

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
3000 Church Road
Mountaintop, PA 18707
MINUTES
August 1, 2023

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, August 1, 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 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 questioned a recent article that Representative Ryncavage secured an additional \$500,000 for the Dam. Arnold explained that there was only one grant of that size, not two. Kaminski suggested a grant application be written to build out the unimproved extension of Heslop Road to the Broadway Tavern. Arnold and Pipech explained that this section runs through the game lands. Arnold also noted that a secondary access for Heslop Road is in the Woodberry PRD plan, but probably 15-20 years in the future. In response to Pipech, Beck reported the meeting at the temporary Heslop Road bridge with the County Executive and head of operations and that the temporary bridge will be remade to allow school bus and emergency vehicle access. Planning Commission member Mark Manosky, Kaminski and resident Elvio Benzi all complained about the need for walkways and lighting around the bridge. Solicitor Jeckell emphasized the County ownership of the bridge and encouraged attendance at the County Council meetings to make these complaints. Chief Ehret noted that he broached the lighting subject at the meeting at the bridge but the County project did not contemplate any lighting. The Chief added that roads are designed for vehicles, not pedestrian traffic. Dr. Darren Hohn, resident of Ice Lakes complained about the tar and chip on Ice House Drive and asked that the roads be paved. Pipech and Arnold replied that the roads in the Ice Lakes were improperly installed and that this administration was playing “catch up”, that tar and chip was more cost and performance effective than paving, and that the hope was the project would be completed in mid-August. Arnold invited Hohn to the meeting on August 7 at 4:30 regarding the Ice House Drive project. Hohn also complained about the safety issue created by a resident on Ice Harvest Drive who is putting out corn for the wild deer. This is creating a significant vehicle hazard at night. The Supervisors noted that the Game Commissioner had cc'd them on a letter to that resident asking them to stop feeding the deer but that there is no law preventing it.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Pasonick noted that some minor changes were being discussed with DEP concerning the Ice Lakes Dam project and did not expect them to impede the project. Pasonick reported that the 2023 Pave Project could wrap up the middle of August and that the plans for the stormwater project for Vista and Nuangola Ave was wrapping up.

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BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Smith, second by Arnold, to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting held on July 5, 2023 and the special meeting held on July 27, 2023.

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Treasurer's Report for July, 2023: Treasurer Beck referred to the General Fund Check Register noting the payment to Powell's Sales and Service of \$58,868.91 to upfit the new truck, this amount to be reimbursed from the LSA grant and the transfer of \$100,000 from the Money Market Account to Checking as Earned Income Tax Receipts are small in July. Beck referred to the General Fund Budget versus Actual through July noting that tax receipts remain on target with budget and that year-to-date total receipts also track to budget after removing the restricted K-9 donations. Beck referred to page 6 of the report and noted that the budget deficit to date will normalize after reimbursements are received for the new truck. Beck reported that Liquid Fuels numbers remain unremarkable 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 \$722,842.98 with \$55,950.90 restricted for K-9 donations. Liquid Fuels balances totaled \$117,860.70 and Recreation Fund balances totaled \$3,504.41, all for a total of \$844,208.09 cash on hand. Restricted balances include \$510.70 in the DCNR Grant Account and \$5,108.71 in the Developers' Escrow Account for a total of \$5,619.41 of restricted funds, all as of July 31, 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 - yes Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for July, 2023: Roadmaster Pipech reported that the new truck will have decals applied soon and we are keeping all five trucks for the winter. Arnold added that the new guide rails on Henry drive look great and that the Public Works crew was doing a great job repairing the roads.

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

Received the Police Report for July, 2023:

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

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Police Report for July, 2023 as presented by Chief Ehret.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED.

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BUSINESS MATTERS (CONT)

Received the Zoning Report for July, 2023 as presented by Zoning Officer Mleczynski:

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - yes

Pipech - yes

Smith - yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Pipech reported that Rice Township submitted an application for a DCED Multimodal grant in the amount of \$611,500 to repair the steel girder bridge on Henry Drive and replace the steel arch bridge on Laurel Drive. Nuangola Borough submitted an application for a DCED Multimodal grant in the amount of \$250,322 supported by Rice Township to repave Van Avenue, jointly owned by Nuangola Borough and Rice Township. The Planning Commission met on July 26th, 2023 and draft minutes will be available when completed.


Arnold reported on the Fire Police Incident Recap.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment. Pipech stated that, despite some complaints, tar and chip was the future go-to paving process. Residents in Wilderness Estates thanked the Roadmaster for the application on their roads. Snow plows will not take it up. Dorrence will be double tar and chipping in the Blue Ridge development.

MOTION by Arnold, second by Pipech, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m..

Respectfully submitted:


Jeffrey D. Beck
Secretary/Treasurer