

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**JUNE 9, 2020**

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on June 9, 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. Also present were Attorney Jim Smith, Township Solicitor and interested citizens.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM 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 12, 2020 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the May 12, 2020 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 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	2,546.70
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,634,320.14
107.001	General Fund – Savings	7,487.84
107.002	General Fund – Certificate of Deposit	109,120.81
107.006	General Fund – Savings (PRIME)	1,538,854.06
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	209,554.28
	State Aid Account – Checking	408.72
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	63,868.90
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	18,978.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,888.45
	<b>Total as of May 31, 2020:</b>	<b>\$3,604,227.90</b>

On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the balance sheets, check and deposit details for May 2020 were approved as presented. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**REPORT OF SOLICITOR**

Holding Tank Agreement – 11 Hertzog School Road – As recommended by the Township Solicitor and Township Sewage Enforcement Officer, on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board approved the Holding Tank Agreement prepared for 11 Hertzog School Road for signature. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Status of Zoning Hearing Board Appeal (102 Beaver Creek Road) – The Township Solicitor advised the Board that this appeal is stagnant due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Attorney Smith will keep the Board informed about this matter going forward and as things progress.

**REPORT OF ROADMASTER**

Detention Pond/Basin Inspection Reports – Inspection reports were received from LTL Consultants, Ltd. for detention ponds/basins located at 11 Crestview Drive, 10 Ridge Drive and 13 Apple Lane. After a brief discussion, on a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board authorized the Roadmaster to send a copy of the Stormwater Detention Basin Inspection Report prepared by the Township Engineer to the property owners for 11 Crestview Drive, 10 Ridge Drive and 13 Apple Lane. The property owners 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. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Henry Road Bridge Cameras – The Roadmaster received the solar trail camera a couple days ago. He plans to install the camera soon to see what types of pictures and vehicle information will be able to be obtained with the camera once installed.

Henry Road Bridge – Township Supervisor Nathan Ohlinger recommended the Township adopt an ordinance specifying a fine of \$10,000.00 for any vehicle using the Henry Road bridge which does not comply with the posted size/length restrictions for the bridge. The Township Solicitor informed Supervisor Ohlinger that he believes the fine amount included with Ordinance #2019-06 (Rockland Township's current ordinance imposing restrictions as to the size of vehicles operated upon the Henry Road bridge located on Henry Road T455 over Bieber Creek) adopted by the Board on October 8, 2019 was determined by Pennsylvania's Vehicle Code (Title 75). Mr. Ohlinger provided the Township Solicitor with a copy of a recent article titled "BIG TRUCKS: WHAT CAN TOWNSHIPS DO TO REGULATE LARGE VEHICLES?" which was included in the June 2020 edition of the PA TOWNSHIP NEWS. The Township Solicitor informed the Board that he would look into this matter further. The Board briefly discussed the possible installation of additional signs. After a brief discussion, on a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Roadmaster to install larger, more-descriptive signs to warn motorists of NARROW BRIDGE AHEAD and SHARP CURVES AHEAD, including specific vehicle restrictions. Mr. Jeffrey Conrath questioned why the installation of larger signs would be necessary if the Township will be installing a camera. There was no additional public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Carls Hill Road & Smoketown Road – Sign Installation – The Roadmaster met with Marvin Ta from LTAP and expects to receive a report in about two weeks. Since Smoketown Road is a State road, the Township will likely need to reach out to PennDOT for final approval.

Schweitz Road & Henry Road – Sign Installation - The Roadmaster informed the Board that the road crew painted "SLOW" with arrow on the roadway (on Schweitz Road) and will see if this helps to resolve the safety concern at the intersection of Schweitz Road and Henry Road, particularly as vehicles approach the intersection from the East.

Bridge Inspection – Beaver Creek Road Bridge over Bieber Creek – The inspection of Beaver Creek Road Bridge was conducted by the State (performed every two years). As a result of this inspection, the engineer is requiring new load postings for the bridge (34 ton with 40 ton combination) as a result of double oil and chip seal performed back in 2017. The Roadmaster ordered the required signs and will be installing the signs by the July 2, 2020 deadline.

Traffic Concerns/Speeding - Supervisor Michele Albright provided an update to the Board regarding her recent contact with East Penn Manufacturing's Manager in charge of traffic issues. East Penn Manufacturing has been working with the Fleetwood Police Department to attempt to address some of the speeding and traffic issues in the area. Supervisor Albright took the East Penn Manufacturing Manager on a tour of Rockland Township roads heavily impacted by Deka traffic and informed the Manager of the Township's concerns regarding the speed of vehicles on both State and Township roads throughout the Township particularly at certain times of the day. Supervisor Albright also requested permission to include an article in the next Township Newsletter related to this topic.

Speed Detection/Monitoring Device – Chairman David Wartzenuft inquired whether the Roadmaster looked into the purchase of a speed detection device (an additional \$5,000.00 was allocated in the 2020 approved budget for the purchase of a speed detection/monitoring device). Township resident Duane Bennetch inquired whether the Township could modify roads in such a way as to encourage lower vehicle speeds. Chairman Wartzenuft advised that he would like to have a sales representative provide a demo of the speed detection/monitoring device to the Township in advance of purchase. Township resident Jerry Keller, 121 Lyons Road informed the Board that he, too, sees firsthand how the Deka traffic impacts our Township, but he reminded Township officials that East Penn Manufacturing is a very important employer in the County and contributes significantly to our overall economy. Mr. Keller encouraged Township officials to work with East Penn Manufacturing in a cooperative manner to try to address any local traffic concerns.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Smoke-Mine Minor Subdivision Final Plan – The Smoke-Mine Minor Subdivision Plan review period will expire 6/24/2020. 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 7/24/2020). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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 June 30, 2020 Planning Commission meeting.

Sewage Advisory Committee Meeting – The next meeting of the Sewage Advisory Committee is not yet scheduled due to the coronavirus pandemic. After a brief discussion, the Board instructed the Township Secretary to hold off on contacting Ed McCorkle with Bursich Associates to schedule the next meeting at least until Berks County moves into the “GREEN PHASE”.

## **BILLS**

A listing of the unpaid bills as of June 9, 2020 was provided to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$55,040.79 from the General Fund. This list includes the following donations per the approved 2020 budget: \$16,000.00 to Lyons Fire Company, \$4,000.00 to Ruscombmanor Fire Company, \$8,778.00 to Topton Community Ambulance Service, Inc., \$5,200.00 to Brandywine Community Library, \$250.00 to Albright College’s Center for Excellence in Local Government, and \$100.00 to Crime Alert Berks County. The Board briefly discussed the 2020 donation amounts and the requirement that any emergency services organization receiving Township funds shall provide to the Township an annual itemized listing of all expenditures of those funds (Section 1553–Second Class Township Code). On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$30,262.79 from the General Fund noting that the donation amounts of \$16,000.00 to the Lyons Fire Company and \$8,778.00 to Topton Community Ambulance Service, Inc. were to be held temporarily until additional financial information is received, and the Board instructed the Township Secretary to send a letter via certified mail to Lyons Fire Company and Topton Community Ambulance Service requesting additional financial information. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The approved 2020 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 Township’s Fire Company Equipment Fund for 2020 (per the approved budget). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Township received email correspondence on May 14, 2020 from Township resident Ericka Ernst requesting elected Township officials investigate and implement a municipal ordinance to deal with COVID-19 and such an ordinance shall support the reopening of local businesses despite Governor Wolf’s orders. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to take no action on this request.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

A listing of correspondence dated June 9, 2020 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

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

31 Highland Drive – A complaint form was received stating that a burn barrel in back yard is not located a minimum of 50' from property line, smoke and odor travel into neighbor's backyard, and odor is noxious and will have detrimental health impacts. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Township Secretary was instructed to send a letter to the property owners at 31 Highland Drive with a copy of the Township Burning Ordinance, in the hopes that the situation resolves itself before involving the Township Code Official. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:**

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

Tuesday, July 14, 2020 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Jerry Keller advised that Lyons Fire Company recently was very busy dealing with emergency calls (trees down, wires down, etc.). In fact, most recently a tree fell on a vehicle along Forgedale Road. Mr. Keller reminded Township officials and meeting attendees that volunteer emergency responders and the Township road crew are available 24/7 to assist with emergency calls, and Mr. Keller thanked the Roadmaster for the road crew's assistance with these emergency calls when necessary.

Chairman David Wartzluft informed meeting attendees that Rockland Township is currently listed 7<sup>th</sup> highest overall in the State in responses for the Census 2020 (at an approximately 86% response rate).

There was no additional public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall  
Secretary/Treasurer