

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**MAY 12, 2015**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on May 12, 2015 at 7:30PM at the Rockland Township Municipal Building. The following board members were present: Chairman Herb Meadway, Vice Chairman Duane Bennetch and Walter Hafer. Also present were Attorney Alfred Crump (Township Solicitor) and interested citizens.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by Chairman, Herb Meadway. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag.

The meeting minutes of the April 14, 2015 Board of Supervisors meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting minutes of the April 16, 2015 Eastern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan Public Meeting (with District Township, Rockland Township and Topton Borough held at the Brandywine Middle School) were approved as presented on a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch. (The Eastern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan was officially adopted by the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors, the District Township Board of Supervisors and Topton Borough Council at the April 16, 2015 meeting.) Mr. David Wartzluft inquired as to whether the April 16, 2015 meeting was an official public Township meeting and questioned whether this meeting had been properly advertised. The Township Solicitor and the Board informed Mr. Wartzluft that the April 16, 2015 Joint Comp Plan meeting was properly advertised in advance, and the advertisement for the hearing/meeting mentioned the governing bodies for Rockland Township, District Township, and Topton Borough may consider adoption of the Eastern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan at this meeting. There was no additional public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The balance sheets, check detail and deposit detail for April 2015 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	619.87
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,159,486.99
108.000	General Fund – Govt Money Market	179,785.51
107.001	General Fund – Savings	1,868.88
107.002	General Fund – Savings	275,003.98
109.001	Government Money Market	118,028.60
109.007	Certificate of Deposit	100,000.00
109.002	Certificate of Deposit	109,106.16
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	200,931.79
	State Aid Account – Checking	385.22
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	286,366.47
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	25,317.86
	<b>Total as of April 30, 2015:</b>	<b>\$2,457,101.33</b>

On a motion by Walter Hafer, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the balance sheets, check and deposit details for April 2015 were approved as presented. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Bill Fredericks requested to speak to the Board regarding 118 Beaver Creek Road. Mr. Fredericks advised the Board of Supervisors that he is currently under agreement to purchase Lot #7 of the Rockland Manor Estates Subdivision (118 Beaver Creek Road) to construct a single family dwelling on the property. He has been in contact with the Township Engineer and understands that he would need to comply with the current Township Stormwater Management Ordinance. Mr. Fredericks was present tonight to propose a contribution to the Township to help with the conversion of the existing basin for the purpose of adding volume to this basin to account for the 118 Beaver Creek Road property (to meet the new volume requirements of the Stormwater Ordinance). The Board and Mr. Fredericks briefly discussed his proposal. The Township Solicitor informed Mr. Fredericks that his proposal is likely beyond the expertise of the Board to make a decision tonight and suggested the Board authorize the Township Engineer to investigate Mr. Fredericks proposal and provide a report to the Board prior to consideration and/or making a decision on the matter. During the discussion, Mr. Fredericks agreed to reimburse Rockland Township for the Township Engineer's time and expenses to investigate his proposal. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board authorized the Township Engineer to review Mr. Fredericks proposal and report back to the Board of Supervisors. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. John David Hoover requested to speak to the Board regarding building a one-room parochial school in the Township for the Mennonite community. Mr. Hoover advised the Board that there is a lot available along Dryville Road which currently serves as a church picnic grove area and is now in a tax-free status. Mr. Hoover questioned the tax implications if he were to purchase the property (with the intent to build a one-room parochial school on the property), particularly if the actual construction of the school does not occur for a few years. The Township Solicitor referred Mr. Hoover to the Berks County Assessment Office, since the Township has no control over tax exemptions.

### **REPORT OF SOLICITOR**

The Solicitor had nothing to report.

### **REPORT OF ROADMASTER**

Purchase of Crack Seal via Sealmaster (Joint Purchase) – On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved the purchase of four pallets of crack seal at a cost of \$6,432.00 (Rockland Township's portion via joint purchase with Longswamp and Hereford Townships). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2015 Road Project Update – The 2015 Road Project includes paving of Ridge Drive (from Highland Drive to cul-de-sac) and Vista Court (from Ridge Drive to cul-de-sac) and seal coat of Hill Road (from Orchard Road to Oley Furnace Road), Oley Furnace Road (from Township Line to Township Line) and Ruppert School Road (from Schweitz Road to Township Line). On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved the 2015 Road Project for advertising for bids to be opened at the June 9, 2015 meeting. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Clay Valley Road Work – Prep Work for 2016 Road Project – The Roadmaster informed the Board that the road crew is performing some prep work in anticipation of including Clay Valley Road in the 2016 Road Project next year. The Roadmaster is in need of cement pipe at a cost of \$2,700.00-\$3,000.00. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the purchase of cement pipe(s) for Clay Valley Road was approved at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.00. Mr. David Hess asked whether there is a problem with the pipe, and the Roadmaster informed Mr. Hess that the bottom of the pipe is starting to rust out and it is better to perform these types of repairs before significant road work is done. There was no additional public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Roadmaster informed the Board that the road crew will be performing prep work on Hill Road later this week to prepare the road for the 2015 Road Project, and he plans to utilize co-op workers. Supervisor Hafer advised that there are significant holes along Hill Road and questioned the Roadmaster as to what type of prep work would be performed. The Roadmaster reported that he plans to mill out the sections of Hill Road that are breaking down and fill these sections back in before oil and chipping the roads as part of the 2015 Road Project.

Schweitz Road Pipes – The Roadmaster informed the Board that minor hole repair was performed along Schweitz Road, which resulted due to a slight separation of the pipe. The hole is located in the shoulder of the road. The Roadmaster informed the Board that replacement of the pipe may be necessary in the near future, and it is likely that permits may be required to replace the pipe(s) since the location is situated along the West Branch of the Pine Creek.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

72 Mine Road Drainage – The Roadmaster informed the Board that the swale was installed on April 23, 2015 at the 72 Mine Road property (Sabol property).

Beaver Creek Road Bridge Maintenance Project – The Roadmaster informed the Board that he checked with the Township Engineer and no permits would be needed for stabilization of bank abutments if work was to be done from the road edge.

## **BILLS**

A listing of the Unpaid Bills as of May 12, 2015 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The unpaid bills list includes Fire & EMS Dispatching Services for 2015 totaling \$13,552.47 payable to the County of Berks, and the third payment of \$3,793.82 for the County radio hardware and accessories for Lyons Fire Company, Ruscombmanor Fire Company, and Topton Ambulance payable to the County of Berks. Both items were included in the 2015 budget and are payable to the County by June 1, 2015. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$35,876.94 from the General Fund. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the list of unpaid bills totaling \$35,876.94 was approved for payment from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Township received notification from our workers compensation insurance company that our policy will not be renewed, due to the fact that our agent is no longer affiliated with the company. The Township's current workers compensation policy expires 7/1/15, and the Secretary/Treasurer is in the process of investigating a few possible options for workers compensation coverage for Board consideration at the June 9, 2015 meeting.

The elected Tax Collector, Mollie Prey, requested the Board consider Resolution #2015-06. A copy of the resolution has been provided to the Board and Township Solicitor. The Tax Collector is seeking authorization from the Board of Supervisors to charge a \$5.00 Duplicate Tax Bill Fee, which would be charged to a mortgage company, real estate title company, etc. when said entities want to pay taxes for a parcel and do not have a copy of the tax bill. The fee would not be charged to the registered property owner of the property – just charged to banks, mortgage companies, title companies, and other companies who request a duplicate tax bill. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board approved Resolution #2015-06 and authorized the elected Tax Collector to charge a \$5.00 Duplicate Tax Bill Fee to banks, mortgage companies, title companies, and other companies who request a duplicate tax bill. Mr. Todd Gummo requested clarification from the Board with regard to Resolution #2015-06. There was no additional public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Duane Bennetch expressed concern with semis continuing to travel on Henry Road and mentioned the possibility of the Board considering posting a weight restriction for Henry Road, in an attempt to restrict larger sized vehicles/trucks from traveling this road. The Township Solicitor advised that he would need to investigate the matter further.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A listing of correspondence dated May 12, 2015 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for their review.

Reports regarding zoning/building, sewage and stormwater issues and activity for April 2015 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review.

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

Tuesday, May 19, 2015 – Municipal Primary Election

Tuesday, May 26, 2015 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, June 9, 2015 @ 7:30PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12PM on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall  
Secretary/Treasurer