

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

JANUARY 12, 2021

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on January 12, 2021 at 7:00PM at the Rockland Township Municipal Building. The following board members were present: Chairman David Wartzluft, Vice Chairman Nathan Ohlinger and Michele Albright. Also present were Attorney Jim Smith (Township Solicitor) and interested citizens.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chairman David Wartzluft. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag.

The minutes of the Board of Supervisors' Organization Meeting held on January 4, 2021 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the January 4, 2021 Organization Meeting minutes were approved as presented. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The balance sheets, check detail and deposit detail for December 2020 were prepared by the Secretary/Treasurer for the Board's review with the following balances reported to the Board of Supervisors.

101.000	General Fund – Checking	8,214.54
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,653,872.96
107.001	General Fund – Savings	7,490.41
107.002	General Fund – Certificate of Deposit	109,120.81
107.006	General Fund – Savings (PRIME)	1,540,944.56
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	209,648.15
	State Aid Account – Checking	408.88
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	113,890.87
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	33,978.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,921.21
	Total as of December 31, 2020:	\$3,696,690.39

On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the balance sheets, check and deposit details for December 2020 were approved as presented. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Jerry Keller, Lyons Volunteer Fire Company provided the Board with a copy of the Year-End Report for the Lyons Fire Company. The Lyons Fire Company responded to 295 total emergency calls in 2020, with 150 of those calls in Rockland Township. Mr. Keller also provided the Township with a listing of 2021 elected and appointed officers for the Lyons Volunteer Fire Company, contact information for all officers and financial information. Of the 28 active fire fighters listed for Lyons Fire Company, 23 of these active fire fighters live in Rockland Township. Township officials recognized the following Fire Police for Lyons Fire Company for 2021: James Melander (Captain), Ronald Kriebel (Lieutenant), Cheryl Melander (Sergeant), Stephen Unis, Jr. and Donna Vanderpool. Mr. Keller also introduced Township officials and meeting attendees to Mr. Larry Waldbiesser, President of the Ruscombmanor Fire Company (who was also in attendance at tonight's meeting).

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

Agreement – Hertzog School Road Turn-Around – The Township Solicitor informed the Board that the agreement has been drafted and will likely be ready for the Board's review and approval at next month's meeting.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

Dead Trees Located in Township ROW (84 Schweitz Road, 65 Sally Ann Furnace Road and 104 Schweitz Road) – Letters were mailed to the property owners for these three properties (informing the property owners that this matter would be added to tonight’s meeting agenda and informing the property owners that they were welcome to attend tonight’s meeting to participate in the discussion regarding trees located in the Township road right-of-way). Since none of the property owners and the Roadmaster were not present at tonight’s meeting, this matter was tabled until next month.

50 Lyons Road – Driveway Permit Application Received – The Roadmaster received a driveway permit application for a second driveway off of Lyons Road (SR1023) at 50 Lyons Road, along with a copy of the Highway Occupancy Permit issued by PennDOT for the proposed driveway. The Roadmaster reviewed the application and noted a couple discrepancies with regard to compliance to the Township’s Driveway Ordinance. The Township Driveway Ordinance typically does not allow two driveway entrances for one residential property, and the ordinance also requires driveways be a minimum of 10 feet from the property line. The proposed driveway is located 5 feet from the property line (due to the location of an existing garage on the property). The Township Solicitor informed the Board that he would like to review the Driveway Ordinance to determine whether the Roadmaster is permitted to use his discretion to approve exceptions to the regulations.

Quote Received for Conveyor/Spreader – Since the Roadmaster was not in attendance, the Board tabled this matter until next month.

OLD BUSINESS

Stonefield Heights Subdivision Improvements (Steep Lane) – As of January 12, 2021, the Township Engineer and Jerome Lendacki have not yet discussed the list of outstanding improvements. Township Engineer Jessica Adams emailed Mr. Lendacki yesterday to follow-up.

68 Keller Road – Drainage/Zoning Issues – As of January 12, 2021, neither the Township Office nor the Township Engineer received any response/rebuttal from the property owner regarding the stormwater problems outlined in the Township’s letter dated 10/20/2020 (from Jim Smith). At the December 8, 2020 meeting, the Township requested a response/rebuttal within 10 days if the property owner wanted to respond himself or 23 days if an engineer would be preparing the response/rebuttal on the property owner’s behalf. The Township Zoning Officer Jackie Hollenbach reported to the Board that she has recently been in contact with the property owner and plans a site visit next week to review and investigate the zoning issues. Mr. Ralston was present at tonight’s meeting and confirmed that he did not yet provide any information to or contact the Township Engineer regarding the stormwater concerns, and Mr. Ralston also confirmed that he plans to meet with the Township Zoning Officer next week on site to discuss and address the zoning issues individually. After a brief discussion with Mr. Ralston, the Board agreed to allow the Township Solicitor to contact Jackie Hollenbach (Township Zoning Officer) and Jessica Adams (Township Engineer) in approximately one week to obtain an update on the zoning matters following the Zoning Officer’s planned site visit next week in order to thereafter propose a plan to resolve the issues (both stormwater issues and zoning issues).

Forgedale Road Bridge Over Bieber Creek – As of January 12, 2021, no formal written response was received from the State in response to the Township’s 11/23/2020 letter expressing concerns for the planned detour route and requesting a report on the results of the virtual plans display survey.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update – The Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update is in progress. Township officials plan to continue to review and discuss the draft of the newly updated Zoning Ordinance at the next meeting of the Planning Commission scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 7:30PM.

Sewage Advisory Committee Meeting – The Sewage Advisory Committee plans to meet again in Spring 2021.

BILLS

A listing of the unpaid bills as of January 12, 2021 was provided to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$4,937.23 from the General Fund. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$4,937.23 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

PSATS Conference (April 18-21, 2021) – The Township received registration materials from PSATS for the 2021 Annual Educational Conference & Exhibit Show in Hershey, PA. Township officials shall confirm their plans to attend the PSATS Conference with the Township Secretary, so the Secretary can submit on-line registrations. Registration begins on January 12, 2021. After March 26, 2021, the on-line registration fees increase. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved Township Supervisor Michele Albright's attendance at the 2021 PSATS Annual Education Conference & Exhibit Show in Hershey, PA. There was no public comment. David Wartzenuft and Nathan Ohlinger voted in favor. Michele Albright abstained. Motion carried. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board approved Township Supervisor Nathan Ohlinger's attendance at the 2021 PSATS Annual Education Conference & Exhibit Show in Hershey, PA. There was no public comment. David Wartzenuft and Michele Albright voted in favor. Nathan Ohlinger abstained. Motion carried. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board approved Township Supervisor David Wartzenuft's attendance at the 2021 PSATS Annual Education Conference & Exhibit Show in Hershey, PA. There was no public comment. Nathan Ohlinger and Michele Albright voted in favor. David Wartzenuft abstained. Motion carried. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approve the attendance of the Township Secretary/Treasurer, Township Roadmaster and full-time road crew employees to the 2021 PSATS Annual Educational Conference & Exhibit Show in Hershey, PA. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board approved Township Emergency Management Coordinator Derick Wartzenuft's attendance at the 2021 PSATS Annual Educational Conference & Exhibit Show in Hershey, PA. There was no public comment. Nathan Ohlinger and Michele Albright voted in favor. David Wartzenuft abstained. Motion carried.

2021 Berks County Public Works Association (BCPWA) Meetings – On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board approved the road crew employees' attendance at the BCPWA meetings during 2021. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2021 Finance Officers Association Meetings and Secretaries Association Meetings – On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board approved the Township Secretary/Treasurer's attendance at the Finance Officers Association meetings and the Secretaries Association meetings offered through Albright College's Center for Excellence in Local Government during 2021 (at a cost no to exceed \$10/meeting). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A listing of correspondence dated January 12, 2021 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Reports and updates regarding zoning, building, sewage and stormwater issues and activities for December 2020 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review. Direction was requested from the Board on a couple new complaints received.

42 Mine Road – The Township Zoning Officer's report indicated that a Notice of Violation was sent to the property owner.

35 Bick Road – The Board acknowledged receipt of a complaint for 35 Bick Road. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board authorized this complaint be forwarded on the Township Zoning Officer (and other appropriate Township officials as deemed necessary) for proper follow-up and investigation. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

174 Lyons Road – Jackie Hollenbach (Township Zoning Officer) informed the Board that she has been made aware of recent complaints regarding the junkyard at 174 Lyons Road. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board instructed the Township Zoning Officer to visit the property and report back to the Board regarding any confirmed noncompliance with Township regulations (taking into account that it is believed that the use of the property as a junkyard may have existed prior to the existence of zoning regulations for such a use), and the Board requested the Township Zoning Officer check as to whether or not the use has expanded or intensified since the zoning regulations went into effect. The Board recommended that the Zoning Officer provide a report and recommendations to resolve any issues prior to next month's Board meeting. Mr. Brian Barrell, 27 Bowers Road informed the Board that the property owner of 174 Lyons Road could not expand the junkyard geographically since he would be confined to the lot size of one square acre. Mr. Barrell also stated that he believes there are less vehicles on the property (however the vehicles located on the property now are bigger vehicles). There was no additional public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 @ 7:30PM - Planning Commission Meeting (Reorganization/Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting)
Tuesday, February 9, 2021 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Larry Waldbiesser, Ruscombmanor Fire Company informed the Board that the Ruscombmanor Fire Company recently took advantage of an opportunity to purchase air masks with three other companies (Oley, Exeter and Virginville) via a grant. The grant requires the fire companies to provide 10% of the overall cost, and Ruscombmanor's portion totals \$11,502.90. Mr. Waldbiesser requested the Board consider a contribution of \$5,751.45 (half the total purchase price), which he proposed to be split 50/50 between Ruscombmanor Township and Rockland Township. If the Board of Supervisors was in favor of contributing toward the purchase of the air masks, the payment is requested by February 2021. Mr. Jerry Keller, Lyons Fire Company reminded the Board that it was his understanding that the Township's Fire Co. Capital Equipment Fund monies would be set aside for future equipment purchases for both the Lyons Fire Company and Ruscombmanor Fire Company based on the consistent breakdown of funding for the past few years of 80/20. Chairman David Wartzenuft also noted that funds from Rockland Township's Fire Co. Equipment Fund were used in the past to cover the cost of used cylinders for Ruscombmanor Fire Company. After a brief discussion, the Board requested Mr. Waldbiesser attend next month's meeting on February 9, 2021 in order to provide the Board with a breakdown of Ruscombmanor Fire Company calls for 2020 (similar to the report provided tonight by Lyons Fire Company). Mr. Jerry Keller suggested the Township consider releasing the Township's donation for 2021 sooner than June 2021, if Ruscombmanor Fire Company would be in agreement to applying Rockland Township's 2021 donation toward the purchase of the air masks.

There was no additional public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer