

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on February 9, 2021 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) and interested citizens.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM 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 12, 2021 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the January 12, 2021 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 January 2021 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	5,295.55
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,693,398.63
107.001	General Fund – Savings	7,490.50
107.002	General Fund – Certificate of Deposit	109,120.81
107.006	General Fund – Savings (PRIME)	1,541,049.93
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	209,657.90
	State Aid Account – Checking	408.90
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	113,892.18
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	33,978.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,908.95
	<b>Total as of January 31, 2021:</b>	<b>\$3,733,401.35</b>

On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the balance sheets and check and deposit details for January 2021 were approved as presented. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Michael Richards, Chief of EMS at Topton Ambulance requested to speak to the Board to present Topton Ambulance's Year-End Report. The 2020 Year End Report provided by Mr. Richards showed 98 calls in Rockland Township for 2020. Mr. Richards also provided updated run cards for the Board's review and approval in order to remove Northeastern Berks Ambulance in Kutztown which is no longer in service. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Michele Albright, the recommended changes by Michael Richards (Chief of EMS, Topton Ambulance) to the four run cards for Rockland Township were approved for submittal to the Berks County Department of Emergency Services. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**REPORT OF SOLICITOR**

Easement Agreement – Hertzog School Road Turn-Around – The Township Solicitor informed the Board that the easement agreement is prepared, and a copy was provided to the Board for review. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Township Solicitor to forward a copy of the agreement to William & Trudy Balloge, 72 Hertzog School Road for review prior to the Board executing the agreement at a future meeting. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **REPORT OF ROADMASTER**

Dead Trees Located in Township ROW (84 Schweitz Road, 65 Sally Ann Furnace Road and 104 Schweitz Road) – The Roadmaster advised the Board that trees on these three properties constitute a hazardous and/or dangerous condition, and the Roadmaster informed the Board that the “First Notice” (per Resolution #2020-11) was previously mailed to each property owner in December 2020. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board confirmed that the trees are creating a hazardous and/or dangerous condition and approved issuance of the “Second Notice” to the property owners, in order to move forward with the felling of the trees which either create a sight view obstruction or which are dead and pose a serious safety concern to those using the roadways within the Township. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

50 Lyons Road – Driveway Permit Application Received – The Roadmaster informed the Board of receipt of driveway permit application for a second driveway at 50 Lyons Road. Upon a review of the completed application, the Roadmaster noted a couple discrepancies with regard to compliance to the Township’s Driveway Ordinance. The Township Driveway Ordinance typically does not allow two driveway entrances for one residential property, and the ordinance also requires driveways be a minimum of 10 feet from the property line. The proposed driveway is located 5 feet from the property line (due to the location of an existing garage on the property). The Township Solicitor confirmed that the Township’s Driveway Ordinance would allow for the Township Driveway Permit Administrator to utilize his discretion to grant exceptions to the Township Driveway Ordinance. Therefore, the Roadmaster was instructed to proceed at his discretion with the issuance of the driveway permit for 50 Lyons Road noting these two exceptions granted: 1) Second driveway approved due to the location of existing garage and PennDOT approval (HOP#05058231), and 2) Proposed driveway location is approved located 5 feet from side property line, due to location of existing garage on the property.

Quote Received for Conveyor/Spreader – The Board reviewed the Costars quote from E.M. Kutz totaling \$9,855.00 for a conveyor/spreader and noted that this purchase was included in the approved 2021 budget (at a cost not to exceed \$12,500.00). On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Roadmaster to proceed with the purchase of the conveyor/spreader. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Bank Stabilization Work Performed on Sally Ann Furnace Road Bridge – The Roadmaster informed the Board that in January 2021 the Township road crew performed bank stabilization work on the Sally Ann Furnace Road Bridge (as a result of damage caused by Tropical Storm Isaias in August 2020).

Statewide Contract for Road Salt – On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Roadmaster to proceed with requesting 600 tons of road salt for the August 2021-July 2022 season (same as for the 2020-2021 season). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Stonefield Heights Subdivision Improvements (Steep Lane) – The Township Engineer and Mr. Jerome Lendacki have not yet had an opportunity to review the outstanding improvements list. Therefore, this matter was tabled until next month.

68 Keller Road – Drainage/Zoning Issues – The Township Solicitor reminded the Board that the property owners were requested to provide a plan for remediation to the Township back in November 2020. The Township has not received a plan for remediation. The Township Solicitor recommended that the Township require a plan for remediation and suggested the Township Engineer prepare a plan (since the property owners’ have yet to provide one). Chairman David Wartzenuft questioned whether the Township Engineer’s time and efforts to create the plan would be performed at the Township’s cost. The Township Solicitor informed Chairman Wartzenuft that he is hopeful that these costs would be recoverable from the property owner once the Township proceeds with enforcement. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board authorized the Township Engineer (Jessica Adams, LTL Consultants, Ltd.) to draft a plan for remediation to address the stormwater issues at 68 Keller Road. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Forgedale Road Bridge Over Bieber Creek – Update – Township Supervisor Michele Albright plans to participate in a virtual meeting with PennDOT engineers/designers on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 to discuss the planned project and the Township's concerns with the planned detour route. Supervisor Albright will then provide an update to the Board at a future public meeting.

Mr. Larry Waldbiesser/Ruscombmanor Fire Company – This matter was tabled at last month's meeting. Mr. Waldbiesser informed the Board that Ruscombmanor Fire Company assisted with 23 calls in Rockland Township for 2020. Mr. Waldbiesser also informed the Board that it is his understanding that Rockland Township previously provided funding for used cylinders for Ruscombmanor Fire Company which were ultimately defective and the money was sent back to Rockland Township. Both the Township Secretary/Treasurer and Chairman Wartzenuft confirmed that Rockland Township paid \$6,022.00 in May 2019 for the used cylinders, however, there is no record of any money being returned to Rockland Township from either Ruscombmanor Fire Company or Dalmatian Fire Equipment. Therefore, Rockland Township officials suggested Mr. Waldbiesser look into where the money may have been sent and requested further explanation and clarification with regard to these monies before the Township would consider contributing additional monies toward air masks at this time. In addition, Township officials requested Mr. Waldbiesser provide Rockland Township with a complete breakdown of total calls for 2020 (including a breakdown of the total number of calls in each municipality) and suggested Mr. Waldbiesser check with other municipalities for which Ruscombmanor Fire Company provides service to see if other municipalities would be willing to contribute money toward the air masks.

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, February 23, 2021 at 7:30PM.

Sewage Advisory Committee Meeting – The Sewage Advisory Committee plans to meet again in Spring 2021.

## **BILLS**

A listing of the unpaid bills as of February 9, 2021 was provided to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$26,165.66 from the General Fund. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$26,165.66 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

PSATS Conference (April 18-21, 2021) – Duane Bennetch, Alternate Zoning Hearing Board Member expressed interest in attending the PSATS Conference. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved Duane Bennetch's attendance at the 2021 PSATS Conference in Hershey, PA in April (approval to include the Township paying the registration fees and reimbursement for any mileage expenses incurred). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Certificate of Deposit Maturity with PLGIT – The Township's CD with PLGIT matured on 2/3/2021. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board authorized the Township Secretary/Treasurer to reinvest these monies with PLGIT via a 12-month CD at a rate of 0.10%. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

New Bank Account (HRA Fund) – As discussed at the 1/4/2021 Organization Meeting, the Township Secretary/Treasurer obtained new bank account paperwork to set-up an HRA FUND. This account will be established to allocate monies to be used to reimburse eligible employees for medical expenses applied to their \$4,000.00 deductible. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board approved the new HRA Fund to be used to reimburse eligible employees for medical expenses approved by our third-party administrator (including authorization to sign the required bank paperwork). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Old Electronics – Berks County Electronic Recycling Center – The Township Secretary/Treasurer provided the Board with a listing of old electronics. The Second Class Township Code requires that no personal property of the Township be sold or disposed of without the approval of the Board. On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the following items be taken to the Berks County Electronics Recycling Center for proper disposal/shredding: 5 battery back-up devices (which do not work), 1 television, 3 computers/towers, 5 keyboards, 1 router, 1 Uniden Bearcat BC244CLT, 1 Dell monitor, 1 OKI printer, 4 old truck radios, old Maxell back-up tapes, 1 ten-band scanning radio, 1 Motorola/Radius SM50 radio/scanner, 1 Kodak DC240 digital camera, 1 Emergi-lite, 1 HP disc drive, 1 Motorola/Radius GP300 hand-held radio, 1 bag/satellite phone, 8 desk phones, 11 Nextel phones and accessories, 1 HP Scanjet 4070 Photosmart scanner, 2 hand-held radios (Sonar 2324 & Uniden Force), 1 Sony microcassette/transcriber, 1 Radio Shack speaker and various unused cords/cables. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Charity Bike Ride – Saturday, April 10, 2021 (Monkey Knife Fight Against Cancer) – The planned event/ride will begin in Emmaus and travel south through Lehigh, Berks and Montgomery Counties before returning to Emmaus. Information on the planned event was provided to the Board. The map provided of the planned event/ride appears to only affect the southern-most portion of Rockland Township, utilizing Ruppert School Road and Boyer Road only. The Board recommended the Township include notification of this planned event for Saturday, April 10, 2021 in our spring Township Newsletter and on the Township's website.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A listing of correspondence dated February 9, 2021 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Reports and updates regarding zoning, building, sewage and stormwater issues and activities for January 2021 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review. Direction was requested from the Board regarding one complaint received since last meeting.

18 Pricetown Road – Burning complaint received 1/22/2021. The Board noted that previous burning complaints were received for this property in 2020. On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized sending out the code official to investigate for possible burning violations, and if there is evidence of burning violations occurring, the code official shall proceed with sending a Notice of Violation to the property owner. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township Zoning Officer requested input from the Board regarding regulations pertaining to chickens. After a brief discussion, this item was tabled in order to allow the Township Solicitor and Township Zoning Officer to discuss the regulations further. Chairman Wartzluft also recommended this topic be forwarded on to the Planning Commission for discussion and possible clarification in the Township Zoning Ordinance.

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

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 @ 7:30PM - Planning Commission Meeting (Reorganization/Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting)

Tuesday, March 9, 2021 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mrs. Vanessa Ralston, 68 Keller Road informed the Board that the Township Engineer has not been in contact with the Ralstons since the last meeting, nor has the Township Engineer walked the entire property. Mrs. Ralston confirmed that the Township Engineer is welcome to visit their property. The Township Solicitor reminded Mrs. Ralston that Jessica Adams, LTL Consultants, Ltd. (Township Engineer) will handle stormwater issues and concerns; while Jackie Hollenbach, Mack Engineering (Township Zoning Officer) will handle zoning issues and concerns.

Mr. Jerry Keller, Lyons Fire Company requested an update on 42 Mine Road (burning violations). Chairman Wartzluft requested follow-up with Mack Engineering in order to obtain an update.

Chairman Wartzluft thanked the Roadmaster and road crew for their long hours and hard work with plowing snow and salting roads.

There was no additional public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzluft. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall  
Secretary/Treasurer