150.00. Pinnacle Cleaning Service is bonded and insured.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes                                      Pipech - yes                                      Romanyshyn - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Romanyshyn, to donate \$400 to Emmanuel United Church of Christ in Dorrance in memory of Bob and Roger's mother, Myrtle Duffy.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes                                      Pipech - yes                                      Romanyshyn - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Romanyshyn, to pay the Secretary/Treasurer's Health Care Expenses for 2024 as stated in the annual petition for coverage in accordance with the Township's Personnel Manual, not as compensation, saving the Township an estimated \$13,138 in health care expenses this year.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes                                      Pipech - yes                                      Romanyshyn - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Arnold, second by Pipech, to ratify the decision by poll to advertise for a part-time police officer.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes                                      Pipech - yes                                      Romanyshyn - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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Arnold reported that the Auditors meeting will be held at 5:00 PM tomorrow, January 3, 2024 as advertised; that the Planning Commission did not meet on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for lack of agenda items; that the Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Fire Police Incident Recap was received; that the Rice Township books were closed December 31, 2023 and an Audit of the Township books will be conducted.

Arnold also noted that with the snow season here, the Police Department asked that residents remove all portable basketball hoops along the road and refrain from parking on Township roads or rights-of-way during storms for safe snow removal.

Arnold also announced that it has come to the attention of the Board of Supervisors that property owners have placed encroachments onto the Township road rights-of-way. Consistent with Pennsylvania Act 75 and Township ordinances, these encroachments can create hazards, and their existence is in violation of Commonwealth law. In anticipation of the 2024 Pave Project which will occur in Laurel Lakes, Township officials will conduct an assessment of the rights-of-way in Laurel Lakes and will notify residents if they need to remove items placed in the rights-of-way. Such assessments will occur across the Township as time permits. Residents' timely cooperation in removing any encroachments is greatly appreciated.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Resident Perdoch inquired about dog signs for the development and Beck responded that he would order them. Perdoch asked about road line painting and Pipech replied that the Township would contract for that in the spring/summer.

Bryan Brown presented his EMC report.

Arnold thanked the Police and everyone for their support for the tree lighting event.

Auditor Bierzynski thanked Arnold for the gingerbread house.

Pipech expressed condolences to Carol Duffy concerning the death of her mother-in-law.

**MOTION** by Pipech, second by Romanyshyn, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Jeffrey D. Beck, Secretary/Treasurer