

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

JUNE 8, 2021

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on June 8, 2021 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. Also present were Township Solicitor Jim Smith and interested citizens.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM by Chairman David Wartzenuft. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag.

The minutes of the Board of Supervisors' meeting held on May 11, 2021 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the May 11, 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 May 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	3,852.95
102.000	HRA Fund	8,642.05
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,841,724.99
107.001	General Fund – Savings	8,094.84
107.002	General Fund – Certificate of Deposit	112,000.00
107.006	General Fund – Savings (PRIME)	1,541,289.12
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	396,835.98
	State Aid Account – Checking	408.98
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	104,041.22
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	40,000.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,909.89
	Total as of May 31, 2021:	\$4,076,000.02

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

174 Lyons Road – Junkyard Complaint – A report was received from Adam Bender, Mack Engineering. The Board reviewed the report, and the Township Solicitor summarized the report by informing meeting attendees that based on Mack Engineering's site visit and investigation, no active violations exist on the property. Therefore, no enforcement action or further action is required at this time. Mr. Alex Bollinger expressed displeasure with the Zoning Officer's findings and with the lack of a response or call back from Mack Engineering to his numerous phone calls. The Township Solicitor confirmed with Mr. Bollinger that a copy of the Zoning Officer's report would be made available to him after tonight's meeting.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

Easement/Agreement for 93 Hertzog School Road – The Township Solicitor informed the Board that he is working with the Township Engineer to finalize the planned turnaround size/location and to address stormwater issues, etc. and he hopes to be in a position to draft an easement in the next 5-6 weeks or so.

Developer's Agreement Extension for DTE/Birdsboro Pipeline Project – The Township Solicitor recommended the Board approve an extension for the time permitted under the Developer's Agreement with DTE Midstream Appalachia, LLC to complete the outstanding improvements.. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board approved an agreement to extend the time permitted under the Developer's Agreement with DTE Midstream Appalachia, LLC to September 30, 2021 for signature and execution. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

39 Orchard Road – The Township Solicitor confirmed that the owner did pass away last year and that there is no estate set up. The Board agreed with the Township Solicitor’s suggestion to attempt to contact a relative or niece of the property owner.

At 7:14PM, the meeting was briefly adjourned to conduct an Executive Session to discuss a legal matter (potential adversarial litigation preparation).

At 7:26PM, the Executive Session concluded and the meeting reconvened.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

Henry Road Bridge – Update – The Township Roadmaster reached out to the Berks County Planning Commission and obtained a list of four firms with engineering experience in road infrastructure, specifically bridge work. This list was shared with the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Duane Bennetch provided Township officials with the name of Heinrich & Klein Associates, Inc. in Ambler, PA who specializes in traffic engineering and planning. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Township Secretary/Treasurer was instructed to contact the six engineering firms (including the four engineering firms provided by the Berks County Planning Commission, LTL Consultants, Ltd. and Heinrich & Klein Associates, Inc.) to request a proposal for an engineering study to restrict tractor trailers from using Henry Road and the Henry Road bridge. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Township Supervisor Nathan Ohlinger informed meeting attendees that there was another tractor trailer incident on Henry Road bridge on Saturday, June 5, 2021. Mr. Jerry Keller, Lyons Fire Company advised the Board that he was in contact with Trooper Beohm with the PA State Police and was told to have the Township forward information to the PA State Police. After a brief discussion, on a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Township Secretary/Treasurer was instructed to email the PA State Police to attempt to confirm whether or not a citation for this incident would be filed. In addition, the Township Secretary/Treasurer was instructed to forward a copy of the Township ordinance restricting 102-foot twins, trailers over 28½ feet, trucks over 25 feet long (Resolution #2019-06). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Smoketown Road Bridge Closure – The Township Roadmaster reached out to the PennDOT foreman and was provided a tentative date of June 14, 2021 for the bridge removal. This date is only tentative and includes only the removal of the bridge. The Township Roadmaster was unable to obtain any additional information pertaining to the anticipated length of closure of Smoketown Road.

Pennsylvania State Clean Diesel Grant Program – Driving PA Forward – Onroad Rebate Program – The goal of this grant and rebate program under the Driving PA Forward initiative is to improve Pennsylvania’s air quality by reducing oxides of nitrogen emissions from diesel-powered mobile sources through funding diesel emission reduction projects. Eligible diesel emission reduction solutions include certified vehicle or equipment replacements (up to 70% of cost in some cases). The Township Roadmaster is in the process of gathering pricing and information for a replacement for the 2003 Freightliner and believes the purchase of this new truck would likely qualify for this grant/rebate program. It is anticipated that applications will begin to be accepted on or about October 1, 2021. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Township Roadmaster and Township Secretary/Treasurer to proceed with applying for the Driving PA Forward Onroad Rebate Program when the application period opens. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2021 Road Project – The Township Roadmaster informed the Board that Asphalt Maintenance Solutions completed the bituminous seal coat of Sally Ann Furnace Road, Hertzog School Road, and Sheep Hill Road on June 4th and June 7th. The contractor will return in about a week or so to sweep up the loose stones.

Speed Detection Device – Township Supervisor Michele Albright inquired about whether the speed detection device was being used. The Township Roadmaster informed the Board that he placed the device along Pricetown Road, but did not have a chance to download the reports.

OLD BUSINESS

Stonefield Heights Subdivision Improvements (Steep Lane) – The Township Solicitor informed the Board that the Township is still awaiting a cost estimate from the developer and hopes to receive it by the end of next week.

68 Keller Road – Drainage/Zoning Issues – Update – The Township Solicitor and Township Engineer have been in contact with an attorney representing the property owners at 68 Keller Road. The Township Solicitor anticipates that the deadline to submit the drainage plan, etc. to the Township for review/approval may be extended.

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, June 29, 2021 at 7:30PM.

Sewage Advisory Committee Meeting – The next Sewage Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 7:00PM at the Rockland Township Building.

BEST Partnership – DEKA Traffic – Mr. Duane Bennetch informed the Board that a meeting was held on June 7, 2021 including representatives from Rockland Township, Maxatawny Township, Ruscombmanor Township, Alsace Township and Maiden Creek Township, a concerned citizen from Ruscombmanor Township and the Police Chief from Fleetwood Borough. During the meeting, meeting participants discussed the plan going forward including reaching out to officials from BARTA, County Commissioners, DEKA and possibly State senators. Township Supervisor Michele Albright also mentioned that other Townships (such as Oley Township) have expressed an interest in participation and it appears BEST Partnership is making good progress.

BILLS

A listing of the unpaid bills as of June 8, 2021 was provided to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$58,440.46 from the General Fund. The bill list includes the following donations per the approved 2021 budget: \$18,400.00 to Lyons Fire Company, \$8,778.00 to Tipton Ambulance, \$5,200.00 to Brandywine Community Library, \$250.00 to CELG (Albright College), and \$100.00 to Crime Alert Berks County. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by David Wartzluft, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$58,440.46 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The approved 2021 budget includes a payment of \$15,000.00 to the Township's Fire Company Equipment Fund. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board approved the transfer of \$15,000.00 from the General Fund to the Fire Co. Equipment Fund (per the approved 2021 budget). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Zoning Hearing Board Application – 16 Stimmel Road – A variance application was received from Harold & Elsie Weaver, 16 Stimmel Road on May 24, 2021 requesting relief of the 200' setback requirement from all property lines and dwellings (Section 9.02.4) to construct a 50' x 48' coverall hoop building (agricultural building) for manure storage, equipment storage and animal housing. The Board of Supervisors may submit comments to the Zoning Hearing Board regarding this variance application. The public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 7:00PM at the Rockland Township Building. After a brief review of the application, the Board offered no comments to pass along to the Zoning Hearing Board.

American Rescue Plan Act Funds – The Township received an updated final amount for funding to be received as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. The latest list shows Rockland Township to receive a total of \$400,045.72 with \$200,022.86 (half) to be distributed from the State in June/July 2021 and \$200,022.86 to be released in June 2022. On June 2, 2021 the Township received notification that Townships are required to

request the federal dollars made available under the American Rescue Plan via Pennsylvania's Department of Community & Economic Development single application website, and DCED strongly recommends that townships apply for these funds within five days. The Township Secretary/Treasurer informed the Board that she is working on the DCED application and will likely need signatures from an authorized official to complete the supporting documentation to accompany the application. Mr. Jerry Keller, Lyons Fire Company mentioned that it was his understanding that municipalities could use this funding to aid fire companies since many of the local volunteer fire companies' fundraising activities were negatively impacted due to COVID-19. Township Supervisor David Wartzenuft informed Mr. Keller that it is his understanding (based on the guidance received by the Township to date) that only volunteer fire departments and nonprofit ambulance companies with a 501(c) designation would be eligible.

CORRESPONDENCE

A listing of correspondence dated June 8, 2021 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Reports and updates regarding zoning, building, sewage and stormwater issues and activities for May 2021 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review. One complaint was received by the Township since last month's meeting.

39 Deysher Road – Complaint Received – The Township received a complaint regarding domesticated geese at 39 Deysher Road. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Township Zoning Officer to send a letter to the property owner at 39 Deysher Road regarding the geese. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

42 Keller Road – The Board reviewed the Township Zoning Officer's recommendations regarding items which must be addressed (in response to the property owner's request to have an additional mailing address assigned for the property as a result of adding a second dwelling unit in the main house). On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board was in agreement to proceeding as suggested by the Township Zoning Officer and the Zoning Officer was instructed to contact the property owner. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 @ 7:00PM – Public Hearing – Zoning Hearing Board (Eisenhart application)
Tuesday, June 29, 2021 @ 7:30PM - Planning Commission Meeting (Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting)
Wednesday, June 30, 2021 @ 7:00PM – Public Hearing – Zoning Hearing Board (Weaver application)
Tuesday, July 13, 2021 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Susan Janney, 82 Keller Road informed the Board that she recently submitted a sewage complaint to PA DEP for sewage on their property (from an adjacent property) and expressed displeasure with how her previous sewage complaint was handled by the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer, LTL Consultants, Ltd. Mrs. Janney also informed the Board that she took samples for testing, and the test results showed high fecal coliform levels. Mrs. Janney demanded that something be done to remedy this issue. Township officials informed Mrs. Janney that her sewage complaint was turned over to the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer (LTL Consultants, Ltd.) immediately upon receipt for investigation and follow-up.

There was no additional public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer