

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on September 8, 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 7:01PM by Chairman David Wartzenuft. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag.

The minutes of the Board of Supervisors' meeting held on August 11, 2020 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the August 11, 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 August 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	3,115.25
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,644,381.15
107.001	General Fund – Savings	7,490.13
107.002	General Fund – Certificate of Deposit	109,120.81
107.006	General Fund – Savings (PRIME)	1,540,261.07
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	209,615.10
	State Aid Account – Checking	408.80
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	63,888.41
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	33,978.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,983.38
	Total as of August 31, 2020:	\$3,631,442.10

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

Mr. Michael Snyder, 35 Bick Road requested to speak to the Board and informed the Board that his property is still experiencing flooding and the drainage situation has not improved. Mr. Snyder contacted the Berks County Conservation District and was told that this matter is the Township's responsibility to enforce. Mr. Snyder expressed concerns with significant changes to a neighboring property upgrade of his property without the necessary permits and approvals from the Township and which he believes has contributed to the amount of stormwater flowing onto his property (such as grading for installation of above-ground pool, outbuilding used for a horse, expansion of driveway, tree removal, etc.). Mr. Snyder requested the Township authorize the Township Engineer to investigate this matter for compliance with the Township's stormwater ordinance and all other Township ordinances. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Township Engineer to perform a site inspection at 68 Keller Road and 35 Bick Road and provide a report of any findings to the Board. In addition, the Board confirmed that the issuance of any permits for this property would be on hold until after the Township Engineer's report is received. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was briefly adjourned at 7:29PM for an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter and no formal action was taken as a result of this Executive Session. The meeting reconvened at 7:42PM.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

Ordinance #2020-07 creating a yield condition on Carls Hill Road at the intersection with Smoketown Road was advertised for consideration for adoption at tonight's meeting. On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board approved Ordinance #2020-07 for adoption and signature thereby creating a yield condition on Carls Hill Road at the intersection with Smoketown Road. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Forgedale Road Closure (State Route #SR1021) - Attorney Jim Smith provided the Board with update on the letter sent to PennDOT and our State Representatives regarding the closure of Forgedale Road and planned repairs. The Township has been advised that PennDOT is in the process of working with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to obtain the necessary permits and approvals for the repair work and it is anticipated that the necessary permits and approvals could take several weeks (due to the potential for endangered or threatened species in the area). Mr. Edward Goodhart, 39 Stimmel Road again inquired whether PennDOT or the Township plan to clean out the creek and his mud catcher and clogged pipe downstream of Forgedale Road. If this matter is not addressed, Mr. Goodhart said neighboring properties will likely experience flooding during any future significant rain storms and stone will likely accumulate on Stimmel Road. Mr. Harlan Snyder mentioned to the Board that Scott Fiegel, Ecological Associates (a local environmental consultant) would likely be able to assist the Township with performing a bog turtle study if deemed necessary. David Wartzluft made a motion to authorize Jim Smith (Township Solicitor) or Karen Krall (Secretary/Treasurer) to reach out to Scott Fiegel to obtain a cost estimate for his services. Mr. Jerry Keller informed the Board that he was told that individuals were already at the site to investigate bog turtle habitats and evidence of any other possible endangered or threatened species). David Wartzluft ultimately rescinded his motion. The Township Solicitor was instructed to try to find out whether PennDOT plans to clean out the creek, mudcatcher and clogged pipe on Mr. Goodhart's property and was instructed to keep the Board informed of progress through his contacts with regard to planned repairs of Forgedale Road and its likely reopening.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

Henry Road Bridge Damage – The Roadmaster contacted PennDOT regarding the posting of truck route signage (in an effort to deter truck traffic on Henry Road and the Henry Road bridge). Unfortunately, the Roadmaster was informed that the situation does not meet the criteria for truck route requirements. The Roadmaster informed the Board that the road crew recently replaced a post and relocated rocks at the Henry Road bridge.

16 Black Bear Run – The Township Engineer performed an inspection of the detention pond and swales on 8/26/2020 and provided an inspection report. The report confirms that the existing swale is sufficient and appears to be functioning as designed. The Roadmaster also informed the Board that the Township will be performing some of the swale maintenance and repair items identified in the Township Engineer's report.

Speed Detection/Monitoring Device – The Roadmaster provided the Board with reports obtained from the JAMAR device for speed monitoring along Lake Road between 8/26/2020 thru 9/3/2020. The Board recommended the Roadmaster install the JAMAR device along four roads each month (and suggested beginning with Lyons Road, Kutz Road, Forgedale Road and then back on Lake Road). Township Supervisor Michele Albright received an email from Deka advising that they would not attend one of Rockland Township's monthly Board meetings. The Board instructed the Township Secretary/Treasurer to forward the speed detection/monitoring reports to the PA State Police to aid with speed enforcement throughout the Township.

5-Year Winter Municipal Agreement with PennDOT – On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the 5-year winter municipal agreement with PennDOT for signature (for the plowing of certain State roads in the Township) effective for the 2020-2021 winter season through the 2024-2025 winter season. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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 29, 2020 at 7:30PM.

Sewage Advisory Committee Meeting – The next meeting of the Sewage Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 7:00PM at the Rockland Township Municipal Building.

BILLS

A listing of the unpaid bills as of September 8, 2020 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$46,494.43 from the General Fund. On a motion by Michele Albright, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$46,494.43 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

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 met with Gerhart, Hartman & Ritner and obtained additional information on the UPMC plan and other group medical plan options for the Board's consideration. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board approved switching from Highmark Blue Shield to the UPMC Gold H.S.A. PPO with a \$2,000/\$4,000 deductible (to be covered by the Township same as with the Highmark Blue Shield plan) effective October 1, 2020 which will result in lower premiums than our current premiums. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. Upon recommendation by Gerhart, Hartman & Ritner, on a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board also approved switching from PrimePay to FlexFacts as the Township's third-party administrator for HSA effective October 1, 2020. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved renewal of the Township's vision coverage with Highmark Blue Shield with no rate increase effective October 1, 2020. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Uniform Construction Code Quarterly Filings – The Department of Community and Economic Development is no longer accepting mailed, paper checks for payment of quarterly Uniform Construction Code permit fees. Rockland Township's check serving as payment of 2nd quarter 2020 fees was returned along with a note stating that effective April 16, 2020 all UCC permit filings are to be paid using ACH (TeleCheck) or by credit card. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the payment of the Township's quarterly UCC fees via ACH (TeleCheck). There was no public comment. David Wartzenuft and Michele Albright voted YES. Nathan Ohlinger voted NO. Motion carried.

2021 Animal Control Contract with Safety Net Sanctuary – The Township received a 2021 Animal Control Service Agreement from Safety Net Sanctuary. Lisa Poper is requesting a donation increase to \$2,000.00 for 2021 (donation amount for 2020 was \$1,000.00). The Board also received information from the Animal Rescue League regarding 2021 animal control contracts. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to review the animal control services information and proposed agreements received and make a decision regarding 2021 animal control services at the upcoming 2021 budget meeting.

Fall 2020 Township Newsletter – The Township Secretary prepared a draft Fall 2020 Township Newsletter for the Board's review and approval for printing and mailing to the Township residents. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board approved the printing and mailing of the September 2020 Township Newsletter with Heffner Printing. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Berks County Association of Township Officials' Annual County Convention will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2020 from 9:30AM-11:00AM at the Oley Fire Company Fairgrounds. Elected Township officials should let the Township Secretary/Treasurer know whether they plan to attend. The deadline to respond is October 1, 2020.

CORRESPONDENCE

A listing of correspondence dated September 8, 2020 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Reports and updates regarding zoning, building, sewage and stormwater issues and activities for August 2020 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review.

31 Clay Valley Road – The Township Solicitor provided an update to the Board regarding the 31 Clay Valley Road property based on his recent correspondence with the Township Zoning Officer. The Board acknowledged progress has been made with regard to clean-up of this property. The Township Solicitor provided the Board with three options: 1) Withdraw the citation; 2) Instruct the Zoning Officer to call the attorney representing the property owner and request payment of the filing fee (in order for the Township to recoupe at a minimum the filing fee), then withdraw the citation; or 3) Proceed with citation. After a brief discussion, on a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Township Zoning Officer to contact the property owner/attorney to recoupe the filing fee, then proceed with withdrawal of the citation. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

22 Lobachsville Road – Upon review of the update provided by the Township Zoning Officer, the Board acknowledged that it seems the burning has ceased (at least temporarily). Nonetheless, the Township Zoning Officer informed the Board that a letter will be sent.

119 Kutz Road – On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Michele Albright, the Board authorized the Township Zoning Officer to proceed with investigation of this complaint (number of vehicles on the property, etc.) for compliance with Township ordinances as no junkyard permit has been issued for this property nor are Township officials aware of any Township approvals granted previously which would have approved any type of established business use on this property. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 @ 7:30PM - Planning Commission Meeting (Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting)

Tuesday, October 8, 2020 @ 7:00PM – Sewage Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Michele Albright. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer