

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**AUGUST 13, 2019**

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on August 13, 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 Alfred Crump, Jr., 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 July 9, 2019 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the July 9, 2019 meeting minutes were approved as presented. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Board of Supervisors' meeting held on July 23, 2019 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the July 23, 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 July 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	2,887.25
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,255,028.01
107.001	General Fund – Savings	103,702.46
107.002	General Fund – Certificates of Deposits	109,120.81
107.006	General Fund – Savings (PRIME)	1,417,513.65
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	245,840.95
	State Aid Account – Checking	406.65
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	149,285.97
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	18,978.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	26,809.60
	<b>Total as of July 31, 2019:</b>	<b>\$3,329,773.35</b>

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

Mr. Mike Richards, Topton Ambulance provided an update to the Board. The Topton Ambulance is still open and operating. An audit is currently being conducted and after the conclusion of the audit, Topton Ambulance will contact municipalities to discuss funding going forward.

Sergeant Ron Mohl, Northern Berks Police Department provided the Board with information on different types of traffic and speed data collector devices available through JAMAR Technologies, Inc.

Mr. Derick Wartzenuft, Emergency Management Coordinator provided the Board with an update on his training and informed the Board he has completed the following NIMS training courses: IS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System, IS-200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents, IS-230 Fundamentals of Emergency Management, and IS-235 Emergency Planning. Mr. Wartzenuft also informed the Board that he attended a County training session in June (Initial Damage Reporting) and anticipates attending the August 2019 County training session as well. In October and November, he plans to attend the ICS-300 and ISC-400 at the Trexlertown Fire Company (50-hour class).

## **REPORT OF SOLICITOR**

Ordinance for Posting Truck Restrictions on Henry Road (Henry Road Bridge) – The Township is still awaiting receipt of the engineering and traffic study from LTL Consultants, Ltd.

## **REPORT OF ROADMASTER**

Henry Road Bridge Repair – An estimate was received from Tim Miller, T. Miller Masonry in the amount of \$3,500.00 for repair of the damaged wall. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board approved proceeding with the wall repair with T. Miller Masonry, only after the final break-away posts are installed at the Schweitz Road and Henry Road intersection (which should help to deter future wall damage). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Roadmaster informed the Board that he reached out to PennDOT to inquire about digital signs to post along State roads. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board agreed to have the Roadmaster proceed with obtaining speed devices from the State, if possible. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

- Update from Cathy Longenecker – The final design phase appears to be several months out, due to some unique design challenges at the Forgedale Road bridge over Bieber Creek location. Ms Longenecker confirmed that she will contact the Township (likely in several months) to present new design information which hopefully will include an aesthetic appearance to better suit the area, while still meeting State, Federal and regulatory agency design requirements.
- Proposed Detour Route – The Township is still awaiting confirmation of the planned detour route for this project from Mike Mogan and PennDOT.

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 at the August 27, 2019 Planning Commission meeting.

Sewage Advisory Committee Update – The Township received the “Sewage Facilities Planning Status & Vision Development” document from Ed McCorkle, Bursich Associates. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Township Secretary to pass this document along to the Sewage Advisory Committee and schedule a meeting for Ed McCorkle/Bursich Associates to meet with the Committee to review and discuss. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **BILLS**

A listing of the unpaid bills as of August 13, 2019 was provided to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$26,024.65 from the General Fund. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$26,024.65 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2019 Road Project Invoice – The 2019 Road Project is complete which included the paving of Lake Road (from Kutz Road to the Township line) and Orchard Road (from Forgedale Road to Sheep Hill Road). An invoice totaling \$203,635.03 was received from Landis C. Deck & Sons for this work. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved payment of the invoice totaling \$203,635.03 to Landis C. Deck & Sons for the 2019 Road Project from the State Aid Fund pending review and approval by PennDOT representative Charles Paris. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Birdsboro Pipeline Project – Meter Station Monuments Waiver Request – The Township received a signed letter from Mrs. Kathy Levan confirming her support for the Township to waive the requirement for DTE to install concrete survey monuments in the agricultural field near the meter station. On a motion by David Wartzenluft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board confirmed the granting of the waiver to install concrete survey monuments in the agricultural field near the meter station (with the understanding that DTE still intends to install the monuments adjacent to Water Street and Forgedale Road). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Zoning Hearing Board Decision – 55 Deysher Road – The Rockland Township Zoning Hearing Board rendered their decision on the variance application for 55 Deysher 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 with a 7' setback from the lot line on the west side of the property.

PLGIT Certificate of Deposit Maturity 7/30/2019 – The Township's certificate of deposit with PLGIT matured on 7/30/2019. The current CD interest rates are lower than the interest rates currently being offered by PLGIT in either their PLGIT CLASS or PLGIT PRIME accounts. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board instructed the Township Treasurer to place these funds (from the CD maturity 7/30/2019) into the Township's PLGIT PRIME account to take advantage of the best interest rate available at 2.4%. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Amendment to the Longswamp Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) – On August 9, 2019, Rockland Township received notification of Longswamp Township's consideration of an ordinance to amend the Longswamp Township SALDO. This ordinance is limited to a change in the definition of "land development" for conformity to the Municipalities Planning Code. A hearing on the proposed Ordinance is scheduled for September 10, 2019 at 7:00PM. Any comments on this ordinance shall be submitted to the Longswamp Township Office prior to the September 10, 2019 hearing. After a brief discussion, the Board offered no comments to pass along to Longswamp Township.

Christ Mertz Lutheran Church Day Care Center – Supervisor Nathan Ohlinger questioned whether the Township could make a donation to the day care center, since the day care center is an important part of our community. The Township Solicitor informed Supervisor Ohlinger that he would need to investigate whether it would be permissible for the Township to donate public funds to the day care center and recommended the Board only approve donations which have been included in the approved 2019 budget.

Welcoming Committee – Supervisor Nathan Ohlinger inquired whether there would be interest in developing a Welcoming Committee. After a brief discussion, the Township Supervisors agreed to include this item in the next Township Newsletter to see if anyone would be interested in serving on this committee.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

A listing of correspondence dated August 10, 2019 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

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

Beaver Creek Road – Complaint regarding house possibly made into two units and new plumbing and electrical work performed without required permit – As instructed by the Board, a letter was mailed to the property owner requesting a response by August 6, 2019. No response received. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board authorized this complaint be passed on the code official. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

31 Clay Valley Road Complaint Update – Updates were received from Jackie Hollenbach, Zoning Officer. After discussion, the Board was in agreement that it is premature to refer this property to the Berks County Blighted Property Review Committee at this time, and the Board wanted to discuss this matter further with the Planning Commission before making any referral to the County.

42 Mine Road – Burning Complaint (unattended burning of grass clippings and other debris with lingering smoke for hours) – On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board instructed the Township Secretary to inform the complainant to call the fire company if violations of the Township’s Burning Ordinance continue at 42 Mine Road, and the code official shall send a letter to the property owner to advise that future burning violations at 42 Mine Road could result in fines/penalties. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:**

Tuesday, August 27, 2019 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting (Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting)  
Tuesday, September 10, 2019 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Jerry Keller, Lyons Fire Company informed the Board of a fire alarm call to the Township Building on July 11, 2019 during a bad thunderstorm.

There was no additional public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07PM on a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall  
Secretary/Treasurer