

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 12, 2017**

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on September 12, 2017 at 7:30PM at the Rockland Township Municipal Building. The following board members were present: Chairman Herb Meadway, Vice Chairman Duane Bennetch, and Nathan Ohlinger. Also present were Attorney Alfred Crump (Township Solicitor) and interested citizens.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by Chairman Herb Meadway. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag.

The minutes of the Board of Supervisors meeting held on August 8, 2017 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the August 8, 2017 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 2017 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	2,903.61
106.000	General Fund – Savings	2,163,077.05
107.001	General Fund – Savings	6,145.48
107.002	General Fund – Certificates of Deposit	375,004.01
109.002	Certificate of Deposit	109,106.16
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	26,370.94
	State Aid Account – Checking	403.01
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	63,725.17
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	17,719.87
	<b>Total as of August 31, 2017:</b>	<b>\$2,764,655.30</b>

On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the balance sheets, check and deposit details for August 2017 were approved as presented. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**REPORT OF SOLICITOR**

State Game Lands Along Forgedale Road – The Township Solicitor is still looking into access to the State Game Lands along Forgedale Road.

Resolution – Removal of Dead Trees at 14 Beaver Creek Road – The Township Solicitor prepared a resolution for the Board's consideration at tonight's meeting to authorize the removal of the dead trees located in the Township right-of-way area that cause a potentially dangerous condition for vehicles utilizing Beaver Creek Road. The resolution also encourages the property owner(s) of 14 Beaver Creek Road to remove other dead trees that are located solely on the owner's private property (and not within the Township's right-of-way) for liability reasons. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board approved Resolution #2017-10 authorizing the removal of dead trees at 14 Beaver Creek Road in order to ensure safe travel on Beaver Creek Road. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. Ms. Donna Moyer (representing Frank and Betty Moyer) was present at tonight's meeting. Ms. Moyer informed the Board that she would take the necessary actions to see that the other dead trees which are located solely on the owner's private property be removed in a reasonable time frame. She also requested the Township Roadmaster mark those trees located outside of the right-of-way area which should be removed.

Ag Security Area Applications – No new applications were received by Rockland Township during the month of August 2017 requesting the inclusion of land into the Rockland Township Agricultural Security Area. The Township Solicitor informed the Board that Rockland Township will need to conduct a seven-year review of the Township's Agricultural Security Area during calendar year 2018.

Agricultural Security Area Committee Appointee – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, Shane Snyder was appointed to serve on the Rockland Township Agricultural Security Area Committee (as an active farmer). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board confirmed that the recent appointment of Brian Grube to serve on the Agricultural Security Area Committee was to replace Township Supervisor Duane Bennetch (since the Committee is only to include one Township Supervisor). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Well Isolation Distance Exemption – 51 Lyons Road (KAB Loan Services) – The Township Sewage Enforcement Officer, Robert Wuerth, recommends the Board approve the well isolation distance exemption for 51 Lyons Road. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board granted a well isolation distance exemption for 51 Lyons Road. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Holding Tank Agreement – 110 Lyons Road (Dryville Hotel) – The Township Solicitor reviewed the Holding Tank Agreement and recommended the Board consider approval/signature of the agreement. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board approved the Holding Tank Agreement for signature for 110 Lyons Road (Dryville Hotel). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Holding Tank Agreement – 128 Lyons Road (Quality First Home Interiors Studio/Norman Seay) – The Township Solicitor reviewed the Holding Tank Agreement and recommended the Board consider approval/signature of the agreement. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board approved the Holding Tank Agreement for signature for 128 Lyons Road (Quality First Home Interiors Studio/Norman Seay) pending Mr. Norman Seay's signature. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **REPORT OF ROADMASTER**

Sale of 1998 International Dump Truck with Plow & Spreader via Municibid – The Roadmaster requested Board input in order to proceed with listing the truck (with plow and spreader) on Municibid. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board set a starting price of \$4,000.00 and a reserve price of \$14,800.00 and confirmed that the sale end date shall coincide with the October 10, 2017 meeting date. 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 agreed to review and discuss Article 5 (RC-Rural Conservation District) and Article 6 (C-Commercial District) at the September 26, 2017 Planning Commission meeting.

Logo Design Contest Entries – Township Supervisor Nathan Ohlinger advised meeting attendees that Township officials are still in the process of trying to identify a way to print/reproduce the logo in an economical manner.

Rory Gehman Minor Subdivision II Plan – Sally Ann Furnace Road – Rockland Township received an approval letter dated 9/1/2017 from PA DEP for the planning module (exception) for the Rory Gehman Minor Subdivision II. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the Rory Gehman Minor Subdivision II Plan for signature. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Sewage Advisory Committee Update – The next meeting of the Sewage Advisory Committee has not yet been scheduled. The next meeting will be scheduled when the Township receives information and materials from Dr. Archer. This information from Dr. Archer is to be reviewed by the Committee, then the Committee's comments will be provided to the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors.

Birdsboro Pipeline Project – Special Exception Application to the Zoning Hearing Board – The Rockland Township Zoning Hearing Board held a public hearing on Wednesday, August 23, 2017 for this Special Exception application. The Zoning Hearing board met again on Wednesday, August 30, 2017 at 7:00PM to render their decision on the application. The special exception was granted with several conditions. A written decision will follow shortly.

2020 Census – This item was tabled at last month's meeting. The Township Secretary obtained additional information, including what is involved in participating with LUCA and provided it to the Board in advance of tonight's meeting. According to other Townships which have participated in LUCA previously, the work involved is not too complicated or time-consuming, and participation is recommended to ensure an accurate count for the Township. A response from the Township is requested, even if the Township declines to participate. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board decided not to participate with LUCA. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Township Newsletter – The Township Secretary is working on the Fall Township Newsletter for review/approval by the Board, prior to mailing to Township property owners and residents.

## **BILLS**

The Roadmaster met with Charlie Paris, PennDOT and obtained project approval for payment of the materials used for mill and fill work on Keller Road performed earlier this summer utilizing liquid fuels monies. The total cost of the materials was \$23,954.51, which was already paid using monies from the Township's General Fund. Since this road project is now approved thru the State Aid Fund, the Board should authorize the transfer of \$23,954.51 from the State Aid Fund to the General Fund for this project. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved the transfer of \$23,954.51 from the State Aid Fund to the General Fund to cover the cost of materials for mill and fill work for Keller Road. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

A listing of the unpaid bills as of September 12, 2017 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$14,245.42 from the General Fund. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$14,245.42 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

2017 MS4 Permit-Waiver Application - Linda Cluck, LTL Consultants, Ltd. prepared and submitted a 2017 Permit-Waiver Application to the PA Department of Environmental Protection on behalf of Rockland Township on September 8, 2017 (along with the \$500.00 filing fee). This submittal is in support of a waiver from MS4 permitting requirements.

The Township Secretary prepared the Township's 2018 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Rockland Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan. The total MMO obligation for the 2018 MMO is \$20,647.00, and this calculation is intended to meet the requirements of Act 189. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board approved the 2018 MMO for the Rockland Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan totaling \$20,647.00. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township received renewal rates for dental coverage with United Concordia. There was no proposed increase in renewal rates for the period 10/1/2017 through 9/30/2018. However, Gerhart, Hartman & Ritner is recommending the Board consider switching dental coverage to Highmark Blue Shield's Blue Edge Dental plan (with United Concordia). Coverage would be slightly better (with an increased annual benefit maximum and the premium would be slightly cheaper than the Township's current plan with United Concordia directly). On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved dental coverage with Highmark Blue Shield's Blue Edge Dental plan (with United Concordia) for the period 10/1/2017 through 9/30/2018. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township received renewal rates for health and vision coverage with Highmark Blue Shield. Highmark Blue Shield is proposed an approximate 4.37% increase for health coverage effective 10/1/2017 through 9/30/2018. Vision coverage with Highmark Blue Shield has decreased approximately 2.4%. Gerhart, Hartman & Ritner is recommending the Board approve the health insurance and vision coverage renewals with Highmark Blue Shield effective 10/1/2017 through 9/30/2018. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved renewal of health insurance and vision coverage with Highmark Blue Shield effective 10/1/2017 through 9/30/2018. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township received an invitation for Township officials to attend the 2017 Berks County Convention to be held on Thursday, October 19, 2017 at the Oley Fair Center.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A list of correspondence dated September 12, 2017 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Reports and updates regarding zoning/building, sewage and stormwater issues and activities for August 2017 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review. Direction was needed from the Board on a few code-related matters.

42 Mine Road – Burning Complaint – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, this complaint was turned over to the Code Official. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

54 Orchard Road – Complaint (Unlicensed cars) – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, this matter was tabled. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

21 Hill Road – Complaint (Tires) – The Board reviewed the recent update received from the Code Official. The Board confirmed that the resident cannot use Township equipment to dispose of tires.

Forgedale Road – Complaint from PA DEP – The Township Sewage Enforcement Officer is investigating a complaint received recently from Michael Morris, PA DEP regarding sewage concerns at 22-26 Forgedale Road.

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

Tuesday, September 26, 2017 @ 7:30PM - Planning Commission Meeting (Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update)  
Tuesday, October 10, 2017 @ 7:30PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. William Schellenberger, 23 Bowers Road, inquired as to whether there are any Township regulations which would require large outdoor propane tanks to be concealed.

Mr. Matthew James, candidate for Magisterial District Judge (who is seeking the seat currently held by Victor Frederick IV who is not seeking re-election) was present at tonight's meeting to provide information on himself and his experience and qualifications for this position.

There was no additional public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall  
Secretary/Treasurer