

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
3000 Church Road
Mountaintop, PA 18707
MINUTES
May 2, 2023

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 2, 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 would be 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: Resident Karl Kaminsky inquired why the Ice Lakes Retrofit Project had to be completed, who would set up the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for the Ice Lake Dam and thought the Township should sell the lake back to the lake residents. Engineer Pasonick explained that the EAP was coordinated through Harrisburg by our Emergency Action Coordinator and that the project itself was required by Commonwealth law setting emergency dewatering standards for man-made lakes. Arnold noted that the Ice Lakes Park is an attraction across Luzerne County. Planning Commission member Mark Manosky noted that Frontier will be installing fiber optic cable underground in Wilderness Estates. Pipech explained that the County was awaiting sign-off on temporary right-of-way by the property owners on each side of the Heslop Road bridge pending its replacement. Planning Commission member Bob Smith thanked Senator Culver working on grant awards and the open house with Representative Ryncavage. Arnold explained that Senator Culver retained Senator Gordner's Chief-of-Staff who has a lot of experience and that the Senator has been active in meeting with folks in her very large district. Richard Wojtowicz from 125 Nuangola Drive asked about stormwater management and Pasonick noted that the ad for the project was going out soon.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Pasonick reported that the plan was to start dewatering around June 1 and that a pre-dewatering meeting was to be held on May 16 with Fabcor and DEP. Pasonick also reported that the Notice to Proceed was sent to H&K regarding the 2023 Pave Project starting with base repair and that the Drainage project bids will be opened May 24th. Arnold asked that Pasonick check on the sluice gate valve and cat walk availability.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting held on April 4, 2023 and the minutes of the Special meeting held on April 18, 2023.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

Received the Treasurer's Report for April, 2023. Treasurer Beck noted that there were no remarkable expenses for the month and that tax receipts were catching up to the budget. Beck reported no news for Liquid Fuels but noted the payment to Barry Isett for the soccer/multipurpose field as the application for the NPDES permit goes through the DEP/Conservation District process. Beck reported that the General Fund balances totaled \$755,405.02 with \$45,692.75 restricted for K-9 donations, Liquid Fuels balances totaled \$123,536.13 and Recreation Fund balances totaled \$3,341.49, all for a total of \$882,521.38 cash on hand. Restricted balances include \$507.25 in the DCNR Grant Account and \$5,074.19 in the Developers' Escrow Account for a total of \$5,581.44 of restricted funds, all as of April 30, 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 April, 2023: Roadmaster Pipech reported that the Public Works crew has been clearing pipes and drains though the rainy weather has not been cooperative. The crew will skim coat the top of the Northern leg of Wilderness Drive. Pipech also reported that the new truck is being upfitted by Powell Sales and that the Township will keep the older 4 trucks in order to have backup.

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 April, 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 April, 2023 as presented by Zoning Officer Mlecczynski:

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 Smith, second by Arnold, to ratify the decision by poll to adopt Resolution 2023-5 supporting the America250PA celebration.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to ratify the decision by poll to paint the new truck cab red at a cost of \$8,000 payable by the LSA grant.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to ratify the decision by poll to upgrade the Police Station with paint, baseboard, carpet and lockers which will likely exceed the previous \$8,000 limit.

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

MOTION CARRIED. Pipech noted that the station uses space more effectively. Arnold thanked the officers for their help during the construction.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to ratify the decision by poll to engage Ecological Solutions to manage the lily pad growth on the lower Ice Lake not to exceed \$5,000.

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

MOTION CARRIED. Arnold noted that this action really helps manage the pads in the lower lake.

MOTION by Smith, second by Pipech, to donate \$250 to Wright Recreational and Environmental, Inc. supporting the fireworks display on July 3, 2023. This donation is the same amount as 2022.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to appoint Jeffrey Held to the Zoning Hearing Board to replace Henry Krajewski who died recently, term to expire at the end of 2023 and appoint Thomas Cherry as the Zoning Hearing Board alternate, term to expire at the end of 2025.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

The Planning Commission met on April 26th, 2023 and draft minutes are available.

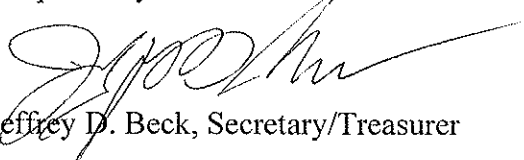
Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap were presented by Gary Price. Arnold thanked the Fire Company for their presence at the Easter Egg Hunt.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: The Solicitor had no report but announced that an Executive session would be held immediately following the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident Kaminsky stated that painting the truck cab was too expensive. Beck noted that the other bid was \$10,400.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m..

Respectfully submitted:


Jeffrey D. Beck, Secretary/Treasurer