3000 Church Road Mountaintop, PA 18707 MINUTES July 5, 2023

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, July 5, 2023, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road. Copies of the Agenda, draft minutes of the previous meeting and Treasurer Reports were available to the public. Vice-Chair Richard Arnold 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 for preparing the minutes. Interior cameras were also recording the meeting.

ROLL CALL: Arnold

- here

Pipech

- absent

Smith

- here

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to ratify the decision by poll to hire Ronald Dombroski as patrolman for the Rice Township police department with a hire date of June 13, 2023 to replace Officer Jenna Rejnes who will resign from the force in July, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech -

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Notary Centurione proceeded to swear in Officer Dombroski.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Pasonick reported that the DEP letter had been received relating to the response to the 11 items and that the dewatering process for the upper Ice Lakes was proceeding. In response to questions from resident Derwin, the lake will be dewatered to the coffer dam and the area between the coffer dam and the main dam will be dewatered to allow for the repairs to be made. The project is expected to be completed over several months. Arnold noted that the necessary parts for the dam project have already been ordered. Pasonick reported that the 2023 Pave Project was on hold pending potential change order costs associated with additional work on Ice House Drive. Pasonick also stated that the 2023 Drainage project was being rescoped and should be ready for review in a few weeks. Resident Jim Perdoch expressed his frustration with the lack of communication and delay in finalizing the plan for Ice House Drive. Arnold explained that he was awaiting the costs for additional work and would call a meeting when the costs were received. Arnold also noted that the road surface was in much better shape after the loose chips were removed and the fog seal would set a smoother surface when complete. Arnold also said that the Township would look into "clean up after your dog" signs as suggested for the developments in the Township. In response to Perdoch's question, Beck explained the LSA grant process and that the "road budget" was a function of grant receipts.

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BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smi	ith, to approve the Minutes of	the regular meeting held on June 6, 2023
ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes	Pipech -	Smith - yes
MOTION CARRIED.		

Received the Treasurer's Report for June, 2023: Treasurer Beck referred to the General Fund Check Register noting the two payments to the Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company, the PIRMA and AmTrust insurance payments of \$21,692 and \$22,068 respectively, and the transfer of \$136,000 from the Money Market to the Checking Account since June is a slow EIT receipt month. Beck referred to the General Fund Budget versus Actual through June noting that tax receipts were on target with budget and that the YTD deficit would also track to budget by removing the restricted K-9 donations. Beck reported that Liquid Fuels numbers were remarkable in that very little has been expended for truck repairs and that nothing remarkable has happened in the Rec Fund. Beck reported that the General Fund balances totaled \$824,984.79 with \$55,545.90 restricted for K-9 donations. Liquid Fuels balances totaled \$119,602.72 and Recreation Fund balances totaled \$3,497.04, all for a total of \$948,084.55 cash on hand. Restricted balances include \$509.53 in the DCNR Grant Account and \$5,097.02 in the Developers' Escrow Account for a total of \$5,606.55 of restricted funds, all as of June 30, 2023.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech -

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for June, 2023: Arnold noted that the road crew was working on roads and parks as weather permitted. Beck added that the new truck will be delivered this week but was under recall for spontaneous combustion, awaiting notification from GM that parts were available to correct the defect.

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech -

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to accept the Police Report as presented by Chief Ehret.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech -

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Zoning Report for June, 2023:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech -

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to approve the hiring of Jenna Rajnes as a substitute police officer during 2023 without benefits when needed at Chief Ehret's discretion.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech -

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to table the adoption of Resolution 2023-7 pending refinement of the costs for the bridge project. In response to Smith's question, Beck explained that the costs needed to be reviewed and that potentially an additional grant with Nuangola to pave Van Ave should be pursued.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech -

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to approve the attendance of the Supervisors and staff at the Luzerne County Association of Township Officials annual meeting on September 21, 2023 in Trucksville at a cost of \$25.00 per person.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech -

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Smith, to approve the Secretary/Treasurer's attendance to the PSATS Northeast Regional Forum on September 27, 2023 in Tannersville at a cost of \$99.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech -

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Arnold reported that the Planning Commission met on June 26th, 2023 and draft minutes will be available when completed. However, no reports from the Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police were received.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: No report

PUBLIC COMMENT: Supervisor Smith thanked Bruce Fine for the donation of time and equipment for the build-out of the police station. Smith also thanked Officer Stout and the other officers for their individual efforts in renovating the station. Office Stout thanked Arnold for his help with the construction.

In response to resident Derwin's question, Chief Ehret reported that the K-9 car has been ordered. Once a delivery date for the vehicle is set, then the dog will be ordered and Officer Stout will train for 6 weeks with the dog. At that point the dog will be about 1 year old with an average work life of about 8 years. Fund raising and grants have totaled about \$95,000 to cover the initial expenses and will need to raise about \$5,000 annually to cover operating expenses. Arnold acknowledged Officer Stout's commitment to this project.

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m..

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Respectfully submitted:

Jeffrey D. Beck, Secretary/Treasurer