

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

OCTOBER 13, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on October 13, 2020 at 7:00PM at the Rockland Township Municipal Building. The following board members were present: Chairman David Wartzenuft, Vice Chairman Nathan Ohlinger and Michele Albright. Also present were Attorney Jim Smith (Township Solicitor), Jessica Adams (Township Engineer) and interested citizens.

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

The minutes of the Board of Supervisors' meeting held on September 8, 2020 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the September 8, 2020 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 September 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	5,809.68
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,726,778.06
107.001	General Fund – Savings	7,490.19
107.002	General Fund – Certificate of Deposit	109,120.81
107.006	General Fund – Savings (PRIME)	1,540,542.48
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	209,622.83
	State Aid Account – Checking	408.82
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	63,888.95
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	33,978.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,587.49
	Total as of September 30, 2020:	\$3,716,427.31

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

Mr. & Mrs. Mitch Kelchner, 92 Deysher Road requested to speak to the Board. The Kelchners are requesting the Board consider an appeal of the requirement for stormwater management for a proposed agricultural building at 92 Deysher Road. The Township Engineer informed the Board that this property is a 114-acre farm property, and the proposed building location is at least 800 feet from the nearest property line. The Kelchners propose to remove an existing agricultural building on the property and replace it with a 6,000 sq. ft. agricultural building to be used to house farm equipment and livestock. The Township Engineer confirmed that the proposed 800 sq. ft. increase in impervious coverage is negligible, and the Township Engineer would support the Board granting the Kelchner's appeal of the requirements for stormwater management based on the site location and due to the net increase of 4,800 sq. ft. of impervious coverage. Since the Township's Stormwater Management ordinance takes into account all impervious coverage added after 2008, the Township Engineer noted that any future plans to increase impervious coverage on the property may likely result in the need to comply with stormwater management requirements and the submission of a minor drainage plan to the Township for approval. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the Kelchner's appeal of the requirement for stormwater management for the proposed 6,000 sq. ft. agricultural building (to replace an existing agricultural building) at 92 Deysher Road. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mrs. Margaret Wildermuth, 10 Sheep Hill Road requested to speak to the Board. Mrs. Wildermuth was not present (but arrived later and addressed the Board during the public comment portion of tonight's meeting).

Mr. Duane Bennetch requested to speak to the Board. Mr. Bennetch informed the Board that The Real Church at 33 Lyons Road recently was made aware of a property in need of clean-up in the community and has expressed a willingness to assist with property clean-up (if, of course, the property owner would be in agreement). The church simply needs to be made aware of any such instances that may arise in the community. The contact at The Real Church is Pastor Earl Wise, and Mr. Bennetch recommended this information be distributed to Township residents via the Township Newsletter.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

Forgedale Road Closure (State Route #SR1021) - Attorney Jim Smith informed the Board that the Township's efforts to see that Forgedale Road is reopened in a timely manner and that the abutting property owners' issues and concerns are addressed by PennDOT appear to have been effective. Township officials hope to receive word soon as to when the repairs are scheduled and when Forgedale Road will reopen.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

Speed Detection/Monitoring Device – Reports obtained from the JAMAR device were provided to the Board and discussed (Forgedale Road and Kutz Road). The Township Secretary was instructed to forward these reports on to the PA State Police.

Hertzog School Road Turnaround – Mr. William Balloge, 72 Hertzog School Road notified the Township Roadmaster that he is considering paving his driveway. Rockland Township has been using his driveway as a turnaround location for Township trucks especially during winter maintenance (since Hertzog School Road changes from a public road to a private road in this area). The Roadmaster discussed the possibility of the Township paving the first 20 feet of the driveway (and possibly removing a few trees in order to widen the existing driveway slightly) at a cost of approximately \$800.00 in return for the Township to continue to utilize his driveway as a turnaround. Mr. Balloge seemed to be in agreement, but the Township Roadmaster wanted to check with the Board of Supervisors and the Township Solicitor to determine whether a written agreement would be required before proceeding further. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board agreed to enter into an agreement with the property owner(s) at 72 Hertzog School Road (since a suitable turnaround location is necessary in this area particularly when the Township is performing winter maintenance), and the Township Solicitor was instructed to prepare the agreement for Board consideration and execution. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Removal of Dead Ash Trees Along Roadway – There are a number of areas throughout the Township with dead ash trees which pose a safety issue along Township roads. One property in particular is 201 Schweitz Road which has a number of dead ash trees – most of which are located out of the Township road right-of-way. The Township Roadmaster inquired about the proper procedures to follow to address these safety issues both when trees are located in the Township road right-of-way and trees located out of the road right-of-way on private property. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board instructed the Township Roadmaster and Township Solicitor to draft notification to the property owner in advance of the removal of any trees. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Drainage Complaint – 35 Bick Road – As authorized by the Board at last month's meeting, the Township Engineer visited the site on September 16, 2020 and September 18, 2020 and provided the Board with a Site Investigation Report. The Township Engineer discussed the Site Investigation Report with the Board. It was noted that the land use coverage at 68 Keller Road has changed significantly over the years (including significant driveway expansion which likely contributes to the amount of stormwater runoff). There also appears to be a non-permitted outbuilding on the property. The Board agreed that the amount of water entering the neighboring property at 35 Bick Road must be addressed. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board authorized the Township Solicitor to draft a letter to the property owner(s) at 68 Keller Road requesting that the property owner(s) submit a plan for remediation to remedy the findings in the Township Engineer's Site Investigation Report for consideration by the Township by the next monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors to be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2020. In addition, the Township Zoning Officer was authorized to investigate the potential zoning violations which appear to exist at 68 Keller Road as noted in the Site Investigation Report. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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, October 27, 2020 at 7:30PM.

Sewage Advisory Committee Meeting – The Sewage Advisory Committee met on Thursday, October 8, 2020. The next meeting of the Sewage Advisory Committee is planned for early December 2020.

BILLS

2020 Volunteer Fire Relief Association Allocation – Rockland Township received the Township’s foreign fire monies from the State totaling \$24,521.89 on September 22, 2020. As required by Act 205, proceeds from this allocation must be paid within 60 days to the volunteer fire relief associations of the fire companies that serve our community. The foreign fire money distributions are included in the unpaid bills list for payment from the General Fund. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board approved the distribution of the foreign fire relief monies as follows: \$19,617.51 to Lyons Volunteer Firefighter’s Relief Association (80%) and \$4,904.38 to Ruscombmanor Firemen’s Relief Association (20%). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township received payment on September 29, 2020 in the amount of \$19,695.33 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania serving as the 2020 allocation of General Municipal Pension System State Aid. The Township’s 2020 payment to the pension plan totals \$20,641.59 (contribution is based on 10% of eligible employees’ prior year’s wages). This amount is included in the unpaid bills list for payment from the General Fund. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by David Wartzluft, the Board approved payment in the amount of \$20,641.59 to the Rockland Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan serving as 2020 contributions for eligible employees. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

A listing of the unpaid bills as of October 13, 2020 was provided to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$75,672.38 from the General Fund. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$75,672.38 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Steep Lane – Road Improvements/Dedication to Township (Stonefield Heights Subdivision) – Mr. Jerry Haimowitz, 16 Steep Lane contacted the Township Office to request an update on any planned road improvements to Steep Lane and dedication of Steep Lane to the Township. The Township Solicitor recommended the Board consider authorizing the Township Engineer to perform a site inspection for the purpose of identifying all outstanding municipal improvements required by the developer to finalize the Stonefield Heights Subdivision now that all lots have been sold and all home construction in the development is now complete. On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Township Engineer to perform a site inspection for the Stonefield Heights Subdivision and prepare a punch list of all outstanding municipal improvements, and upon preparation of this punch list, the Township Solicitor shall officially communicate with the developer to find out when all outstanding municipal improvements will be completed. The Board reiterated that it is necessary to get something in writing from the developer as this matter has been unaddressed for too long. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Henry Road Intersection – The Township received email correspondence on 10/13/2020 from Mr. Kyle Sanders, 130 Deysher Road regarding safety concerns at the intersection of Henry Road and Lyons Road (New Jerusalem intersection). The Township Roadmaster informed the Board that this matter was previously discussed with PennDOT. However, the Roadmaster acknowledged that the sign adjustment on Lyons Road agreed to by PennDOT does not appear to have been performed to date. On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Township Roadmaster to contact PennDOT to inquire about when the stop sign on Lyons Road will be moved back a sufficient distance to prevent confusion for motorists trying to pull out from Henry Road. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A listing of correspondence dated October 13, 2020 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Reports and updates regarding zoning, building, sewage and stormwater issues and activities for September 2020 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review. Direction from the Board was requested regarding a couple code-related matters.

42 Mine Road – Burning Complaint - The Township received another burning complaint for 42 Mine Road. Representatives from the Lyons Fire Company were also present and informed the Board that there appears to be no improvements on this property (vacant property) so it seems materials are brought to the site from other areas/properties, then the fire is lit and left attended and left to smolder for days. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Township Zoning Officer to proceed with the institution of prosecution and enforcement proceedings as allowed in the Township Burning Ordinance and to seek reimbursement for the fire company's time and equipment to respond to this latest burning violation to the extent permitted by law. The Board also recommended the Township Zoning Officer perform a site visit to look into the items/supplies which appear to be stored on this property for compliance with zoning regulations. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

82 Lyons Road – Complaint – On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Township Zoning Officer to drive by the property to investigate this complaint for any potential violations of Township ordinances. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township Zoning Officer requested the Board's input regarding a recent inquiry to sell firearms as a proposed home occupation (although no specific address or location was provided). The Board reviewed the information provided by the Zoning Officer and instructed the Zoning Officer to proceed with making a determination on this home occupation for compliance with the Township's Zoning Ordinance and current regulations for the zoning district where this property is located.

Appointment of the Township Code Enforcement Officer/Zoning Officer – On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board officially appointed Mack Engineering as the Township's Code Enforcement Official and Zoning Officer (since Matthew Mack agreed to assist Jaelyn Hollenbach as the need may arise) with no changes to the current terms and conditions. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Friday, October 23, 2020 @ 1:00PM – Budget Meeting (Board of Supervisors)

Tuesday, October 27, 2020 @ 7:30PM - Planning Commission Meeting (Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting)

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 – ELECTION DAY (Polls open at 7:00AM and close at 8:00PM)

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Margaret Wildermuth, 10 Sheep Hill Road informed the Board that her entire property flooded during Tropical Storm Isaias back in August 2020 which resulted in significant property damage. Mrs. Wildermuth advised the Board that the swale on the other side of the road does not seem sufficient for the amount of stormwater in the area, and it does not appear that the retention ponds in the area adequately handle the bulk of the stormwater generated by significant rain storms. Township officials informed Mrs. Wildermuth that the Township Engineer recently inspected the detention basins in the Forest Ridge area, and the Township is in the process of following up with the property owners to ensure that any necessary maintenance and repairs to the detention basins are performed in a timely manner. Mrs. Wildermuth mentioned that the roadside swales in the area do not appear to be as deep as they were in the past (particularly the swale at the stop sign at Sheep Hill Road). The Roadmaster informed Mrs. Wildermuth that her swale concerns will be addressed by the Township, but reminded the Board that similar situations have occurred elsewhere in the Township (where roadway swales were overwhelmed) due to the significant rain storms experienced in recent months.

Mr. Derick Wartzluft (Township Emergency Management Coordinator) informed the Board that he recently completed a course offered by the Berks County Department of Emergency Services. This course titled *Disabilities in Disaster* outlined the need for emergency responders to effectively identify persons with disabilities throughout the Township or those individuals who may require special assistance in advance of disasters. In order to develop and maintain such a list or database, the Emergency Management Coordinator questioned whether he could include an insert in the Township Newsletter requesting this information from Township residents. The Board had no objections to the inclusion of an insert in the next Township Newsletter in an attempt to gather and maintain this information which will prove very useful for emergency responders.

There was no additional public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer