

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

OCTOBER 8, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on October 8, 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' meeting held on September 10, 2019 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the September 10, 2019 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 2019 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	1,985.79
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,541,483.71
107.001	General Fund – Savings	3,794.20
107.002	General Fund – Certificate of Deposit	109,120.81
107.006	General Fund – Savings (PRIME)	1,523,154.74
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	7,645.73
	State Aid Account – Checking	408.48
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	13,529.51
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	18,978.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,460.31
	Total as of August 31, 2019:	\$3,238,761.28

On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the balance sheets, check and deposit details for September 2019 were approved as presented. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

Ordinance for Posting Truck Restrictions on Henry Road Bridge – The Township Solicitor informed the Board that Ordinance #2019-06 was duly advertised in the Reading Eagle on Thursday, September 26th for consideration for adoption at tonight's meeting. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, Ordinance #2019-06 imposing restrictions as to the size of vehicles operated upon the Henry Road bridge located on Henry Road (T455) over Bieber Creek was adopted. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

Speed Limit Signs Along Bowers Road – The Roadmaster and Board briefly discussed the lack of posted speed limit signs along State Route 1013 Bowers Road, and the Board expressed safety concerns with a 55mph speed limit on this road. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized proceeding with requesting a traffic and engineering study from PennDOT for Bowers Road, requesting specifically that this engineering study establish a safe driving speed for vehicles traveling Bowers Road (then the speed limit signs shall be posted along Bowers Road for enforcement purposes). Mrs. Michele Albright inquired about the cost for the engineering study. The Board informed Mrs. Albright that it is the Board's understanding that Rockland Township would not bear any of the cost for the engineering study (since

Bowers Road is a state road); however, if a speed limit of 35mph or less is established, then Rockland Township would be responsible for the costs associated with the purchase, installation and maintenance of any speed limit signs (35mph or less) along Bowers Road. There was no additional public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Henry Road Bridge Posts – Township Supervisor Nathan Ohlinger recommended the Township consider replacing two existing break-away posts at the Henry Road bridge (for the sole purpose of protecting the bridge from further damage from trucks), and the Township Roadmaster expressed concern that the proposed heavier replacement posts may not be consistent with the posts recommended in the Engineering and Traffic Study Road Posting Analysis and Report conducted previously by John Wetzel, P.E., LTL Consultants, Ltd. for the Henry Road bridge. The Township Solicitor recommended the engineer approve the proposed heavier replacement posts prior to installation. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Township Roadmaster was instructed to contact the engineer to obtain input from the engineer with regard to the proposed heavier replacement posts and this matter was tabled until next month. There was no public comment. Duane Bennetch and David Wartzenuft voted in favor. Nathan Ohlinger opposed. Motion carried.

Sally Ann Furnace Road Bridge Inspection - The Roadmaster informed the Board that John Wetzel, P.E., LTL Consultants, Ltd. completed a bridge inspection of the Sally Ann Furnace Road bridge over the Sacony Creek on September 27, 2019, and LTL Consultants provided the Township with a bridge inspection report. The Roadmaster advised the Board that the 2019 budget included \$2,500.00 for bridge inspections (to have a professional engineer begin to inspect those bridges in the Township which are not inspected by the State). LTL Consultants, Ltd. informed the Roadmaster that two additional bridge inspections could be performed, and the total cost for three bridge inspections during CY2019 would not exceed \$2,500.00. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board approved proceeding with two additional bridge inspections (bridges to be chosen for inspection shall be selected by the Township Roadmaster) at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00, per the 2019 budget. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

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 updated Zoning Ordinance at the October 29, 2019 Planning Commission meeting.

Sewage Advisory Committee Update – The next meeting of the Sewage Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 7:00PM at the Rockland Township Municipal Building.

Forgedale Road – Speed Limit Reduction Request – Rockland Township received a letter from Chade Sandari, PennDOT on September 13, 2019 in response to Rockland Township's letter to PennDOT requesting an engineering study along SR1021 Forgedale Road. Per regulations, the local municipality would be required to post speed limits of 35 mph or less. Therefore, PennDOT will require the Township's written agreement to purchase, erect and maintain the appropriate speed limit signs before PennDOT will begin the engineering study. PennDOT has done a preliminary review, and this review revealed that the posted speed limit is in accordance with the roadway characteristics. If the Township still requests a reduction, PennDOT will conduct a full engineering study upon receipt of the Township's written agreement to purchase, erect and maintain the appropriate speed limit signs. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed not to pursue this matter further with PennDOT.

FORGEDALE ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (PENNDOT):

Update from Cathy Longenecker – PennDOT is nearing completion of the Preliminary Engineering phase of the design for the replacement of the Forgedale Road bridge over Bieber Creek. PennDOT is also currently working out an environmental protection commitment with USFWS. Environmental clearance approval is necessary to request the funding needed to begin the Final Design phase. Once the Final Design stage begins, PennDOT's design firm Bergmann will be putting together informational displays to present at a future Rockland Township public meeting. PennDOT is hoping this will occur by January or early February 2020.

BILLS

2019 Volunteer Fire Relief Association Allocation – Rockland Township received the Township’s foreign fire monies from the State totaling \$24,453.62 on September 16, 2019. 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 bill list for payment from the General Fund. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the distribution of these monies as follows: \$19,562.90 to Lyons Volunteer Firefighter’s Relief Association (80%) and \$4,890.72 to Ruscombmanor Firemen’s Relief Association (20%). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township received payment on September 18, 2019 in the amount of \$20,141.56 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania serving as the 2019 allocation of General Municipal Pension System State Aid. The Township’s 2019 payment to the pension plan totals \$20,141.58 (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 Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board approved payment in the amount of \$20,141.58 to the Rockland Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan serving as 2019 contributions for eligible employees. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

A listing of the unpaid bills as of October 8, 2019 was provided to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$88,715.60 from the General Fund. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$88,715.60 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Township Supervisor Duane Bennetch expressed interest in attending PSATS’ Fall Forum in Chester County. The registration fee is \$75.00 per person. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved Supervisor Bennetch’s attendance at the PSATS Fall Forum on November 19th. There was no public comment. Duane Bennetch abstained. David Wartzenuft and Nathan Ohlinger voted in favor. Motion carried.

The Township received correspondence from Alexis Pagoulatos, Executive Director at the Animal Rescue League regarding 2020 animal control contract information. For 2020, the Animal Rescue League is proposing \$1.00 per capita rate (or \$3,778.00 for Rockland Township based on our 2010 population figure). The Township Office was also recently contacted by Lisa Poper, Safety Net Sanctuary regarding 2020 animal control contract information. Lisa Poper informed me that there would be no changes to the current contract and the donation amount of \$1,000.00 would remain the same for 2020. After a brief discussion, the Board instructed the Township Secretary to review both contracts to compare proposed animal control services to be provided for 2020, and the Board agreed to discuss animal control services for 2020 at the upcoming 2020 budget meeting to be held on Thursday, October 24, 2019.

CORRESPONDENCE

A listing of correspondence dated October 8, 2019 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Reports and updates regarding zoning, building, sewage and stormwater issues and activities for September 2019 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review. Direction was needed from the Board on a one code-related matter.

Lobachsville Road – Burning Complaint – On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board instructed the Township Secretary to send a letter to the property owner (including a copy of the Township Burning Ordinance) to inform the owner of regulations pertaining to burning and to remind the owner that further violations of the Township Burning Ordinance could result in fines. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Thursday, October 24, 2019 @ 1:00PM – Board of Supervisors Budget Meeting

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Michele Albright inquired whether speeding complaints can be submitted and what could be done to address the problem. Excessive speeding (particularly during certain times of the day) is creating very dangerous situations for local residents. Ruscombmanor Township Supervisor Eric Fox suggested Mrs. Albright contact the PA State Police regarding speeding concerns. Mr. Jerry Haimowitz inquired as to the status of the Township obtaining its own speed monitoring sign. Township officials informed Mr. Haimowitz that the Township is currently using a speed monitoring sign supplied by the State, and the Board will be considering including funding for a speed monitoring sign in the 2020 budget. The Board and Township residents continued to discuss possible measures to address speeding in the Township. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board instructed the Township Secretary to send a letter to Ruscombmanor Township and Alsace Township to assess interest in developing a joint committee specifically to address speeding in the area. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

There was no additional public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52PM on a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer