

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

APRIL 9, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on April 9, 2019 at 7:00PM at the Rockland Township Municipal Building. The following board members were present: Chairman Duane Bennetch, Vice Chairman Nathan Ohlinger and David Wartzenuft.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chairman Duane Bennetch. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag.

The minutes of the Board of Supervisors' meeting held on March 12, 2019 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the March 12, 2019 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 March 2019 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	5,251.96
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,254,811.42
107.001	General Fund – Savings	1,407,983.53
107.002	General Fund – Certificates of Deposits	209,124.92
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	245,657.65
	State Aid Account – Checking	406.53
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	148,181.97
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	15,000.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,781.68
	Total as of March 31, 2019:	\$3,305,399.66

On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the balance sheets, check and deposit details for March 2019 were approved as presented. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Roy Showalter, Safety Net Sanctuary was not present to provide an overview of the animal control services Safety Net Sanctuary would be able to provide to the Township. At the request of the Board, Mr. Eric Fox said he would try to get in touch with a Safety Net Sanctuary representative and encourage Safety Net Sanctuary to contact the Township Office with an update (since the Township was having difficulty reaching Mr. Showalter directly). On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, this matter was tabled until next month's meeting. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Mike Mogan (Bergmann), Ms. Cathy Longenecker (PennDOT 5-0/RK&K), Mr. Gary Calotte (Penn-DOT Bridge Engineer), and Ms. Kate Farrow (Lotus Environmental) presented the Township with information on an upcoming bridge replacement project in Rockland Township: FORGEDALE ROAD BRIDGE (OVER BIEBER CREEK) REPLACEMENT PROJECT. This project involves the replacement of the Forgedale Road (SR1021) Bridge over Bieber Creek. The existing structure is a 51' long single-span reinforced concrete closed spandrel arch bridge. The proposed structure will be a 54' long single-span prestressed concrete spread box beam bridge. The purpose of this project is to address structural deficiencies to provide safe and efficient access across Bieber Creek to serve local residents, emergency services, etc. The design speed is 40 mph. Built in 1913, the superstructure and substructure are in poor condition and the bridge is posted with a 13-ton weight limit. PennDOT hopes to have all engineering work and the final design completed by Spring 2021, and construction is anticipated to begin during Summer 2021. The bridge will be detoured during construction (for approximately six months), and the detour route originally planned was to utilize the Township roads of Sheep Hill Road and Orchard Road. However, after seeking input from officials at the Township and the local school districts, PennDOT will be seeking an alternate detour route (to NOT utilize Sheep Hill Road due to the restricted geometry at the intersection of Forgedale Road and Sheep Hill Road and due to the sharp curves

along Sheep Hill Road). Township residents who live in close proximity to the Forgedale Road bridge attended tonight's meeting and questioned how access to their properties may be impacted both during and after construction. PennDOT officials informed residents that PennDOT does not anticipate any negative impacts to existing driveways both during and after construction. Mr. Alex Miller, 56 Forgedale Road, expressed concern with the proposed increased width of the road/bridge, the removal of the existing weight restriction, and ultimately the potential for a significant increase in large trucks and tractor trailers traveling Forgedale Road. PennDOT representatives advised that PennDOT has no plans to remove the existing truck-length restrictions for Forgedale Road, since this restriction likely exists due to many existing curves. Ms. Cathy Longenecker advised that law enforcement officers would need to enforce the existing truck-length restrictions for Forgedale Road. After construction, if there is a problem with trucks causing a hazardous condition (documented proof such as accident reports, etc.), PennDOT should be notified of the problem and then an engineering study would need to be conducted by PennDOT to verify the need for posting additional restrictions due to safety concerns. Forgedale Road residents also expressed concern with the speed of vehicles traveling Forgedale Road and encouraged PennDOT officials to consider aesthetic treatments to the proposed bridge structure taking into account the historic nature of the area. Mr. & Mrs. Ian Espenshade, 47 Forgedale Road expressed concerns with access to their property and their ability to safely park vehicles at roadside level during the winter months. Township officials questioned whether PennDOT would consider some type of speed bumps or speed awareness risers to slow traffic. PennDOT officials reminded meeting attendees to complete the Public Plans Display Survey to provide PennDOT with public input on the proposed Forgedale Road Bridge Replacement Project plans.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

Representation Agreement for Township Solicitor, Attorney Jim Smith – On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the representation agreement with Township Solicitor, Atty. Jim Smith for signature. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Representation Agreement for Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor, Attorney David Sobotka – On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the representation agreement with the Township's Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor, Atty. David Sobotka for signature. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Developer's Agreement Extension for DTE/Birdsboro Pipeline Project – On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzluft, the Board approved the agreement to extend the time permitted under the Developer's Agreement with DTE Midstream Appalachia, LLC to May 2, 2020 for signature and forwarding to DTE for signature (due to weather-related delays with the project). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. Attorney Smith also informed the Board that the Township has received a continuation certificate from DTE Midstream Appalachia LLC extending the bond for another year (until May 2, 2020).

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

The Roadmaster informed the Board that the Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council Fuel Oil Bid will expire September 13, 2019, and the Roadmaster confirmed with the Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council that Rockland Township would like to continue participation in the BCCPC fuel oil bid.

Henry Road Bridge Update – The Roadmaster informed Township officials that the Henry Road Bridge was struck again on March 18th and March 25th and damage was sustained to the recently restored stone bridge wall. The Roadmaster also informed the Board that a check in the amount of \$1,500.00 was received from LG Transport LLC for the previous bridge wall damage. The Township Solicitor advised the Board that he will review a proposed sign ordinance for the posting of truck restrictions on Henry Road prior to next month's meeting. Mr. Chris Snyder, TWG Security was present at tonight's meeting to discuss possible options for the installation of cameras at the Henry Road bridge. Due to the number of trees in the area, solar cameras will likely not be a viable option. Mr. Snyder and the Roadmaster agreed to meet at the Henry Road bridge site prior to next month's meeting, in order to evaluate the closest supply of electricity to the site and to provide an estimate for possible camera options.

Historian for Rockland Township – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, Cindy Rismiller was appointed Historian for Rockland Township. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Co-Op Meeting & Future Co-Op Equipment Purchases – At the March 14, 2019 Co-Op Meeting, Longswamp/Hereford/Rockland officials discussed the need to upgrade co-op equipment. Officials discussed the possible purchase of a roller and belt loader via Municibid, and the purchase of a paver in 2021. The Board noted that monies have not been allocated for such purchases in the current 2019 budget, so consideration for the allocation of funding for co-op equipment purchases would need to be addressed during 2020 budget meetings.

2019 John Deere 544L Wheel Loader – The Roadmaster anticipates delivery of the new John Deere loader in the next two weeks or so.

2019 Road Project – The Roadmaster informed the Board that oil and chip for Hertzog School Road was removed the Road Project list for 2019 (since cost estimates were higher than originally anticipated); however, the Roadmaster does still plan to perform some base repair on Hertzog School Road. The 2019 Road Project list includes 2” overlay of Lake Road (from Kutz Road to Township Line) and 2” overlay of Orchard Road (from Forgedale Road to Sheep Hill Road). On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved the 2019 Road Project for advertising for bids for opening at the May 14, 2019 meeting. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Craig Mamose, 32 Lake Road inquired about the road work planned for Lake Road. The Roadmaster informed Mr. Mamose that the Township road crew will be performing base repair prior to the 2” overlay which is part of the 2019 Road Project bid. Then, the Township will be responsible for any necessary shoulder work after paving.

OLD BUSINESS

Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update – The Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update is in progress. Township officials plan to review and discuss the draft of the newly updated Zoning Ordinance from Ludgate Engineering at the April 30, 2019 Planning Commission meeting.

Sewage Advisory Committee Update – The next meeting of the Sewage Advisory Committee will be scheduled once the outline is received from Edward McCorkle, Bursich Associates.

Christ Mertz Lutheran Church Addition Project/Escrow Release – A request was received from William Koch, Christ Mertz Lutheran Church for the release of Land Development Improvements Escrow funds held by Rockland Township. This item was tabled at last month’s meeting. The current escrow balance is approximately \$25,000.00. The Township Engineer has reviewed this request and performed a site visit and is recommending an escrow release of \$11,207.50 at this time (as there is still work to be completed on this project). On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the release of \$11,207.50 from the Christ Mertz Lutheran Church’s Land Development Improvements Escrow, as recommended by the Township Engineer. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS

A listing of the unpaid bills as of April 9, 2019 was provided to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$44,161.63 from the General Fund. On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$44,161.63 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

The Township received an invitation from the U.S. Census Bureau to participate in the 2020 Census New Construction Program. The New Construction Program provides local governments an opportunity to update the Census Bureau’s residential address list with living quarters for which construction is in progress during or after March 1, 2018 and completion is expected by Census Day, April 1, 2020. The New Construction Program is a voluntary program. After a brief discussion, the Board opted not to participate in the 2020 Census New Construction Program.

The Township received paperwork to register to participate in the Federal Surplus Property Program. This program provides federal surplus property such as medical equipment, vehicles, office supplies, furniture, kitchen equipment and much more to eligible Pennsylvania municipalities, emergency services, schools and other nonprofit organizations. After a brief discussion, the Board opted not to participate in the Federal Surplus Property Program.

The Township received information on the William G. Pomeroy Foundation's National Register Signage Grant Program. The Sally Ann Furnace Complex was included on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, and the signage grant program commemorates public and municipal property and districts on the National Register of Historic Places (via a new marker or plaque recognizing placement on the National Register). If interested, the Township is instructed to fill out a grant application. The grants awarded cover the entire cost of the marker, pole and shipping. Grant recipients are responsible for installation. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board instructed the Township Secretary to obtain more information on the signage grant program by next month's meeting. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PLGIT contacted the Township Office to provide information on PLGIT's PRIME bank accounts. The Township currently has a CLASS account with PLGIT earning 2.24% interest. PRIME accounts would earn 2.55% interest. A PRIME account is very similar to a CLASS account (no minimum account balance), EXCEPT a PRIME account only allows two withdrawals per month. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved switching from a PLGIT CLASS account to a PLGIT PRIME account to take advantage of the higher interest rate (at 2.55%). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Zoning Hearing Board Application – 38 Fox Road – A variance application was received from Donna Herman, 38 Fox Road to construct a 24' x 32' detached garage with a proposed front yard setback of 35 feet from Fox Road. Per Section 8.03 of the Zoning Ordinance, in no case may an accessory structure be located within the minimum building setback. Per Section 4.05.2A, the minimum building setback for the AP District is 60 feet. The Board of Supervisors may review the variance application and provide comments to the Zoning Hearing Board in advance of the April 17, 2019 hearing date for this application. The Board offered no comments on the variance application to pass along to the Zoning Hearing Board.

CORRESPONDENCE

A listing of correspondence dated April 9, 2019 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Reports and updates regarding zoning, building, sewage and stormwater issues and activities for March 2019 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review. Direction was needed from the Board on a few code-related matters.

26 Henry Road – The Township received an anonymous complaint regarding the number of non-working vehicles on the property. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board decided to take no action on this anonymous complaint. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. The Township Secretary was instructed by the Board to contact Jackie Hollenbach, Township Zoning Officer to remind her not to investigate complaints until authorized by the Board to do so.

Deysher Road – Burning and Roosters Complaint – On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board instructed the Township Secretary to send a letter to the property owner where the alleged burning is occurring, included a copy of the burning ordinance. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. After a brief discussion regarding the roosters, the Board provided no direction with regard to the roosters and authorized no action.

Five Points Road – RV parking complaint – The Township was contacted again regarding this parking issue. This matter was previously turned over to Jackie Hollenbach, Zoning Officer in July 2018. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board tabled this matter until next month. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Wednesday, April 17, 2019 @ 7:00PM – Zoning Hearing Board Meeting/Hearing (38 Fox Road)

Tuesday, April 30, 2019 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting (Organization/Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting)

Tuesday, May 14, 2019 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Eric Fox advised meeting attendees of Ruscombmanor Fire Company's upcoming Kids Easter Egg Hunt to be held on April 20, 2019 at 10:30AM at the Ruscombmanor Fire Company. The fire company's Cow Chip Bingo event will be held on May 4, 2019, and Eric has tickets for anyone who may be interested. Mr. Fox also inquired whether Rockland Township would be interested in contributing any money toward the fire company's purchase of used cylinders for air packs (self-contained breathing apparatus). Thirty-two cylinders would be approximately \$15,000, and Ruscombmanor Township will be contributing money toward the purchase. Mr. Fox advised the Board that he would submit a request in writing prior to the next month's Board meeting.

Mr. Jeffrey Cronrath questioned whether East Penn Manufacturing trucks might change their route(s) once the new Forgedale Road bridge is finished.

Mr. Norman Burkholder reminded everyone to *Share the Road* -- in addition to standard vehicles, there are bicycles, motorcycles and farming equipment which utilize local roadways.

There was no additional public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzluft. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer