

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**MAY 14, 2019**

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on May 14, 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. Also present were Attorney Jim Smith (Township Solicitor) and interested citizens.

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 April 9, 2019 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the April 9, 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 April 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	4,848.85
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,349,004.97
107.001	General Fund – Savings	1,820.08
107.002	General Fund – Certificates of Deposits	209,120.81
107.006	General Fund – Savings (PRIME)	1,408,861.86
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	245,703.08
	State Aid Account – Checking	406.56
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	148,455.36
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	15,000.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,395.59
	<b>Total as of April 30, 2019:</b>	<b>\$3,401,817.16</b>

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

**REPORT OF SOLICITOR**

Sign Ordinance for Posting Truck Restrictions on Henry Road (Henry Road Bridge) – Attorney Smith informed the Board that he is still in the process of reviewing the draft ordinance and hopes to have additional information for the Board at next month's meeting.

**REPORT OF ROADMASTER**

Resolution – Price Adjustment of Bituminous Materials for Small Quantities (2019 Road Project) – On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, Resolution #2019-05 was approved for inclusion in the 2019 Road Project bid packet to allow an escalator clause for bituminous materials. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Roadmaster informed the Board that guiderail installation and repair will be performed by Chemung Supply Corp. along Beaver Creek Road and Sally Ann Furnace Road.

Henry Road Bridge Update – The Township received the quote from Chris Snyder, TWG Security totaling in excess of \$7,600.00 for the proposed bridge cameras. The Board noted that there have been no known incidents at the bridge since the installation of break-away posts, etc. to prevent bridge wall damage. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the quote from TWG Security for bridge cameras was tabled to allow the Roadmaster time to investigate trail/hunting cameras options and costs. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2019 John Deere 544L Wheel Loader – The Roadmaster informed the Board that the new 2019 John Deere 544L wheel loader was delivered on April 23, 2019.

Sale of 1991 Case Loader Via Muncibid – The Roadmaster inquired whether the Board would like to proceed with listing the 1991 Case loader for sale on Muncibid. The Board and Roadmaster briefly discussed a reserve price for sale of the loader (taking into account that the engine was rebuilt in 2014). On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved the listing of the 1991 Case loader on Muncibid for sale for a period of three weeks and recommended a reserve price of \$29,000.00. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**2019 ROAD PROJECT – Bid Opening at 7:15PM**

The 2019 Road Project Bid Opening was advertised for 7:15PM. The 2019 Road Project 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). Three bids were received. The Township Solicitor opened the bids and read the results aloud.

<b>NEW ENTERPRISE STONE &amp; LIME CO., INC. – LEESPORT, PA</b>		<u>Unit Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
1-	1,112 Tons – Superpave Asphalt Mixture Design 2.0” 9.5 PG 64-22 0.0 to 0.3 million SRL “M” Warm Mix Asphalt	\$81.35	\$ 90,461.20
2-	1,391 Tons – Superpave Asphalt Mixture Design 2.0” 9.5 PG 64-22 0.0 to 0.3 million SRL “M” Warm Mix Asphalt	\$80.15	<u>\$111,488.65</u> \$201,949.85

<b>H&amp;K GROUP, INC. – SKIPPACK, PA</b>		<u>Unit Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
1-	1,112 Tons – Superpave Asphalt Mixture Design 2.0” 9.5 PG 64-22 0.0 to 0.3 million SRL “M” Warm Mix Asphalt	\$78.51	\$ 87,303.12
2-	1,391 Tons – Superpave Asphalt Mixture Design 2.0” 9.5 PG 64-22 0.0 to 0.3 million SRL “M” Warm Mix Asphalt	\$77.59	<u>\$107,927.69</u> \$195,230.81

<b>SCHLOUCH INCORPORATED – BLANDON, PA</b>		<u>Unit Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
1-	1,112 Tons – Superpave Asphalt Mixture Design 2.0” 9.5 PG 64-22 0.0 to 0.3 million SRL “M” Warm Mix Asphalt	\$87.00	\$ 96,744.00
2-	1,391 Tons – Superpave Asphalt Mixture Design 2.0” 9.5 PG 64-22 0.0 to 0.3 million SRL “M” Warm Mix Asphalt	\$86.50	<u>\$120,321.50</u> \$217,065.50

The Board of Supervisors reviewed the bids. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzluft, the 2019 Road Project was awarded to H&K Group, Inc. (the lowest bidder) with a total bid of \$195,230.81. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Safety Net Sanctuary – Animal Control Services – Per Lisa Poper, Safety Net Sanctuary is still interesting in providing animal control services for Rockland Township and is in the process of making some upgrades to create a holding area for dogs per the State dog warden. Once these upgrades are complete, Lisa Poper or Roy Showalter will plan to attend a monthly Board meeting (possibly in May or June 2019).

**FORGEDALE ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (PENNDOT):**

- Aesthetic Treatments for New Bridge – Following last month’s meeting on April 11, 2019, Ms. Cathy Longenecker informed the Township that high-ranking PennDOT officials have approved aesthetic treatments for the new proposed bridge. Therefore, PennDOT engineers and consultants will be working on a re-design of the proposed replacement bridge and plan to return to a monthly Rockland Township Board of Supervisors meeting at a later date to present the new design for the proposed bridge (possibly during summer 2019) and will likely not attend the May 14, 2019 meeting as originally planned.

- Ms. Longenecker shared with PennDOT District Historian, Kristina Thompson Rockland Township officials' and residents' interest in the historic nature of the area. Ms. Thompson will be in contact with the Township once the historic research findings have been posted for public review and comment.
- Proposed Detour Route – Mike Mogan from Bergmann contacted the Township on April 24, 2019 with new detour information. PennDOT is seeking the Township's concurrence to utilize Orchard Road as the signed detour route for the Forgedale Road Bridge Replacement Project over Bieber Creek. If there are compelling reasons not to use Orchard Road, there is an alternative detour route that utilizes all state routes that can be signed. If Rockland Township is agreeable to the Orchard Road detour route, PennDOT will also coordinate with Ruscombmanor Township, since part of the road is under their jurisdiction. The Board briefly discussed the proposed detour route. The Board expressed concern with a significant increase in vehicular traffic on Orchard Road and the sharp curves along Orchard Road. Township officials were also concerned about potential safety issues with increased traffic at the Orchard Road and Pricetown Road intersection. The Roadmaster also noted that the road crew has just completed base repair work on Orchard Road in advance of paving of Orchard Road to Sheep Hill Road which should be complete by the end of August 2019. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board confirmed that the Township was not in favor of PennDOT's planned use of Orchard Road (Township road) as the signed detour route, and instead recommended PennDOT utilize the alternative detour route that utilizes all state routes. In addition, the Board requested the Township Secretary inform Mike Mogan that Township officials would prefer a detour route for cars utilizing Bertolet Mill Road (SR1026) and Lobachsville Road (SR1023), and a separate truck detour utilizing Route 73 to Route 6622 to Pricetown Road (SR2026). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Speed Study – Ms. Longenecker also mentioned that, if the Township was interested in requesting a speed study, this request should be directed to Michael Rebert, PennDOT. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Township Secretary was instructed to contact Michael Rebert, PennDOT to get more information on how the speed study would work and whether there would be any cost to the Township for the speed study. During the Board's request for public comment on this matter, Mr. B. Scott Fiegel mentioned that if Forgedale Road was a State road and the State is considering widening the bridge/roadway as part of the Forgedale Road Bridge Replacement Project which is likely to impact speed, he would think that costs associated with such a speed study should be the sole responsibility of PennDOT. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Digital Speed Signs – In response to multiple concerns with speeding throughout the Township, the Board discussed the purchase of digital speed signs (similar to those being used in Ruscombmanor Township) which would provide information such as the number of vehicles, speed of vehicles and time of day. This information could then be passed along to the PA State Police for enforcement purposes. Mr. Eric Fox, Ruscombmanor Township informed the Board that each digital sign would cost approximately \$2,500.00. After a brief discussion, on a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Township Secretary was instructed to check the approved 2019 budget to see if the budget would allow for consideration of the purchase of digital speed signs, and the Township Solicitor was to investigate whether Rockland Township would have the authority to place such digital speed signs along State roads in Rockland Township. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the William G. Pomeroy Foundation's National Register Signage Grant Program at last month's meeting (Sally Ann Furnace Complex on the National Register of Historic Places). The Township Secretary obtained additional information on the grant program. The grant application must include a proposed installation location and a letter from the landowner granting permission for the marker/plaque to be installed. The Township Secretary spoke to the landowner, and the landowner confirmed that she would not be interested in such a marker/plaque as there is already a marker at the site.

Zoning Hearing Board Application – 38 Fox Road – The Rockland Township Zoning Hearing Board rendered their decision on the variance application for 38 Fox Road, and the written decision from the Zoning Hearing Board was received by the Township. The Zoning Hearing Board granted a variance to the applicant to allow for the construction of a garage 45' from the right-of-way/road line at the front of the property (not the 35' as originally requested by the applicant).

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 May 28, 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.

Eric Fox, Asst. Fire Chief, Ruscombmanor Fire Company submitted a written request to the Board for \$6,022.00 from the Rockland Township Fire Equipment Fund to pay half of the purchase price of cylinders for used air packs. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved payment of \$6,022.00 to Dalmatian Fire Equipment, Inc. toward the purchase price of cylinders for used air packs for Ruscombmanor Fire Company from the Township's Fire Company Equipment Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **BILLS**

A listing of the unpaid bills as of May 14, 2019 was provided to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$213,614.48 from the General Fund. This list includes payment of \$162,900.00 to Plasterer Equipment Co. for the new John Deere wheel Loader (which is to be paid using Capital Reserve funds per the 2019 approved budget). On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzluft, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$213,614.48 from the General Fund and authorized the transfer of \$162,900.00 from the Capital Reserve account to the General Fund to cover payment for the new loader. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Township's Liquid Fuels Audit was conducted on April 29, 2019 for the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. Stephen Stoppie, Audit Supervisor verified the Township's reported account balances as of December 31, 2018 with no adjustments and no findings. An official audit report from the Department of the Auditor General will be mailed to the Township.

The Township received the Audit Report for the year ending December 31, 2018 from Herbein & Co. The 2018 audit and financial report are available for public inspection at the Township Office. On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the audit notice for year ending December 31, 2018 from Herbein & Co. was approved for advertising. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township received correspondence from Evan Corondi, Berks County Conservation District, notifying the Township that the Berks County Conservation District will conduct mosquito surveillance and West Nile Virus monitoring in our Township again this year. Surveillance in our area will occur approximately once per month from April 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019. Surveillance may occur more often if mosquito populations and/or virus levels elevate and require enhanced monitoring. Dead birds will continue to be tested for West Nile Virus this year. Collection dates will run from May 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019.

A **FREE TIRE COLLECTION for Berks County residents and farmers** will be held at two locations on Friday, May 17, 2019 (hosted by the Berks County Conservation District and the Berks County Department of Agriculture) **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. For details and to set up an appointment, contact the Berks County Conservation District.

Township Newsletter (June 2019) – Township officials were encouraged to provide the Township Secretary with article and information for inclusion in the next Township Newsletter.

Fire Company Donations for 2019 – The Township typically pays the donations to the volunteer fire companies in the month of June each year. The 2019 budget includes a total of \$20,000.00 for fire company donations, and the Township Secretary/Treasurer requested the Board confirm how the \$20,000.00 donation was to be distributed. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to keep the donation amounts for each fire company the same as for 2018, including \$16,000.00 (80%) to Lyons Fire Company and \$4,000.00 (20%) to Ruscombmanor Fire Company.

## CORRESPONDENCE

A listing of correspondence dated May 14, 2019 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

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

Five Points Road Complaint (RV parking & driveway extended too close to property line) – After a brief discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Township Secretary was instructed to send a letter to the complainant requesting confirmation of the location of the property pins in order to assist with the identification of the exact location of the shared property line. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Beaver Creek Road Complaint (Delivery of mushroom soil between the hours of 3:00AM-7:00AM) – After a brief discussion, on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Township Secretary was instructed to send a letter to the property owner to recommend considering slight alterations to the times when materials are delivered to the property, and if deliveries need to be done in the early morning hours, please contact the haulers and encourage the haulers to be respectful to your neighbors and their sensitivity to noise at that time of day. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Essig Drive Complaint (Excessive trash in driveway and excessive cats) – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board authorized this matter be forwarded on the Code Official for investigation and follow-up. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Clay Valley Road Complaints (Excessive trash in driveway/rats) – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board authorized this matter be forwarded on to the Code Official for investigation and follow-up. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Clay Valley Road Complaint (Shrubs located in road right-of-way area blocking sight distance at a curve) – This complaint was discussed, and the Township Roadmaster informed the Board that he was in contact with the property owner and will see that the shrubs are trimmed in a reasonable time frame. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, this complaint was tabled until next month. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Shady Creek Lane (Grass/mowing complaint) – Jackie Hollenbach, Code Official is working with the property owner to attempt to bring the property into compliance. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzenuft, this complaint was tabled until next month. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

22-26 Forgedale Road (Possible sewage malfunction complaint) – At the May 28, 2019 Planning Commission meeting, a concern was raised to Township officials regarding a possible sewage malfunction at 22-26 Forgedale Road. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board authorized the Township SEO to contact the property owner to schedule a site visit to investigate a possible sewage malfunction and authorized the Township SEO to obtain an administrative warrant if necessary. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Spotted Lanternfly Banding Material – Piper Sherburne, District Township provided the Township with a roll of banding material. After a brief discussion, the Township Roadmaster advised that he will take care of distributing the banding material. Mr. Jerry Haimowitz recommended the removal of ailanthus trees (tree of heaven) to help control the spotted lanternfly population.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:**

Tuesday, May 28, 2019 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting (Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting)

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. B. Scott Fiegel wanted to make sure PennDOT (as part of the Forgedale Road Bridge Replacement Project) is taking the necessary precautions to protect the trout stream as it is located in an exceptional value watershed. Mr. Fiegel expressed concern with PennDOT's plan to widen the bridge which will likely increase the speed of vehicles traveling Forgedale Road in the area of the bridge, and it is Mr. Fiegel's opinion that heavy truck traffic should not be using Forgedale Road. Mr. Fiegel informed the Board that he is not a Rockland Township resident, but did offer to volunteer to serve on a Committee and offered his services as a herpetologist and environmental consultant (wetland delineation and ecological research).

Mr. Dale Heckman provided Township officials with information on the Berks County Blighted Property Review Committee.

There was no additional public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28PM on a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall  
Secretary/Treasurer