

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**DECEMBER 11, 2018**

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on December 11, 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 November 13, 2018 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenluft, the November 13, 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 November 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
	<b>Total as of November 30, 2018:</b>	<b>\$3,033,119.18</b>

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

Mr. John Dwyer, 29 Forgedale Road requested to speak to the Board regarding water/drainage issues. Mr. Dwyer informed the Board that he purchased 29 Forgedale Road in October 2017. In July 2018, the stone culvert under Forgedale Road flooded. This was the first time the property owner was aware of the problem, and the road has continually flooded during significant rain events. Mr. Dwyer contacted PennDOT promptly (since Forgedale Road is a state road), so PennDOT is aware of the problem. It is Mr. Dwyer and the Township Roadmaster's understanding that PennDOT is working to remedy the problem. However, Mr. Dwyer wanted to make the Board aware of the problem and to request the Township's support to ensure this problem is remedied as quickly as possible. Mr. Dwyer is concerned that continual flooding over Forgedale Road will likely turn to ice during the winter season and will result in a serious safety issue. The Township Roadmaster also informed the Board that he has been in contact with PennDOT, as well, regarding this issue and the potential continual icing. The Board reassured Mr. Dwyer that the Township would offer whatever support necessary to Mr. Dwyer to encourage PennDOT to remedy this problem as quickly as possible.

## **REPORT OF SOLICITOR**

Act 537 Plan - Edward McCorkle, Bursich Associates – The Township Solicitor advised that the Township has not yet received the outline from Bursich Associates, and he was in contact with Mr. Edward McCorkle, Bursich Associates and expects to receive the outline soon.

## **REPORT OF ROADMASTER**

Henry Road Bridge Damage – The Roadmaster informed the Board that a report from LTL Consultants, Ltd. (Township Engineer) was received, based on the Township Engineer's site visit on November 15, 2018 to attempt to identify some alternatives to restrict or discourage truck traffic over the Henry Road bridge. The Township Engineer's report was briefly discussed. Supervisor Ohlinger recommended placing boulders in the shoulder along the downstream stream side of the bridge on Schweitz Road and along the upstream side on Henry Road. Supervisor Wartzenuft expressed concern regarding potential liability for placing boulders along the shoulder of the road, which could be a danger to the travelling public. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board authorized the Roadmaster to proceed with the placement of rocks/boulders on both the upstream and downstream side of the bridge and the addition of a cushion barrier as deemed necessary by the Roadmaster and Township Engineer to deter larger trucks from attempting to use Henry Road bridge. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Roadmaster to proceed with proper signage to restrict 102 trailers and to warn vehicular traffic of narrow bridge ahead (to deter larger trucks from attempting to use Henry Road bridge) along Schweitz Road, Fredericksville Road, Henry Road and Lyons Road. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

9 Stone Row Lane – The Township Roadmaster informed the Board that he spoke to the property owner of 9 Stone Row Lane. The property owner has agreed to attempt to fix the pond and drainage problems on their property and the Township will eventually re-establish the swale, which should ultimately resolve the ponding of water issue at the Stone Row Lane/Clay Valley Road intersection.

Cintas Corporation/Uniforms – The Roadmaster informed the Board that he recently met with Cintas Corporation regarding their contract for uniforms for the road crew. The price negotiated for a new five-year contract was \$165.72/month (almost half the existing contract price with Cintas). On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board authorized the Roadmaster to sign the five-year contract with Cintas Corporation at a rate of \$165.72/month. 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 are awaiting a draft of the newly updated Zoning Ordinance and Map from Ludgate Engineering (hopefully the draft Zoning Ordinance document will be available for distribution to Township officials at the upcoming 12/18/2018 Planning Commission meeting for review/discussion at the January 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.

Zoning Hearing Board Variance Application (111 Schweitz Road – Baseley) – The Rockland Township Zoning Hearing Board rendered their decision on the variance application for 111 Schweitz Road, and the written decision from the Zoning Hearing Board was received. The applicant's request for a variance from the side yard restrictions set forth in Section 5.05.1 of the Zoning Ordinance was granted. A copy of the Zoning Hearing Board's decision is available for inspection at the Township Office.

State Game Lands Along Forgedale Road – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Township Secretary was instructed to send a letter to the neighboring property owners to request a meeting with the property owners and the Board of Supervisors (between now and January 15, 2019) to discuss the State game lands and possible access. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Animal Control Services Agreement (Animal Rescue League) – On 12/11/2018, Rockland Township received an email from the ARL advising that the ARL has decided to allow municipalities to pick the most cost-effective alternative to provide animal control services for 2019. Rockland Township has three options: 1) Fee-for-service contract, 2) Per-resident contract, or 3) Opt-out. The ARL is requesting a decision by January 31, 2019. *For municipalities that elect not to contract with the ARL for animal control services for 2019, the ARL will no longer be able to provide animal control services to the Township effective February 1, 2019.* After a brief discussion, the Board decided to take no formal action at this time (and will wait to see if the County is able to provide other animal control services options).

2019 Budget – The proposed 2019 budget was advertised for consideration for adoption at tonight's meeting (and made available for public inspection). The 2019 budget includes taxes remaining at the same levels as 2018 with budgeted expenses (all funds) totaling \$1,463,454.00. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, Resolution 2018-13 (2019 Tax Levy Resolution) was approved fixing the tax rate for 2019 at 1.0 mil (same as 2018). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, Resolution 2018-14 was approved officially adopting the 2019 budget totaling \$1,463,454.00. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **BILLS**

The Diamond mower head was received from Stephenson Equipment, and the Township received an invoice totaling \$13,603.00. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved payment of the invoice totaling \$13,603.00 to Stephenson Equipment, Inc. utilizing Capital Reserve funds (per the 2018 budget) for the purchase of the Diamond mower head. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. This amount is included in the total of the unpaid bills list dated 12/11/2018.

A listing of the unpaid bills as of December 11, 2018 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$41,156.56 from the General Fund. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$41,156.56 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Supervisor Duane Bennetch mentioned that there are a significant number of "WE BUY HOUSES" signs throughout the Township. Supervisor Bennetch informed the Board that he called the number provided on the signs and informed them that the signs need to be removed by the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month. The Board will wait to take any action on this matter until the next meeting.

Supervisor Nathan Ohlinger mentioned that it was recently brought to his attention that there is an old, existing stone wall on the property at 94 Deysher Road which appears to be continually leaning closer and closer to Deysher Road (when traveling on Deysher Road from the Township Building to Schweitz Road, the stone wall is just off the cartway on the right hand side of Deysher Road before the Schweitz Road intersection). On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board authorized the Township Secretary to send a letter to the property owner(s) of 94 Deysher Road to bring this matter to the property owners' attention and to request their cooperation in repairing the wall and/or addressing this potential safety issue. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2019 Board of Supervisors Meeting Schedule – The Board finalized the list of proposed 2019 meeting dates. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzluft, the 2019 Board of Supervisor meeting dates were approved for advertising. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A list of correspondence dated December 11, 2018 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Reports and updates regarding zoning, building, sewage and stormwater issues and activities for November 2018 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:**

Tuesday, December 18, 2018 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting (Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting)

Wednesday, December 26, 2018 @ 7:00PM – Year-End Meeting (Board of Supervisors)

Monday, January 7, 2019 @ 6:00PM – Organization Meeting (Board of Supervisors)

Monday, January 7, 2019 @ 7:00PM – Regular Monthly Meeting (Board of Supervisors)

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzluft. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall  
Secretary/Treasurer