

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on February 11, 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 Alfred Crump, Township Solicitor 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 January 14, 2020 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the January 14, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as presented. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Gregory & Sherry Russoli and Mr. Anthony Reber attended tonight's meeting to introduce themselves to Township officials and local residents. Mr. Reber and Mr. & Mrs. Russoli are the new owners of the former Dryville Hotel, 110 Lyons Road which will be called LIBERTY AT DRYVILLE. The new owners are in the process of renovating the hotel and hope to officially open in 4-6 months or so and plan to offer pub food and draft beer. Township officials were informed that the owners will be submitting plans to the Township for necessary repairs to the interior structure of the hotel.

Mr. Jerry Keller, Lyons Fire Company presented the 2019 Year-End Report for the Lyons Volunteer Fire Company to Township officials. The fire company responded to 271 emergency calls in 2019. 123 of these emergency calls were in Rockland Township. The report also included financial information and a list of 2020 elected and appointed officers for the Lyons Volunteer Fire Company, including the following fire police officers: Ronald Kriebel (Captain), James Melander (Lieutenant), Donna Vanderpool, Cheryl Melander and Stephen C. Unis, Jr.

The balance sheets, check detail and deposit detail for January 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	2,932.29
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,495,775.81
107.001	General Fund – Savings	3,814.72
107.002	General Fund – Certificate of Deposit	109,120.81
107.006	General Fund – Savings (PRIME)	1,532,830.07
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	7,651.52
	State Aid Account – Checking	408.60
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	63,667.91
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	18,978.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	19,188.65
	Total as of January 31, 2020:	\$3,254,568.38

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

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

Resolution #2020-03 – On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, Resolution #2020-03 was approved appointing Rosemary Lamaestra as the primary voting delegate representative and Craig Neiman as the alternate voting delegate representative to the Berks County Tax Collection Committee. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

104 Schweitz Road – Township Solicitor Jim Smith submitted an opinion letter to the Board in response to Mr. Harlan Snyder’s inquiry at last month’s meeting. Attorney Alfred Crump agreed with Jim Smith’s opinion that a land owner is given five years to implement its plan without being adversely affected by the adoption of a new or revised zoning ordinance or SALDO. Therefore, prior to developing the land (in this particular case, land which was subdivided back in 1990 via the COHN Subdivision), the land owner will be required to resubmit an application for approval and may not claim to have been “grandfathered” since the plan was not implemented within the five year timeframe. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board instructed the Township Solicitor to send a letter outlining this opinion to the land owner and the realtor for informational purposes. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

The Roadmaster informed the Board that a letter was mailed to Michael Rebert with PennDOT to inquire about a traffic and engineering study and/or a meeting with PennDOT to determine and discuss possible improvements which could be implemented at the intersection in New Jerusalem to increase safety and minimize confusion for drivers. The Roadmaster also inquired to PennDOT about how costs associated with a traffic and engineering study and any recommended safety improvements for this intersection would be shared, since this intersection includes three State roads and two Township roads. As of tonight’s meeting, the Roadmaster was still waiting to hear back from PennDOT.

The Roadmaster informed the Board that repairs are needed to a dry detention pond along Sheep Hill Road (which is part of the Forest Ridge Subdivision). The Roadmaster requested the Board’s approval to reach out to the Township Engineer to confirm what repairs would be necessary and acceptable. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board authorized the Township Roadmaster to contact LTL Consultants, Ltd. to discuss necessary repairs to the dry detention pond along Sheep Hill Road. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. The Roadmaster also informed the Board that the Township will need to determine who will be responsible for the repair costs (property owner or the Township).

Statewide Salt Contract – On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved Rockland Township’s participation with the Statewide Salt Contract (via Costars) for the August 2020-July 2021 season at 600 tons (same as 2019/2020 season). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2020 Annual Meeting of the Upper Montgomery-Bucks Community Affairs – On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the road crew employees’ attendance at the 2020 annual meeting of the Upper Montgomery-Bucks Community Affairs Association on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at the Upper Hanover Township Maintenance Building. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Henry Road Bridge Cameras – The Board discussed recent damage at the Henry Road Bridge. As a result, the Board would like to re-consider the installation of cameras at the bridge to assist with identifying vehicles causing damage, so the Township can seek to re-coupe costs associated with any necessary repairs. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board instructed the Township Roadmaster to reach out to a sales representative from JAMAR Technologies to see whether the Township can temporarily install one of the black boxes on a trial basis to confirm whether such a device will be effective to detect vehicles causing damage to the Henry Road Bridge. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update – The Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update Project is in progress. Township officials plan to continue to review and discuss the draft of the updated Zoning Ordinance at the February 25, 2020 Planning Commission meeting.

Sewage Advisory Committee Update – The next meeting of the Sewage Advisory Committee is tentatively planned for March 2020.

Joint Committee to Address Speeding and Traffic Issues (Ruscombmanor Township and Alsace Township) – The Board of Supervisors requested the Township Secretary/Treasurer contact Ruscombmanor Township again to inquire about their interest in participating with Rockland Township and Alsace Township to address local speeding and traffic issues, since Rockland Township has not received an official response from Ruscombmanor Township to date.

Hogan Learning Academy Preliminary Land Development Plan – 73 Lyons Road – The existing school currently serves approximately 56 autistic children, and the owners (Mr. & Mrs. Hogan) are proposing a 10,105 square feet building addition to their existing facility and additional parking. The project is to occur in two phases. Phase 1 would include increasing the parking area/spaces and installation of any required PennDOT signage, as well as the installation of a modular unit and new bathrooms inside the existing facility. Phase 2 would include the building addition/expansion. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the following waivers were approved for the Hogan Learning Academy (as recommended by the Planning Commission): Section 4:205.H (traffic impact study), Section 4:205.J (hydrogeological impact study), Section 5.966.b.5 (curb at parking islands), Section 6:209 (monuments at all lot corners) and Section 6:211.A (street lights along existing streets abutting the development). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. After a brief discussion with Mr. Boyer, Boyer Engineering and representatives from the Lyons Fire Company, on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board approved the Hogan Learning Academy Preliminary Land Development Plan contingent upon the cistern issue being addressed by the time of Final Plan Phase 2. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS

A listing of the unpaid bills as of February 11, 2020 was provided to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$29,460.73 from the General Fund. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$29,460.73 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Emergency Management Coordinator Compensation – The Township received a certificate of completion for course IS-800.c (National Response Framework, An Introduction) from Derick Wartzenuft (Township EMC). This is one of the courses on the County's Basic Certification List. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved compensation to Derick Wartzenuft, Township EMC in the amount of \$75.00 for completion of this EMC training. There was no public comment. Nathan Ohlinger and Michele Albright voted in favor. David Wartzenuft abstained. Motion carried. The Township also received a certificate of completion for course Ics-400 (Ics for Command Staff) from Derick Wartzenuft (Township EMC). This course consisted of 16 hours. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board approved compensation to Derick Wartzenuft, Township EMC in the amount of \$150.00 for completion of this training. There was no public comment. Nathan Ohlinger and Michele Albright voted in favor. David Wartzenuft abstained. Motion carried.

Charity Bike Ride – Saturday, March 28, 2020 – The Township received information on a charity bicycle event planned for Saturday, March 28, 2020 from Dave Pryor, Monkey Knife Fight Against Cancer Event Director, Q Cycling LLC. The event will begin and end in Emmaus, PA (traveling through Lehigh and Berks county before returning to the Emmaus Community Park). Mr. Pryor provided a map of the course and insurance information, as well as information on their plan to have marshals positioned along the course at road crossings and at designated checkpoints to ensure rider safety. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board acknowledged notification of this planned event and ultimately authorized the use of Township roads for the charity bike ride since it appears that only a very small portion of Rockland Township (near the Pike Township line) will be affected by this event. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PA Association of Zoning Officials Spring Educational Forum – Duane Bennetch, Alternate Zoning Hearing Board Member requesting the Board’s approval to attend the PA Association of Zoning Officials Spring Educational Forum to be held on May 3, 2020 at the Hershey Lodge. The registration fee is \$175.00 and includes course materials, lunch and refreshments. While the forum is being held in conjunction with the PSATS Annual Conference, a separate registration fee is required to attend. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved Duane Bennetch’s attendance at the PA Association of Zoning Officials Spring Educational Forum on May 3, 2020 and authorized the reimbursement of the \$175.00 registration fee and actual mileage. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A listing of correspondence dated February 11, 2020 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Reports and updates regarding zoning, building, sewage and stormwater issues and activities for January 2020 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review. The Board briefly reviewed the updates provided by Jackie Hollenbach on pending zoning matters. No pending zoning matters required Board action at this time.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Tuesday, February 18, 2020 @ 7:00PM – Zoning Hearing Board Hearing (228 Five Points Rd & 102 Beaver Creek Rd)

Tuesday, February 25, 2020 @ 7:30PM - Planning Commission Meeting (Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting)

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer