

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

MAY 12, 2020

**NOTE: 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 May 12, 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 7:00PM 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 April 14, 2020 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the April 14, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The balance sheets, check detail and deposit detail for April 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	2,364.07
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,551,880.65
107.001	General Fund – Savings	7,484.98
107.002	General Fund – Certificate of Deposit	109,120.81
107.006	General Fund – Savings (PRIME)	1,538,024.15
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	209,517.44
	State Aid Account – Checking	408.69
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	63,844.50
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	18,978.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,743.90
	Total as of April 30, 2020:	\$3,520,567.19

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

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

Developer's Agreement Extension for DTE/Birdsboro Pipeline Project – The agreement to extend the time permitted under the original Developer's Agreement was executed on April 30, 2020 and extended through December 31, 2020.

Resolution #2020-05 – On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Michele Albright, Resolution #2020-05 was approved extending the flat period for property tax collection to September 30, 2020 (to match the County's time period) due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. All were in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

Detention Pond/Basin Inspections – The Roadmaster received the Stormwater Detention Basin Inspection Report for 21 Sheep Hill Road (Forest Ridge Lot 1). The Roadmaster informed the Board that there were eight items listed under “Maintenance/Repair Required” in the report. Also, the Roadmaster noted Note #10 on the recorded subdivision plan states: “Lot owners must maintain detention pond but the Township has the right to inspect and order maintenance and repairs to be done.” After a brief discussion, on a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Roadmaster to reach out to the property owner and provide the property owner with a copy of the Stormwater Detention Basin Inspection Report prepared by the Township Engineer. The property owner then shall prepare a “plan of action” to address the required maintenance/repairs and provide a copy of the “plan of action” to Township officials in a reasonable time frame. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Roadmaster informed the Board that he and the Township Engineer performed the detention pond inspections at 11 Crestview Drive, 10 Ridge Drive and 13 Apple Lane on May 11, 2020, and he hopes to receive the Stormwater Detention Basin Inspection Reports from the Township Engineer for these three basins/locations soon.

Henry Road Bridge Cameras – Due to the COVID-19 situation, the Roadmaster did not obtain the solar trail camera. However, the Roadmaster will try to obtain a camera on a trial basis before next month’s meeting. Chairman David Wartzenuft also provided the Roadmaster with another manufacturer (Vosker). Perhaps working directly with the manufacturer regarding the trial and purchase of a solar trail camera may offer better customer service. The Roadmaster agreed to look into the solar camera(s) further before next month’s meeting.

2020 Road Project – Due to the COVID-19 situation, the bid documents have not yet been prepared. The Roadmaster expressed concern with the road crew’s ability to get the necessary base repair done to the roads originally included with the 2020 Road Project to allow sufficient time to advertise for bids, etc. Significant base repair is required. Also, the Roadmaster expressed concern with the potential for a significant decrease in the Township’s Liquid Fuels allocation in 2021, due to the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. After a brief discussion, on a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board agreed to include only the in-house base repair work (material only) in the 2020 Road Project utilizing Liquid Fuels money and agreed not to prepare bids/contracts for road work in 2020, due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 situation. The 2020 Road Project is to include base repair (material only) to Alfalfa Lane, Timothy Drive, Sally Ann Furnace Road, Hertzog School Road, and possibly Gressley Road and/or Five Points Road. All were in favor. Motion carried.

111 Beaver Creek Road – Swale Maintenance - The Roadmaster requested the Board’s approval to contact the Township Engineer to determine who is responsible for maintenance of the swale at 111 Beaver Creek Road. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board authorized the Roadmaster to contact the Township Engineer and request that the recorded subdivision plan be reviewed to determine who is responsible for maintenance of the swale at 111 Beaver Creek Road. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Carls Hill Road & Smoketown Road – Sign Installation - The Roadmaster requested the Board’s approval to proceed with a required engineering study for the installation of a new YIELD sign at the intersection of Carls Hill Road and Smoketown Road. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board authorized the Roadmaster to proceed with an engineering study required for the installation of a new YIELD sign at the intersection of Carls Hill Road and Smoketown Road. The Roadmaster was instructed to contact LTAP first to see whether LTAP could provide the study free of charge. If LTAP was not an option, then Roadmaster was to contact the Township Engineer to have the required engineering study performed. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Schweitz Road & Henry Road – Sign Installation - The Roadmaster requested the Board's approval to proceed with a required engineering study for the installation of a new WATCH FOR STOPPED VEHICLES sign near the intersection of Schweitz Road and Henry Road. On a motion by David Wartenluft, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board authorized the Roadmaster to proceed with an engineering study required for the installation of a new WATCH FOR STOPPED VEHICLES sign near the intersection of Schweitz Road and Henry Road. The Roadmaster was instructed to contact LTAP first to see whether LTAP could provide the study free of charge. If LTAP was not an option, then Roadmaster was to contact the Township Engineer to have the required engineering study performed (and Roadmaster shall remind the Township Engineer that LTL Consultants recently performed an engineering study for this intersection while reviewing options to protect further damage to the Henry Road bridge). All were in favor. Motion carried.

Township Employee Work Schedules – The full-time road crew is now back to working full days effective 5/4/2020 and taking the necessary COVID-19 safety precautions (social distancing, etc.).

OLD BUSINESS

Smoke-Mine Minor Subdivision Final Plan – The Smoke-Mine Minor Subdivision Plan review period will expire 5/25/2020. Berks Surveying & Engineering submitted a request for a 30-day time extension due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the statewide shutdown of all non-essential businesses. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the 30-day time extension submitted by Berks Surveying & Engineering on behalf of the Smoke-Mine Minor Subdivision Final Plan was approved (thereby extending the review period to 6/24/2020). All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS

A listing of the unpaid bills as of May 12, 2020 was provided to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$33,555.12 from the General Fund. On a motion by David Wartenluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$33,555.12 from the General Fund. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

The Township received correspondence from the Berks County Office of Community Development dated April 13, 2020 advising that the County is required to inform Rockland Township of its right to elect to be excluded from the County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program beginning with Federal Fiscal Year 2021 to 2023. If Rockland Township elects to be excluded from the County's CDBG Program, such election will be effective for the entire three year period and the municipality cannot receive CDBG Program funds from the County during the period of exclusion. If Rockland Township elects to be excluded from the CDBG Program, notice of exclusion in writing is required and must be signed by the chief elected official. This notice must be sent to the County and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and be received by May 15, 2020. If Rockland Township elects to remain in the County's CDBG Program, no official action is required. After a brief discussion, on a motion by David Wartenluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board decided not to opt out of the County's Community Development Block Grant Program, therefore no official action is required. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A listing of correspondence dated May 12, 2020 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Reports and updates regarding zoning, building, sewage and stormwater issues and activities for April 2020 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review. Direction was requested from the Board regarding one matter (previous complaint).

23 Apple Lane – The Township Roadmaster confirmed that the bushes have been trimmed, and a letter was sent to the property owner at 23 Apple Lane (along with a copy of the current Township Burning Ordinance) reminding the property owner that all burning must comply with the Township Burning Ordinance. The Board briefly discussed the non-conforming chimney pipe issue. After a brief discussion, on a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board instructed the Township Secretary to send a letter to the complainant to advise that Township officials and the Township code officials discussed the non-conforming chimney issue and have determined that no violation exists. All were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Tuesday, May 26, 2020 @ 7:30PM - Planning Commission Meeting (Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting)
Tuesday, June 9, 2020 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jerry Keller inquired whether the Township Building (Precinct 1) and The Real Church (Precinct 2) would still be used as polling locations for the upcoming June 2, 2020 Primary Election Day. Township officials informed Mr. Keller that they did not receive any notification of changes to polling locations for the upcoming Primary Election.

Mr. Steve Haring informed Township officials of a problem with the link to the Lyons Fire Company on the Township's webpage. Chairman David Wartzluft informed Mr. Haring that he will provide the Township Secretary with a new link to the Lyons Fire Company's Facebook page so the Township's website could be updated.

There was no additional public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer