November 8, 2023 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, November 8, 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. 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 was being 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 Kaminski asked when the stop signs at the temporary Heslop Road bridge would be removed. Pipech will check. Resident John Rodgers update the Supervisors on the Little League grant and the desire to attach a baseball training building to the ambulance building. The Solicitor will draft a lease agreement for the Little League noting that the current judge recused herself. Pipech also noted that the National Park Service must approve anything that we do at the park. Resident Jim Perdock asked about the doggy signs for the Ice Lakes and asked that the Secretary provide all meeting documents the day before the meeting. Beck noted the legal requirement to do so for the Agenda but could not guarantee any of the other documents on that time frame. Benzi asked and confirmed that all grant applications were approved by the Board of Supervisors.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Engineer Pasonick reported that the sluice gate and the walkway would be delivered by tomorrow and completion was still expected before Thanksgiving. Pasonick also noted that Columbia Excavating was the low bidder for the Drainage Project.

#### **BUSINESS MATTERS:**

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting held on October 11, 2023.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for October, 2023: Treasurer Beck reported that check # 4193 for \$200,000 to the H&K Group for the 2023 Pave Project will be reimbursed by an LSA grant. Beck noted the check #4214 for the Rice Township share of Workers Comp insurance with Wright Township for the Fire Company, and the \$4,500 transfer to the Recreation Fund. Beck pointed out the General Fund tax receipts were running slightly ahead of budget, that pension state aid line #355.05 exceeded budget and allowed additional funds to flow to the pension plans and that the large deficit shown to budget would be offset somewhat by grant reimbursements. Beck turned to the Liquid Fuels account, pointing out the almost \$9 thousand expenditures for new tires and maintenance on two of the trucks but that the surplus for the year could still be about \$80,000. Beck also noted the expenses in the Recreation Fund for the Halloween Extravaganza. Beck reported that the General Fund balances totaled \$382,594.12 with \$59,208.52 restricted for K-9 donations. Liquid Fuels balances totaled \$110,845.47 and Recreation Fund balances totaled \$3,703.45, all for a total of \$497,143.04 cash on hand.

November 8, 2023

3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA

Restricted balances include \$514.31 in the DCNR Grant Account and \$5,144.85 in the Developers' Escrow Account for a total of \$5,659.16 of restricted funds, all as of October 31, 2023.

### **BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):**

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.

Beck will calculate prior year surpluses in response to Perdoch's request. Beck also explained the G/L application for K-9 donations and expense.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for October, 2023: Roadmaster Pipech reported that all trucks were in good shape and ready for winter weather. The Public Works crew was out cold patching whenever weather permitted.

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 October, 2023:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Chief Ehret explained that the K-9 stayed with Officer Stout and his family 24/7 in response to Auditor Bierzynski's question.

Received the Zoning Report for October, 2023:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Arnold, seconded by Smith, to renew the lease agreement with Prumac, Inc. t/a Ice House Pub for rental of real property located along the roadway at 40 Willoweby Street for parking purposes only for the term of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 for a one time payment from Prumac, Inc. of \$1,250.00.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - ves

MOTION CARRIED. Resident Perdoch questioned the low cost and the Supervisors explained that the Ice House Pub supports Township events and takes care of the parking lot.

**MOTION** by Smith, seconded by Pipech, to award the 2023 Rice Township Drainage Improvement Project to Columbia Excavating, LLC as the low bidder for the base bid of \$121,144.44 and the Alternate #1 for \$78,250 for a total contract price of \$198,394.44.

Arnold asked if the contractors were vetted, a little gun shy from previous experience. Pasonick noted that they are bonded and the bonds cannot be transferred to another contractor. The project begins after the Notice to Proceed is issued.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

November 8, 2023 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA

## **BUSINESS MATTERS (Cont):**

**MOTION** by Smith, seconded by Arnold, to renew the dental plan contract with Delta Dental with no increase in rates for 2024.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Smith, second by Pipech, to adopt the following proposed budget for Rice Township for 2024 and authorize its advertisement.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

November 8, 2023
3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA

		PROPOSE
	Rice Township-General Fund	BUDGET
		2024
I	ncome	
	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
1 1	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
	<b>Total 357.00 - Local Govt Grants</b>	\$ 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
E	xpense	-
	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
let Inco	ome	\$ (268,557
	Transfer from Prior Years	\$ 268,557
1	Net surplus (deficit)	

November 8, 2023 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA

# PROPOSED

			COL OBEA	
RI	RICE TOWNSHIP 2024		BUDGET	
	LIQUID FUELS	:	2024	
Inco	ome		***************************************	
3	341.00 · INTEREST ON DEPOSITS	\$	1,800	
3	355.02 · LIQUID FUEL TAX	\$	132,985	
Tota	Total Income		134,785	
Exp	ense			
4	30.00 - PUBLIC WORKS ADMIN	\$	10	
4	32.00 · SNOW REMOVAL	\$	40,000	
4	33.00 - ROAD SIGNS	\$	1,000	
4	34.00 · Street Lighting	\$	24,000	
4	437.00 · REPAIRS & MAINT. TO EQUIPMI		25,000	
4	438.00 · MAINT. & REPAIRS TO ROADS		78,250	
Tota	Total Expense		168,260	
Net Inc	let Income		(33,475)	
	SURPLUS FROM PRIOR YEAR	\$	33,475	
	Net Surplus (deficit)	\$	-	

RICE	TOWNSHIP	PR	OPOSED	
RECREATION FUND			BUDGET	
			2024	
Income				
	341.00 · INTEREST EARNINGS	\$	6	
	392.00 · Transfer from General Fund	\$	450,500	
Total Income		\$	450,506	
Expense			POPUNE PROPER CONTROL ON A STATE OF THE STAT	
	454.00 · PARKS	\$	443,000	
	457 · CIVIL AND MILITARY CELEBRAT	ric s	7,500	
Total Expense		\$	450,500	
Net Income		\$	6	

November 8, 2023 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA

The pickleball and tennis courts lights are turned off for the winter.

The Roadmaster announces that leaf drop off concludes on Saturday, November 18th. Leaves can be left by the dumpster in the recycle area and must be in clear plastic bags. Branches cut to a length of 3 feet and no more than 1" in diameter may also be left. Holders of the Rice Township 2023-24 Recycle Permit will be allowed to leave their leaves. Cameras record the area.

The Planning Commission met on October 25, 2023.

Form 706B was filed with the Auditor General's office.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report & Fire Police Incident Recap. Arnold reported on the Fire Company's activities for the month, noting that they gave out about 2,000 safety lights at the Rice and Wright Halloween events. Arnold thanked the Fire Department, Rice Township Police Department, Cavanaugh's for their donation of time to set up the electricity for the event, support from the Guydish family, the Crowders and Officer Dombroski's wife. He also thanked the Public Works crew for all their work along the park trails and getting materials for the houses. They also transported one of those houses up to the tree for the Tree Lighting event scheduled for December 16, 2023 at 5 PM.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** The Solicitor reported that the judge hearing the case about the ambulance building recused herself so the issue was awaiting the assignment of another judge. The Solicitor also announced an executive session immediately following the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Kaminski thanked Carl Smith for his service as Supervisor. Supervisor-elect Tom Romanyshyn will be sworn in at the Reorganization Meeting on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. Auditors Felicia Beirzynski and Scott Dane were also recognized for their reelection. Planning Commission member Mark Manosky recognized the Heslop Road bridge as well done, and it taking 3 years to complete. Resident Benzi asked for Wilderness Drive to be repaved, that water from the road be diverted away from his property and that he wants a grant application submitted to keep the water off his property. Beck noted that he accompanied Engineer Pasonick over a year ago in a heavy rainstorm and that water did not exit the road onto his property. Benzi disagreed. Additional discussion between Benzi, Arnold and Smith occurred.

November 8, 2023 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop, PA

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:07p.m..

Respectfully Submitted:

Jeffrey D. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer