

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

AUGUST 10, 2021

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on August 10, 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 7:01PM by Chairman David Wartzenuft. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag.

The minutes of the Board of Supervisors' meeting held on July 13, 2021 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the July 13, 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 July 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	4,157.00
102.000	HRA Fund	8,472.05
103.000	American Rescue Plan Act Fund	200,023.85
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,810,078.87
107.001	General Fund – Savings	8,094.99
107.002	General Fund – Certificate of Deposit	112,000.00
107.006	General Fund – Savings (PRIME)	1,541,393.61
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	296,210.08
	State Aid Account – Checking	410.40
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	104,043.11
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	55,000.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,861.31
	Total as of July 31, 2021:	\$4,158,945.27

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

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

Easement/Agreement for 93 Hertzog School Road Turnaround – The Township Solicitor informed the Board that he will engage a surveyor to prepare a deed description for the easement.

39 Orchard Road – The Township Solicitor recommended the Board consider the referral of this property to the Berks County Blight Review Committee (per the suggestion of the Township Zoning Officer). On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the referral of 39 Orchard Road to the Berks County Blight Review Committee and instructed Adam Bender with Mack Engineering to start the referral process. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Resolution #2021-09 – Stormwater Management Ordinance Fees (Update) – The Township Solicitor reviewed the resolution and recommended the Board consider adoption of the resolution to update the filing fees applicable for submittal of stormwater management drainage plans for review by the Township Engineer (which are not part of a subdivision or land development plan) per the Township's Stormwater Management Ordinance. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by David Wartzenuft, Resolution #2021-09 was approved updating the Township's Stormwater Management filing fees. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Proposal from Urban Research & Development Corporation – The Township Solicitor provided a copy of the proposal to the Board for review and consideration and recommended the Board consider moving forward with engaging Urban Research & Development Corporation (URDC) to review the final draft of the Township's Zoning Ordinance prior to adoption. Per the proposal, URDC will complete the review of the Zoning Ordinance at an hourly rate of \$98 per hour with a maximum cap of \$8,000.00. On a motion by David Wartenluft, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board authorized Chairman David Wartenluft to execute the proposal/agreement with Urban Research & Development Corporation. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Henry Road Bridge - Update – The Township Solicitor did not investigate the process and anticipated costs associated with closing the Henry Road bridge, as he feels it will not be an insignificant process and will no doubt be a costly undertaking for the Township. Instead the Township Solicitor requested the Board consider having the Township Roadmaster and Township Solicitor work together to ensure consistency with the ordinance restricting trucks on the Henry Road bridge and existing signage, and in addition, consider adding additional signage (perhaps bright yellow signs in advance of Henry Road) to further deter trucks from using Henry Road and the Henry Road bridge. Chairman David Wartenluft also suggested the installation of additional signage along State roads which intersect with Henry Road (such as Pricetown Road, Lobachsville Road and Lyons Road), in order to provide more advanced notice and warning of vehicle size restrictions on Henry Road. At the conclusion of the brief discussion, the Township Solicitor informed the Board that he and the Township Roadmaster will meet and work on a proposed new ordinance (to clear up any inconsistencies between the ordinance and signage).

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

Smoketown Road Bridge Closure – The bridge structure has been removed and permanent barricades have been installed. The Roadmaster was unable to reach anyone at PennDOT regarding an estimated timeframe for the road/bridge closure.

Complaint regarding vehicle damage sustained during the 2021 Road Project – The Township Roadmaster was contacted by Mr. Leland Junge who lives along Sally Ann Furnace Road and who reported vehicle damage sustained during the 2021 Road Project (oil and chip of Sally Ann Furnace Road). Since the oil and chip project was awarded to Asphalt Maintenance Solutions, the Township Roadmaster forwarded this complaint on to the contractor (Asphalt Maintenance Solutions). After a brief discussion, the Board authorized the Township Solicitor to send a letter to the complainant to encourage the complainant to file a claim with his auto insurance carrier for the damage.

Driving PA Forward Onroad Rebate Program – The Township Roadmaster informed the Board that the application period is now open. Therefore, the Roadmaster requested approval from the Board to proceed with applying for funding via the Driving PA Forward Onroad Rebate Program toward the purchase of a 2023 114SD Freightliner (to replace the 2003 Freightliner). The total purchase price of the 2023 114SD Freightliner is \$113,555.00, which does not include the body/upfitting. Rockland Township would be eligible for a rebate amount of \$79,488.50 toward the purchase of the truck, if Rockland Township were to be selected for participation in the rebate program. On a motion by David Wartenluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the purchase of a 2023 114SD Freightliner (tandem truck) at a cost of \$113,555.00, the funding for which will be included in the Township's 2022 budget. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. On a motion by David Wartenluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Township Roadmaster and Township Secretary/Treasurer to proceed with application to the Driving PA Forward Onroad Rebate Program toward the purchase price of the 2023 114SD Freightliner. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Upcoming Co-Op Meeting – Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 7:30PM at Hereford Township – The Township Roadmaster informed the Board that a Co-Op Meeting has been scheduled and advertised for Thursday, August 19th at Hereford Township to discuss the joint purchase of a new paver. The Township Roadmaster and Chairman David Wartenluft confirmed their plans to attend the upcoming Co-Op Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Stonefield Heights Subdivision Improvements (Steep Lane) – The Township Engineer received notification that the paving of Steep Lane is scheduled to occur on Wednesday or Thursday next week.

68 Keller Road – Drainage/Zoning Issues – The Township Solicitor confirmed receipt of a drainage plan from the Ralstons, and the Township Engineer reviewed the minor drainage plan and provided review comments. The Township Solicitor has prepared a letter to the Ralstons (which will be mailed this week) which will inform the Ralstons that the minor drainage plan submitted was incomplete and not satisfactory, and the Ralstons will be given a very short timeframe to respond and to submit a satisfactory drainage plan for the Township's review for compliance with the Rockland Township Stormwater Ordinance. Mr. Michael Snyder, 35 Bick Road inquired as to how long this matter will drag on. Mr. Snyder mentioned that it has been over one year since this problem was reported to the Township, and Mr. Snyder's property is still flooding.

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, August 31, 2021.

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 - Update – Supervisor Michele Albright spoke with Chief Stinsky who spoke to the VP of Human Resources at Deka who seemed agreeable to meet with BEST Partnership to discuss how to work together in the future. Mr. Duane Bennetch shared that he thought the next move for BEST Partnership would be to sit down with County Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt who also is involved with BARTA. Mr. Bennetch also suggested the possibility of starting a social media petition to gain additional support for the BEST Partnership and its efforts.

12th Annual Friend Inc. Brake the Cycle Ride (Saturday, August 14, 2021) – Mr. Jim Reece, Executive Director at Friend, Inc. Community Services provided the Township with a certificate of liability insurance for this event, and bike ride information has been posted on the Township's website.

Semi-Quincentennial for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the USA – July 4, 2026 – This matter was tabled from last month's meeting. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Michele Albright, Resolution #2021-11 was adopted in support of the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States semi-quincentennial (AMERICA250PA) committing to the planning effort to highlight the significance of July 4, 2026. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS

A listing of the Unpaid Bills as of August 10, 2021 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval is **\$22,415.46** from the General Fund. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the unpaid bill list totaling \$22,415.46 was approved for payment from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Updates to Township Emergency Operations Plan – Township Emergency Management Coordinator Derick Wartzenuft recently completed a review of the Township's Emergency Operations Plan and is requesting a few minor updates. A copy of the proposed changes to the Township's current Emergency Operations Plan was provided to the Board and Township Solicitor. Chairman David Wartzenuft requested the name of the pastor at Christ Mertz Lutheran Church be updated to reflect the new pastor. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, Resolution #2021-10 was adopted thereby approving the proposed changes to the Rockland Township Emergency Operations Plan as recommended by Derick Wartzenuft (Township EMC). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

County-Provided Consolidated Dispatch Services – Municipalities in Berks County have been paying dispatch fees to the County on an annual basis which are subject to an annual increase that is currently without any limitations and decided solely at the discretion of the Berks County Commissioners. The Berks County Commissioners have decided that it is fairer and more conducive to annual budgeting to fix an annual fee for such services subject only to annual increases based upon the inflation index. In order to receive the benefit of the cap on annual fee increases, municipalities must enter into a new “Agreement to Provide Dispatch Services” with the County. A copy of the agreement (and sample resolution authorizing the agreement) has been provided to the Board and Township Solicitor. In order to take advantage of annual increases for calendar years after 2022 being tied to the Consumer Price Index-All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Northeast Region, an adopted resolution authorizing the agreement must be adopted on or before December 31, 2021. On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board instructed the Township Secretary/Treasurer and Township Solicitor to draft a resolution for the Board’s consideration at next month’s meeting. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township received correspondence from Andrea Weist with the Center for Excellence in Local Government (Albright College) who is assisting with outreach to municipalities to gauge interest in hosting a Board of Commissioners’ public meeting. For 2022, the County Commissioners are planning to hold “On The Road” public meetings quarterly at various locations in the county on the fifth Thursdays in March, June, September and December. The meetings will begin at 7:00PM and will be held in-person with a virtual component as well. If any municipalities in the County are interesting in hosting a County Commissioners’ meeting during 2022 (either at a Township Building or other suitable location in the municipality), the County requests an “Interest Form” be completed and returned. After a brief discussion, on a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Township Secretary/Treasurer was instructed to complete the Interest Form and return to the County to confirm the Board’s interest in hosting such a meeting at the Township Building in 2022 (if the meeting room meets seating capacity requirements and technology requirements). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A listing of correspondence dated August 10, 2021 is presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Reports and updates regarding zoning, building, sewage and stormwater issues and activity for July 2021 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review.

42 Keller Road – After a brief discussion, on a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Zoning Officer to continue to investigate and to prosecute any violations of the Township Zoning Ordinance and any other Township ordinance(s). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

66 Conrad Road – The Zoning Officer’s update advised that the property owner has applied for the required permit, and the Zoning Officer has determined that no other violations exist on the property. Therefore, the complaint investigation is complete, and the Zoning Officer now considers this matter closed.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Wednesday, August 11, 2021 @ 7:00PM – Public Hearing – Zoning Hearing Board (17 Fleetwood Road)
Wednesday, August 18, 2021 @ 7:00PM – Public Hearing – Zoning Hearing Board (22 Deysher Road)
Thursday, August 19, 2021 @ 7:00PM – Sewage Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, August 19, 2021 @ 7:30PM – Co-Op Meeting at Hereford Township
Tuesday, August 31, 2021 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting (Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting)
Tuesday, September 14, 2021 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jerry Keller requested an update on PennDOT's planned Forgedale Road Bridge over Bieber Creek Replacement Project. Supervisor Michele Albright informed Mr. Keller that based on the latest update from PennDOT, the construction phase is not expected to begin until 2028 -- unless the project receives expedited budget approval, in which case the project may begin as early as 2023.

There was no additional public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartenluft. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer