

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

OCTOBER 9, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on October 9, 2018 at 7:00PM at the Rockland Township Municipal Building. The following board members were present: Chairman Duane Bennetch, Vice Chairman Nathan Ohlinger, and David Wartzenluft. Also present were Attorney Alfred Crump (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 11, 2018 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenluft, the September 11, 2018 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 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	4,075.65
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,297,137.60
107.001	General Fund – Savings	1,393,580.31
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	39,956.60
	State Aid Account – Checking	406.35
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	110,425.43
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	15,000.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	17,990.18
	Total as of September 30, 2018:	\$3,087,882.35

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

Mr. Jerry Haimowitz, 16 Steep Lane requested to speak to the Board regarding Steep Lane (Stonefield Heights Subdivision). Mr. Haimowitz was not present.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

State Game Lands Along Forgedale Road – The meeting with the Board of Supervisors, the Township Solicitor, Senator Bob Mensch and the PA Game Commission is confirmed for Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 9:00AM.

Act 537 Plan - Edward McCorkle, Bursich Associates – The Board of Supervisors met with Mr. McCorkle on September 24, 2018. Bursich Associates is to prepare an outline within one month for the Sewage Advisory Committee to review and to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Resolution #2018-11 – Modifying the Existing Rockland Township Agricultural Security Area – The resolution adding three properties (#75-5461-00-32-0792 - 240 Schweitz Road, #75-5461-00-11-9533 – 231 Schweitz Road, and #75-5451-03-12-1231 – 213 Forgedale Road) and deleting one property (Mae Turner/Quest Land Development, 39.42 acres on Lake Road) has been duly advertising for consideration for adoption at tonight’s meeting. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzenuft, Resolution #2018-11 was approved to officially modify the existing Rockland Township Agricultural Security Area as the result of the Township’s seven-year review of the properties contained with the Ag Security Area and recent requests received by the Township to add properties. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

DRAFT Ordinance Regarding Job Description Requirements and Job Duties of Township Roadmaster – The Township Solicitor provided the Board of Supervisors with a draft ordinance specifically stating that the Township Roadmaster shall hold no elective position within the Township for the Board’s consideration for approval for advertising for final Board consideration for adoption at the November 13, 2018 monthly Board meeting. Supervisor David Wartzenuft questioned why the Board would only single out the Roadmaster position (and not any other full-time paid positions). On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the ordinance was approved for advertising for consideration for adoption at the November 13, 2018 monthly Board meeting. There was no public comment. Supervisors Duane Bennetch and Nathan Ohlinger voted in favor. Supervisor David Wartzenuft opposed. Motion carried.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

Henry Road Bridge Damage – The Township Roadmaster obtained three quotes for the repair of the damaged area on the one wall of the Henry Road bridge (repair of right side of stone bridge wall including resetting the stones with mortar and rebar to add strength). The Board authorized the Roadmaster to proceed with T. Miller Masonry (lowest quote received) at a total cost of \$17,500.00, and the required deposit to T. Miller Masonry totaling 1/3 of the total cost is included with the unpaid bills list for approval at tonight’s meeting. The Roadmaster also informed the Board that he met with an LTAP representative on September 24, 2018. According to the LTAP rep, an engineering study would be required in order to post signs restricting certain truck traffic and to narrow the cartway leading up the bridge. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board authorized the Roadmaster to proceed with getting an engineering study performed on the bridge (to determine adequate weight/size restrictions, proper signage, possible methods to narrow cartway, etc.), as recommended and deemed necessary by LTAP. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Roadmaster informed the Board that the Diamond Mower 50” Flail Head was ordered through Stevenson Equipment at a cost of \$13,670.00. This expense was included in 2018 budget to be paid using Capital Reserve funds.

Vice Chairman Nathan Ohlinger inquired whether the Township Roadmaster could contact the State to request illuminating stop ahead signs at the intersection of Carls Hill Road, Schweitz Road, and Fredericksville Road (at the four-way stop intersection). On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board authorized the Roadmaster to contact PennDOT regarding the possible installation of cautionary signage to alert drivers of a stop sign ahead as drivers approach the intersection of Carls Hill Road, Schweitz Road and Fredericksville Road. 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 review and discuss a draft of the newly updated Zoning Ordinance at the November 27, 2018 Planning Commission meeting.

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

Foreign Fire Money Allocation to Fire Companies – Rockland Township received the Township's foreign fire monies from the State totaling \$22,809.52 on September 17, 2018. As required by Act 205, proceeds from this check must be paid within 60 days to the fire relief associations that serve our community. The Board briefly discussed the distribution of the foreign fire monies. Chairman Duane Bennetch expressed concern about whether an elected Township Supervisor, who also serves as an officer of the fire company, can vote with regard to monies paid to the fire company from the Township. Supervisor David Wartzenuft advised that he does not serve as an officer of the Lyons Volunteer Firefighter's Relief Association. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board decided to distribute the foreign fire monies as follows: \$18,247.62 (80%) to Lyons Volunteer Firefighter's Relief Association and \$4,561.90 (20%) to Ruscombmanor Firemen's Relief Association, to keep consistent with the Township's 2018 donation breakdown for 2018. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS

The Township received payment on September 20, 2018 in the amount of \$18,737.55 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania serving as the 2017 Commonwealth allocation of General Municipal Pension System State Aid. The Township's 2018 payment to the pension plan totals \$19,075.76 (contribution is based on 10 percent of eligible members' prior year's wages). This amount is included in the unpaid bills list for payment from the General Fund. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board approved payment in the amount of \$19,075.76 to the Rockland Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan serving as 2018 contributions for eligible employees. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

A listing of the unpaid bills as of October 9, 2018 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$57,219.65 from the General Fund. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$57,219.65 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

The Township received correspondence from Philip Fabian on September 18, 2018, requesting the Township consider donating to his Eagle Scout project to obtain four AED's (automatic electronic defibrillators) to install at Hope Lutheran and Christ DeLong UCC in Bowers, St. Peter's UCC in Topton and New Jerusalem UCC in New Jerusalem. These devices costs \$1,500, and he needs to fundraise for four of them. His Boy Scout Troop is 575 in Mertztown, PA. Philip Fabian requests donations by October 1, 2018. The Board briefly discussed this request. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board agreed to donate \$250.00 to Boy Scout Troop 575 Mertztown. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Township's Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) Position – The Township's current EMC, Jesse Tamburino, has informed the Township that he would like to transition out of the EMC role. Supervisor Duane Bennetch requested the Township reach out to surrounding Townships to inquire whether any of their existing EMCs might be interested in a regional EMC role (with the understanding that Rockland Township would be willing to split EMC expenses and costs). The Board of Supervisors also recommended the Township notify the public that the Township is seeking someone to serve as the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator and reach out to the Brandywine Community Library to see whether they can add this information on their website as well. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board instructed the Township Secretary to send a letter to neighboring Townships inquiring whether any other municipalities might be interested in pursuing a regional EMC position and recommended the Township contact the Brandywine Community Library to request that Rockland Township's need to identify a new EMC be added to their website. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Brian Pawling, Business Manager at the Brandywine Heights Area School District called to inform the Township that the school district is beginning a strategic planning effort, and he inquired as to whether any Township officials from Rockland Township might be interested in participating. This will be a comprehensive district-wide planning effort involving curriculum, business/operations, school safety, facilities, etc. The first strategic planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at 6:00PM, and the school district anticipates meetings will continue each month thereafter. If any Township officials are interested, Mr. Pawling would like us to contact him. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board agreed to have one Township Supervisor attend each monthly meeting (perhaps on a rotating basis). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Duane Bennetch inquired about changing signs upon entrance into the Township. Chairman Bennetch suggested new signs might read: "Welcome to Rockland Township, a rural pro-agricultural community". On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Roadmaster was instructed to obtain prices for such signs. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A list of correspondence dated October 9, 2018 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

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

17 Steep Lane – Complaints – (large political blimp tethered to front lawn) – The blimp appears to have been removed or taken down by the person(s) residing at 17 Steep Lane; therefore, this matter is considered closed.

Complaint – (drone flying over property) – Complainant suggests the Township consider adding a note in the next Township Newsletter to remind residents to be respectful of neighboring properties when flying drones.

Logging Activity Along Boyer Road – Pike Township contacted the Rockland Township Office to advise of logging activity along Boyer Road which appears to be occurring in Rockland Township. Chairman Duane Bennetch informed the Board that he recently spoke to the owner of the property. The owner of the property agreed to contact the Berks County Conservation District to resolve any issues.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Wednesday, October 24, 2018 @ 7:00PM – HEARING – Zoning Hearing Board (111 Schweitz Road)

Thursday, October 25, 2018 @ 1:00PM – BUDGET MEETING (Board of Supervisors)

Tuesday, October 30, 2018 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting (Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting)

Tuesday, November 6, 2018 – ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 13, 2018 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Eric Fox, Ruscombmanor Fire Company informed the Board and meeting attendees that their first annual Fire Prevention Open House will be held on Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 6:30PM at the fire station.

Ms. Piper Sherburne informed the Board that the Berks County Conservation District (BCCD) has received a grant in order to work with individual landowners to provide assistance with local efforts to control the Spotted Lanternfly. The BCCD is compiling a list of residents' names, and any property owners interested should contact the BCCD directly.

Ms. Michele Albright, 20 Rapp Road reminded residents that Spotted Lanternfly often “hitch-hike” on vehicles, and Piper Sherburne reminded meeting attendees to be diligent about inspecting vehicles for spotted lanternfly or their egg masses (particularly when travelling outside the quarantine area) to avoid transporting the pest.

There was no additional public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzluft. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer