

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

JANUARY 7, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on January 7, 2019 at 7:00PM at the Rockland Township Municipal Building. The following board members were present: Chairman Duane Bennetch, Vice Chairman Nathan Ohlinger, and David Wartzenuft. Also present were Attorney Jim Smith (Township Solicitor) and interested citizens.

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

The minutes of the Board of Supervisors Year-End Meeting held on December 26, 2018 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the December 26, 2018 Year-End 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 2018 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	4,214.69
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,236,943.26
107.001	General Fund – Savings	1,398,124.17
107.002	General Fund – Certificates of Deposit	100,004.07
109.002	Certificate of Deposit	109,106.16
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	39,971.87
	State Aid Account – Checking	406.41
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	110,785.48
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	15,000.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,363.07
	Total as of December 31, 2018:	\$3,033,119.18

On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the balance sheets, check and deposit details for December 2018 were approved as presented. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

Act 537 Plan - Edward McCorkle, Bursich Associates – The outline has not yet been received from Bursich Associates. Mr. Edward McCorkle, Bursich Associates has been in contact with Bethany Sweger (PA DEP), who has recently replaced Michael Morris in the PA DEP Planning Section.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

Henry Road Bridge Damage – The Roadmaster informed the Board that temporary barricades were placed near Henry Road Bridge and signs have been placed along Schweitz Road near Fredericksville Road intersection, before the intersection of Gressley Road, and also in the New Jerusalem area along Henry Road to prohibit trucks and 102” twins and trailers over 28 ½ ft. The Roadmaster is still awaiting additional information from LTL Consultants, Ltd. (Township Engineer) regarding a more permanent solution to deter large truck traffic on Henry Road. Vice Chairman Nathan Ohlinger informed the Roadmaster that he has made arrangements for two boulders to be picked up (one along Schweitz Road and another along Five Points Road), and the Roadmaster was instructed to pick them up at his convenience.

Quote for New Loader – The Roadmaster provided the Board with a copy of the quote from Plasterer Equipment Co., Inc. totaling \$162,900.00 for a new JD 544L Wheel Loader (which is included in the 2019 budget). On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Roadmaster to proceed with the purchase of the 2019 JD 544L Wheel Loader which is included in the budget for 2019. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Statewide Salt Contract – August 2019/July 2020 Season – The Roadmaster will need to confirm an amount (tonnage) for participation in the Statewide Salt Contract for the August 2019/July 2020 season. The Roadmaster will wait until the February 2019 Board meeting to confirm the tonnage for next year's winter season, since the enrollment deadline with the State is March 15, 2019.

Conrad Road Bridge over Bieber Creek – The necessary PA DEP permit to install scour protection along the wingwalls of the Conrad Road Bridge over Bieber Creek was received from the PA DEP on January 4, 2019. This work is to be completed by March 31, 2019.

“We Buy Houses” Signs – As instructed by the Board, the Roadmaster confirmed that the road crew has taken down seventeen “We Buy Houses” signs throughout the Township.

OLD BUSINESS

Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update – The Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update is in progress. Township officials plan to review and discuss the draft of the newly updated Zoning Ordinance from Ludgate Engineering at the January 29, 2019 Planning Commission meeting.

Sewage Advisory Committee Update – The next meeting of the Sewage Advisory Committee will be scheduled once the outline is received from Edward McCorkle, Bursich Associates.

State Game Lands Along Forgedale Road – As requested by the Board, the Township mailed letters to the four neighboring property owners to request a meeting with the property owners by January 15, 2019. Based on a meeting with one of adjoining property owners and responses from the other adjoining property owners, the Board has confirmed that no property owners are interested in providing access across their property to the State gamelands. Chairman Duane Bennetch informed the Board that he was no longer interested in pursuing this matter. Vice Chairman Nathan Ohlinger stated he may still want to pursue and ask a few more questions.

94 Deysher Road – Stone Wall Along Deysher Road – The property owner contacted the Township and advised that he is working on removal of the stone wall and hopes to have the stone wall down in the next couple of months or so.

Animal Control Services Agreement (Animal Rescue League) – The ARL is requesting a decision regarding their animal control services contract by January 31, 2019. For municipalities who are electing NOT to contract with the ARL for 2019, the ARL is requesting the opt-out form be completed and returned by the January 31, 2019 deadline. *The ARL will not provide animal control services beginning 12:01am on February 1, 2019 unless the ARL has a signed contract in-hand.* After a brief discussion, the Board decided to take no action regarding the ARL agreement (and did not authorize the completion of the opt-out form).

BILLS

A listing of the unpaid bills as of January 7, 2019 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$19,241.25 from the General Fund. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzluft, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$19,241.25 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

PSATS Conference (April 14-17, 2019) – The Township received registration materials from PSATS for the 97th 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 the necessary registration paperwork to PSATS. Registration begins on January 14, 2019 and ends March 31, 2019. Registrations received after March 31st will be assess a late fee. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the attendance of the Township Secretary, Karen Krall and all three Township Supervisors and authorized the Township Secretary to register all four Township officials for the PSATS Conference in April 2019. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2019 Berks County Public Works Association (BCPWA) Meetings – On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzluft, the Board approved the road crew employees' attendance at the BCPWA meetings in 2019. The first BCPWA meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2019. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2019 Finance Officers Association Meetings and Secretaries Association Meetings offered through Albright College's Center for Excellence in Local Government – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzluft, 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 calendar year 2019 (at a cost not to exceed \$10 per meeting). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A list of correspondence dated January 7, 2019 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Reports and updates regarding zoning, building, sewage and stormwater issues and activities for December 2018 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review. Direction was needed from the Board on one code-related matter.

Complaint Form – Burning Complaint (Stimmel Road) – This complaint was tabled at the Board's Year-End Meeting until the January 2019 monthly meeting. After briefly discussing the complaint, on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board decided to dismiss this complaint and no further action by the Township was authorized by the Board. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Tuesday, January 8, 2019 @ 4:00PM – Board of Auditors Meeting

Tuesday, January 29, 2019 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting (Organization/Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting)

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37PM on a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer