

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**AUGUST 11, 2020**

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on August 11, 2020 at 7:00PM at the Rockland Township Municipal Building. The following board members were present: Chairman David Wartzluft, 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 Wartzluft. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag.

The minutes of the Board of Supervisors' meeting held on July 14, 2020 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the July 14, 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 July 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	3,090.09
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,662,597.05
107.001	General Fund – Savings	7,489.99
107.002	General Fund – Certificate of Deposit	109,120.81
107.006	General Fund – Savings (PRIME)	1,539,920.98
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	209,602.21
	State Aid Account – Checking	408.78
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	63,887.18
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	33,978.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	19,054.58
	<b>Total as of July 31, 2020:</b>	<b>\$3,649,349.67</b>

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

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Snyder, 35 Bick Road requested to speak to the Board. Mr. Snyder requested guidance on regulations pertaining to surface water runoff from a neighboring property during heavy rains which has caused basement flooding in his house. According to Mr. Snyder, landscaping occurred on his neighbor's property to level the area where a pool was recently installed which has caused a concentration of surface water runoff to be directed toward his property resulting in basement flooding and resulting in water being sent through his front yard in the proximity of his septic drainfield. The Township Solicitor recommended Mr. Snyder contact the Berks County Conservation District with regard to the surface water runoff issue. Mr. Snyder also inquired whether the necessary Township permits and approvals were obtained by his neighbor prior to the installation of the above-ground pool. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board authorized the Township Code Official to perform a site visit and authorized the Township code official to contact the property owner regarding construction of a swimming pool without first obtaining the required permits. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Neil Vojtasek, 21 Sheep Hill Road requested to speak to the Board. Mr. Vojtasek expressed concern regarding recent basement flooding during the heavy rain associated with Tropical Storm Isaias on August 4, 2020. Chairman David Wartzluft informed Mr. Vojtasek that the Board intends to consider adoption of a Disaster Emergency Declaration Resolution at tonight's meeting as the result of the extensive flooding and damages in the Township caused by this latest storm. Such a declaration should aid in the availability and access to FEMA disaster funding (if such funding is made available in response to this storm). Chairman Wartzluft also suggested Mr. Vojtasek consider installing a sump pump in the basement.

## **REPORT OF SOLICITOR**

The Township Solicitor has reviewed the draft ordinance creating a yield condition on Carls Hill Road at the intersection with Smoketown Road. On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the ordinance for advertising for consideration for adoption at the next monthly Board meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Attorney Jim Smith provided the Board with a representation agreement for review and signature with new firm name, Smith Bukowski. On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board approved the execution of the new representation agreement with Smith Bukowski (replacing Smith Law Group) with same terms and conditions. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **REPORT OF ROADMASTER**

Recent Damage to Henry Road Bridge – The Roadmaster informed the Board of the most recent damage to the Henry Road bridge and advised that he reached out to PennDOT to discuss the possibility of installing truck routing signs to redirect trucks coming from the Forgedale Road detour from using Henry Road. Vice Chairman Nathan Ohlinger agreed to wait for an update from PennDOT, but mentioned that at next month's meeting he would like to make suggestions on how to narrow down the bridge so tractor trailers are not able to use the bridge. The Roadmaster also informed the Board that he reached out to the farmer regarding the previous damage to the Henry Road bridge. The Roadmaster and farmer agreed that the Township would perform the required bridge repairs and then will send a bill to the farmer to reimburse the Township for the necessary repair expenses.

Detention Basin Repairs/Maintenance Update – The Roadmaster provided the Board with an update on the progress with required repairs/maintenance to the following detention basins:

10 Ridge Drive – Repair/maintenance work is complete.

21 Sheep Hill Road & 11 Crestview Drive – Roadmaster still needs to follow-up with property owners to discuss required repairs and maintenance schedule.

16 Black Bear Run – The property owner at 16 Black Bear Run contacted the Township Roadmaster regarding concerns that the swale may not be sufficient to handle the volume of water generated during heavy rains and concerns about water entering his garage. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board authorized the Township Engineer to perform a site inspection of the detention pond and associated swales at 16 Black Bear Run (and to prepare an inspection report for the Township). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Speed Detection/Monitoring Device – The Roadmaster informed the Board that the speed detection/monitoring device was received from JAMAR Technologies. Township Supervisor Michele Albright advised that she spoke to the Safety Director and Director of Manufacturing at Deka and invited East Penn Manufacturing officials to attend upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting to discuss safety concerns and to discuss how the Township(s) and Deka can work together to address these concerns.

Township resident Duane Bennetch suggested the Township consider reaching out to the property owners who live near the Henry Road bridge to try to work out a suitable arrangement to supply electricity to the area to facilitate the installation of cameras. Township officials expressed concern about the cost associated with such cameras. During the brief discussion, the Township Roadmaster agreed to inquire to PennDOT about other types of cameras which could be used and the Township Solicitor agreed to investigate other possible camera options.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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, September 1, 2020 at 7:30PM. (NOTE: The 8/25/2020 Planning Commission meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for 9/1/2020.)

Sewage Advisory Committee Meeting – The next meeting of the Sewage Advisory Committee is not yet scheduled.

## **BILLS**

A listing of the unpaid bills as of August 11, 2020 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$49,274.84 from the General Fund. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$49,274.84 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Tropical Storm Isaias (August 4, 2020) – Flooding/Damage Assessments/Declaration of Disaster Emergency – Township Emergency Management Coordinator Derick Wartzenuft was present at tonight's meeting to provide a summary of the number and extent of the damage assessment reports submitted to the County as a result of the flooding associated with Tropical Storm Isaias. He encouraged any residents in attendance at tonight's meeting to contact him to report any significant flooding so an individual damage assessment report can be completed. Township Roadmaster Michael Pott informed the Board that there will likely be additional damages to report along Township roads and bridges. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by David Wartzenuft, Resolution #2020-06 was approved officially declaring a state of emergency due to flooding and significant damages sustained throughout the Township due to the August 4, 2020 storm (Tropical Storm Isaias). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Edward Goodhart, 39 Stimmel Road informed the Township that he has been in contact with PennDOT for years regarding the pipe under Forgedale Road (the bottom of the pipe was rusted out). Now, as the result of Tropical Storm Isaias, sections of the pipe are laying in the creek and stones and mud are now in his mud catcher. Mr. Goodhart wanted to know who was going to help him with digging out his mud catcher and opening the pipes back up and requested the Township's assistance. Mr. Goodhart mentioned that if this problem is not addressed in a timely manner, any significant rainfall will likely result in flooding of neighboring properties. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board instructed the Township Solicitor to send a letter to PennDOT and copy our State Representatives regarding the dangerous condition existing on Forgedale Road (a main artery regularly used by emergency personnel) created by the unusual amounts of rainfall that accompanied Tropical Storm Isaias on August 4, 2020. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. Chairman David Wartzenuft expressed gratitude to the volunteer firefighters, Township road crew and the Township Emergency Management Coordinator for their time and efforts during and after the storm in responding to numerous calls throughout the Township.

Mr. Jerry Keller, Lyons Fire Company reported that volunteer firefighters responded to 41 incidents during and immediately following Tropical Storm Isaias with 24 of them in Rockland Township (including a dramatic water rescue in Rockland Township). Jerry also praised the volunteer firefighters who took off work to respond to the emergency calls during/after the storm and thanked the Township road crew and staff for their help and assistance.

Sewage Facilities Planning Module – 228 Five Points Road (Lea barn conversion into residential home with primary and backup septic plus one replacement septic system for existing home) – Township Sewage Enforcement Officer Robert Wuerth reviewed and signed the sewage facilities planning module for 228 Five Points Road. At the Planning Commission meeting on July 28, 2020, the Planning Commission reviewed, approved and signed the sewage facilities planning module. The planning module is now being forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for review, approval and signature prior to submitting the PA DEP. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board approved the sewage facilities planning module for 228 Five Points Road for signature and submittal to PA DEP. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township's group medical plan with Highmark Blue Shield will renew on October 1, 2020. Highmark is offering the same plan with a 14% rate increase. The Secretary/Treasurer plans to meet with Gerhart, Hartman & Ritner next week and will obtain additional information on the UPMC plan and other group medical plan options, so the Board can make an informed decision with regard to the Township's group medical plan going forward.

The Township Secretary prepared the Township's 2021 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Rockland Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan. The total MMO obligation for 2021 is \$22,522.00. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the 2021 MMO for the Rockland Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan totaling \$22,522.00. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A listing of correspondence dated August 11, 2020 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Reports and updates regarding zoning, building, sewage and stormwater issues and activities for July 2020 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review. Direction was requested from the Board regarding two recent complaints received.

New Complaint – Deysher Road – The Board briefly reviewed a new complaint regarding loud explosive fireworks and loud explosions. On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board instructed the complainant to contact the PA State Police for enforcement of fireworks, since the Township does not have a fireworks ordinance. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

A complaint was recently received regarding burning violations occurring at 22 Lobachsville Road. A letter was previously sent to the property owner of 22 Lobachsville Road in October 2019 along with a copy of the Rockland Township Burning Ordinance. On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Township Code Official to visit the property (with a PA State Police escort, if necessary) and discuss burning violations with the property owner. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:**

Tuesday, September 1, 2020 @ 7:30PM - Planning Commission Meeting (Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting) \*\*NEW DATE\*\*  
Tuesday, September 8, 2020 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Jerry Keller, Lyons Fire Company provided information on a situation during Tropical Storm Isaias where a motorist pulled a gun on one of the Lyons Fire Company fire police. Mr. Keller also provided a brief overview of the various types of emergency calls that our volunteer firefighters respond to 24/7.

There was no additional public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall  
Secretary/Treasurer