

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

APRIL 14, 2020

**NOTE: This month's meeting agenda was condensed to include only the most important and time-sensitive agenda items, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Also due to the COVID-19 pandemic, tonight's meeting was closed to the public insofar as no member of the public was permitted to attend in person; rather, public participation was allowed utilizing freeconferencecall.*

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on April 14, 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. Attorney Jim Smith, Township Solicitor and interested citizens participated by phone via freeconferencecall.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04PM by Chairman David Wartzenuft. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman David Wartzenuft requested public comment on all meeting agendas prior to the Board taking any official action. There was no public comment prior to the Board taking official action on the following agenda items.

The minutes of the Board of Supervisors' meeting held on March 10, 2020 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the March 10, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Board of Supervisors' emergency meeting held on March 30, 2020 were presented to the Board for approval and to reaffirm the actions taken at that meeting, including a Resolution to declare a state of emergency (as recommended by PEMA) and to discuss employee working hours and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the March 30, 2020 emergency meeting minutes were approved, and the Board reaffirmed the actions taken on March 30, 2020 as referenced therein. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The balance sheets, check detail and deposit detail for March 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	2,200.55
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,520,180.25
107.001	General Fund – Savings	7,480.03
107.002	General Fund – Certificate of Deposit	109,120.81
107.006	General Fund – Savings (PRIME)	1,536,783.48
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	209,474.94
	State Aid Account – Checking	408.66
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	63,802.31
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	18,978.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,916.96
	Total as of March 31, 2020:	\$3,487,545.99

On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the balance sheets, check and deposit details for March 2020 were approved as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

Notice of Zoning Appeal – The Zoning Hearing Board decision for 102 Beaver Creek Road was made the subject of an appeal to the Court of Common Pleas, Berks County. Attorney David Sobotka will be representing the Rockland Township Zoning Hearing Board, and Attorney Jim Smith will be representing Rockland Township in this matter.

Executive Session – Immediately prior to tonight’s meeting at approximately 6:45PM, the Board of Supervisors met in executive session to discuss litigation concerning the zoning appeal for 102 Beaver Creek Road and also to discuss a personnel matter. The executive session ended at approximately 7:02PM.

Developer’s Agreement Extension for DTE/Birdsboro Pipeline Project – The current agreement to extend the time permitted under the original Developer’s Agreement will expire on May 2, 2020. Attorney Jim Smith has been in contact with Kimberly Walker with DTE Energy who anticipates completion of the remaining items by the end of this calendar year. Therefore, Attorney Jim Smith prepared another extension agreement and delivered it to DTE Energy, and DTE Energy has agreed to its terms. Attorney Smith will work with DTE Energy to obtain a signed copy of the agreement. Attorney Smith recommends the Board authorize an extension of the terms of the original agreement to December 31, 2020, and the Board shall authorize Chairman David Wartzluft to sign the agreement on behalf of the Township upon receipt of a signed copy of the agreement from DTE Energy. It was also noted that the extension agreement also required DTE Energy to deliver proof of a renewed letter of credit or performance bond to the Township no later than May 2, 2020. On a motion Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board authorized the extension of the terms of the original agreement with DTE Energy to December 31, 2020, and the Board authorized Chairman David Wartzluft to sign the agreement on behalf of the Township. All were in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

Detention Pond/Basin Inspections – The Roadmaster is awaiting inspection reports from LTL Consultants, Ltd. summarizing any detention pond/basin maintenance needed.

Henry Road Bridge Cameras – Due to the COVID-19 situation, the Roadmaster did not obtain the solar trail cameras.

2020 Road Project – Due to the COVID-19 situation, the bid documents have not yet been prepared. The meeting planned with PennDOT representative Charles Paris was temporarily postponed.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 and Employees’ Working Hours/Schedules – At the March 30, 2020 Emergency Meeting, the Board of Supervisors agree to re-evaluate the COVID-19 crisis and the Township employees’ working situation at tonight’s meeting. After a brief discussion, on a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board agreed to continue with the action approved at the March 30, 2020 meeting (thereby authorizing the Township Roadmaster to utilize his discretion to call in the road crew employees on an as-needed basis taking into account the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the road crew, Township employees and the community during the COVID-19 pandemic) until the May 12, 2020 monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors at which time the pandemic and working hours will be re-evaluated. Further, any full-time Township employees who are not required to report to work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic will receive pay/compensation. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS

A listing of the unpaid bills as of April 14, 2020 was provided to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$51,606.14 from the General Fund. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$51,606.14 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

CORRESPONDENCE

A listing of correspondence dated April 14, 2020 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Reports and updates regarding zoning, building, sewage and stormwater issues and activities for March 2020 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review. Direction was requested from the Board on one complaint received.

23 Apple Lane – The Township received a complaint on 3/11/2020. On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized that this complaint be passed along to Jackie Hollenbach, Township Zoning Officer for investigation and follow-up. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Five Points Road/Schweitz Road – Burning Complaint – This matter was previously discussed at the March 10, 2020 monthly meeting. Since that meeting, the Township received a letter from the farmer responsible for the burning. On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board authorized the Township Secretary to send a letter to the farmer along with a copy of the Township Burning Ordinance and to reiterate that the actions taken by the fire company were consistent with enforcement of the Township Burning Ordinance. All were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 @ 7:30PM - Planning Commission Meeting (Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting)

*NOTE: APRIL 21ST PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MAY BE CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Tuesday, May 12, 2020 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Township Supervisor Michele Albright recommended the Board consider conducting next month's May 12, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting utilizing freeconferencecall depending on the Governor's orders and the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board also suggested that if the Planning Commission determines it is, in fact, necessary to meet this month on April 21, 2020 as scheduled, the Planning Commission should consider conducting this meeting using freeconferencecall. The Board also encouraged Township officials and residents to check the Township website to confirm date and times for upcoming meetings and to obtain information on how to participate in Township meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jerry Keller praised the Board of Supervisors for their efforts in keeping the citizens of Rockland Township safe and for providing the public and citizens with the opportunity to listen in on tonight's meeting.

Chairman David Wartzluft advised the Board of recent storm damage yesterday at 20 Bowers Road (mobile home destroyed). A damage report was submitted to the County, and a copy of the damage report was submitted to the Township for Township records.

There was no additional public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer