

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

MARCH 9, 2021

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on March 9, 2021 at 7:00PM at the Rockland Township Municipal Building. The following board members were present: Vice Chairman Nathan Ohlinger and Michele Albright. Also present were Melissa Noyes, Esq. from Smith Bukowski (Township Solicitor) and interested citizens.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Vice Chairman Nathan Ohlinger. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag.

The minutes of the Board of Supervisors' meeting held on February 9, 2021 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the February 9, 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 February 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	5,153.07
102.000	HRA Fund	12,773.03
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,664,326.19
107.001	General Fund – Savings	8,094.63
107.002	General Fund – Certificate of Deposit	112,000.00
107.006	General Fund – Savings (PRIME)	1,541,123.03
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	209,665.94
	State Aid Account – Checking	408.92
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	113,893.22
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	33,978.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	19,220.40
	Total as of February 28, 2021:	\$3,720,836.43

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

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

Resolution 2021-03 – Melissa Noyes, Esq. informed the Board that Resolution #2021-03 has been prepared for the Board's consideration for adoption at tonight's meeting authorizing EMS run card changes as recommended by Michael Richards, Chief of EMS of the Topton Ambulance and as discussed at the 2/9/2021 monthly meeting. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, Resolution #2021-03 was approved authorizing EMS run cards changes as recommended by Michael Richards, Chief of EMS of the Topton Ambulance. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

Driveway Easement – 72 Hertzog School Road – The Township Roadmaster informed the Board that he spoke to William & Trudy Balloge at 72 Hertzog School Road, and the property owners confirmed that they do not wish to consider an easement/agreement with the Township. Therefore, the Roadmaster informed the Board that he will need to explore other options for a turn-around area along Hertzog School Road.

New PennDOT Mowing Contract – On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the new mowing contract with PennDOT for mowing seasons 2021, 2022 and 2023, including authorization for Vice Chairman Nathan Ohlinger to sign the agreement with PennDOT on behalf of Rockland Township (Resolution #2021-04). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Bridge Inspection Reports Received for Sheep Hill Road Bridge, Conrad Road Bridge and Beaver Creek Road Bridge – The bridge inspections were conducted in April 2020 by NTM Engineering.

Beaver Creek Road Bridge over Bieber Creek – The Township Roadmaster informed the Board that the road crew is planning to perform maintenance work on the bridge by March 31, 2021 (as recommended in latest bridge inspection report). The maintenance work involves the removal of sediment build-up in the stream causing scouring. The Township Engineer confirmed that our existing federal PASPGP-5 permit is valid until June 30, 2021, and all routine maintenance work covered by this permit is to be performed between October 1st and March 31st.

2021 Road Project – The 2021 Road Project includes double chip seal of Sally Ann Furnace Road (from Smoketown Road to Township line), Hertzog School Road (0.46 mile only from Fredericksville Road), and Sheep Hill Road (from Forgedale Road to Orchard Road intersection) and single chip seal of Forrest Road (from Township line to end of road). On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board approved the 2021 Road Project for advertising for bids for opening at the April 13, 2021 meeting. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Henry Road Bridge – Township Supervisor Nathan Ohlinger requested this item be added to tonight's agenda as a result of large trucks/trailers continually causing damage to the Henry Road bridge. Vice Chairman Ohlinger expressed concern with the planned detour route for PennDOT's Forgedale Road over Bieber Creek Bridge Replacement Project utilizing Bertolet Mill Road and Lobachsville Road, which will result in increased traffic to the intersection at New Jerusalem (including Henry Road). Therefore, Vice Chairman Ohlinger requested the Township consider installing cement barriers at the approach to the Henry Road bridge to deter large truck traffic from using the bridge and to prevent future damage to the bridge. The Township Roadmaster expressed safety concerns and concern that the installation of barriers to narrow down the entrance to the bridge may actually cause more damage to the bridge. The Township Roadmaster and Vice Chairman Ohlinger agreed to meet at the bridge to discuss the possibility of installing cement barriers and explore other options, and the Township Roadmaster agreed to obtain pricing and additional information for the Board's consideration in advance of next month's meeting.

Stonefield Heights Subdivision Improvements (Steep Lane) – An update from the Township Engineer was provided to the Board. This matter was tabled until next month's meeting.

68 Keller Road – Drainage/Zoning Issues – Update – In consultation with the Township Solicitor, the Township Engineer plans to contact the Ralstons to schedule a site meeting at 68 Keller road (once the snow melts) to gather more information on the site conditions and provide a "to do" list for the Ralstons on what can be done to resolve the issues for compliance with Township ordinances. No design advice will be provided. It will be the property owner's responsibility to prepare and submit a plan for remediation for the Township's review and approval. This matter was tabled until next month's meeting.

PennDOT's Forgedale Road Bridge Over Bieber Creek Bridge Replacement Project – Update – Township Supervisor Michele Albright provided an update to the Board on the February 10, 2021 virtual meeting with PennDOT engineers/designers. The project is likely to begin in 2028 -- unless funding becomes available the project could begin as early as 2023. According to PennDOT representatives, the planned detour route for this project will utilize all State roads including Bertolet Mill Road and Lobachsville Road.

Mr. Larry Waldbiesser/Ruscombmanor Fire Company – This matter was tabled at last month’s meeting. Mr. Waldbiesser provided Rockland Township with a cashier’s check in the amount of \$6,022.00 serving as the return of the monies paid by Rockland Township to Dalmatian Fire Equipment in May 2019 for detective cylinders. Mr. Waldbiesser then requested the Board consider providing financial assistance in the amount of \$5,751.45 for Ruscombmanor Fire Company to purchase air masks. Township officials requested some type of justification for the 50/50 split of these expenses with Ruscombmanor Township and again 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). After a brief discussion with Mr. Waldbiesser, on a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board agreed to the immediate release of the budgeted 2021 donation of \$4,600.00 to Ruscombmanor Fire Company from the General Fund, and the Board agreed to discuss any additional monies to Ruscombmanor Fire Company toward the purchase of air masks at next month’s meeting. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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, March 30, 2021 at 7:30PM.

Sewage Advisory Committee Meeting – The Township Secretary/Treasurer contacted Ed McCorkle at Bursich Associates to attempt to identify proposed dates for the next Sewage Advisory Committee Meeting. Ed McCorkle is requesting that the Board confirm their preference with regard to the date and timing of the next meeting. This matter was tabled until next month’s meeting.

BILLS

A listing of the unpaid bills as of March 9, 2021 was provided to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$67,714.58 from the General Fund. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$67,714.58 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

PSATS Conference Cancellation – The Township received notification from PSATS that the PSATS 2021 Educational Conference and Exhibit Show in Hershey, PA to be held April 18-21, 2021 is cancelled due to the governor’s gathering size restrictions.

Township Sewage Enforcement Officer Robert Wuerth provided the Township with a completed 2020 On-Lot Sewage Disposal Program & Sewage Management Program Annual Report for approval/signature and submittal to the PA Department of Environmental Protection. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the 2020 On-Lot Sewage Disposal Program & Sewage Management Program Annual Report prepared by Robert Wuerth, LTL Consultants, Ltd. for signature and submittal to PA DEP. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Plan Restatement for Rockland Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan – The IRS requires pre-approved qualified retirement plans have plan documents restated every six years to reflect legislative and regulatory changes. BPAS informed the Township that the next restatement cycle for pre-approved defined contribution plans is the 24-month period beginning August 1, 2020 and ending on July 31, 2022. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved BPAS performing the required plan restatement for the Rockland Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan at a cost of \$1,000.00. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township received correspondence from the Berks County Solid Waste Authority requesting financial assistance in order for the County to continue to provide valuable and essential recycling programs and collection events. The yearly cost of running these events is over \$250,000.00 per year, and the Berks County Solid Waste Authority is requesting County municipalities consider providing financial assistance. The Board noted that no monies were allocated in the approved 2021 budget for recycling programs and collections events coordinated through the Berks County Solid Waste Authority, but agreed to discuss and consider a future contribution for such programs/events at the upcoming 2022 budget meeting to be held in fall 2021.

DRAFT – March 2021 Township Newsletter – The Township Secretary/Treasurer prepared a draft March 2021 Township Newsletter for the Board’s review. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the March 2021 Township Newsletter for forwarding on to Heffner Printing for printing and mailing to property owners. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. Melissa Noyes, Esq. recommended that the Board discuss criteria to be used when churches or other non-profit entities request the inclusion of information/content in the Township Newsletter. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board agreed to discuss specific criteria to be used when churches or other entities request the inclusion of information and/or content in the Township Newsletter at the April 13, 2021 monthly meeting. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

Reports and updates regarding zoning, building, sewage and stormwater issues and activities for February 2021 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review. Direction was requested from the Board regarding the recent burning complaint received for 18 Pricetown Road.

18 Pricetown Road – An update was received from Mack Engineering regarding the recent burning complaint for 18 Pricetown Road. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board instructed Mack Engineering to contact the property owner in order to schedule a site visit (and to speak directly to the property owner) to investigate this complaint further. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

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

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice Chairman Nathan Ohlinger thanked the Township Roadmaster and road crew (both full-time and part-time road crew employees) for their hard work with plowing snow and salting roads this winter season. Vice Chairman Ohlinger mentioned that numerous Township residents approached him and requested he pass along their thanks for a job well done.

There was no additional public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04PM on a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer