

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

OCTOBER 13, 2015

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on October 13, 2015 at 7:30PM at the Rockland Township Municipal Building. The following board members were present: Chairman Herb Meadway, Vice Chairman Duane Bennetch and Walter Hafer. 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 meeting minutes of the September 8, 2015 Board of Supervisors meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The balance sheets, check detail and deposit detail for September 2015 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	1,518.69
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,359,727.59
108.000	General Fund – Govt Money Market	179,860.88
107.001	General Fund – Savings	1,869.07
107.002	General Fund – Savings	275,003.98
109.001	Government Money Market	118,078.08
109.007	Certificate of Deposit	100,000.00
109.002	Certificate of Deposit	109,106.16
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	28,242.05
	State Aid Account – Checking	388.21
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	286,395.72
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	24,871.00
	Total as of September 30, 2015:	\$2,485,261.43

On a motion by Walter Hafer, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the balance sheets, check and deposit details for September 2015 were approved as presented. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

The Board was informed that the Township Solicitor was contacted by an environmental law attorney regarding a recent burning complaint at Lobachsville Road. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board requested that the complainant and two other neighbors file written letters or complaints to the Township (in response to the burning complaint at Lobachsville Road), then upon receipt of this documentation, the Board would tell LTL Consultants, Ltd. to proceed with investigation and enforcement of the Township Burning Ordinance (if it were determined that a violation of the Township Burning Ordinance has occurred). Mr. David Wartzenuft questioned whether it was necessary to have a complaint in order to enforce the Township Ordinance. There was no additional public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. (NOTE: The Board took action later in the meeting which rescinds this action.)

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

The Township Solicitor informed the Board of a recent incident which occurred on Friday, October 9, 2015. A Clifford Hill Sanitation trash truck blew a hydraulic hose on Friday afternoon, leaking a significant amount of fluid onto Fleetwood-Dryville Road beginning at Weavers Road heading to Dryville, then onto Lyons Road to 120 Lyons Road where the truck stopped. Both roads involved were State roads, but apparently, PennDOT refused to respond. The fire company requested the assistance from multiple municipalities, due to the size/length of the spill. Rockland Township was contacted to provide sand. As a result, Rockland Township incurred expenses for this incident (labor, equipment and materials). The Township Solicitor recommended the Board discuss whether an invoice for these expenses should be sent and whether each entity involved with the clean-up would send their invoices separately to Clifford Hill Sanitation. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Walter Hafer, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board agreed to send individual bills (separately) to Clifford Hill Sanitation. Mr. Todd Gummo suggested the Township contact Richmond Township to advise of the decision to send bills individually. There was no additional public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. Jerry Keller representing Lyons Fire Company and the Board briefly discussed incidents where the Township billed for such expenses (only for incidents which did not involve a Township resident). The Board will seek input on these incidents from the Roadmaster, but agreed that the Township should be able to seek reimbursement in certain instances when a Township resident is not involved, as it would not seem fair that these costs would be passed along to the taxpayers of Rockland Township.

OLD BUSINESS

As a follow-up from the 9/8/15 Board meeting, the Township Secretary contacted the Brandywine Community Library to confirm whether Rockland Township needed to do anything beyond acknowledging the resignation of Doug Sherry from the Board of Trustees for the Brandywine Community Library effective August 1, 2015. The Director at the Brandywine Community Library confirmed that no further action by the Township is required at this time.

BILLS

The Township received payment on 9/24/15 in the amount of \$26,553.98 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania serving as the 2015 Commonwealth allocation supporting the Volunteer Fire Relief Association(s) of the volunteer fire companies. As required by Act 205, proceeds from this check must be paid within 60 days to the fire relief associations that serve our community. The proposed payments to the fire relief associations are as follows: \$15,932.39 to Lyons Volunteer Firefighter's Relief Assn (60%) and \$10,621.59 to Ruscombmanor Firemen's Relief Assn (40%). These amounts are included in the unpaid bills total for payment from the General Fund. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board approved the Foreign Fire payments in the amounts of \$15,932.39 to Lyons Volunteer Firefighter's Relief Association and \$10,621.59 to Ruscombmanor Firemen's Relief Association. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township received payment on 9/24/15 in the amount of \$15,683.33 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania serving as the 2015 Commonwealth allocation of general municipal pension system state aid. The Township's 2015 payment to the pension plan totals \$18,142.44 (contribution based on 10 percent of eligible members' prior year's wages). This amount is included in the unpaid bills list total for payment from the General Fund. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved payment in the amount of \$18,142.44 to the Rockland Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan payable to Nationwide serving as 2015 contributions for eligible employees. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

A listing of the Unpaid Bills as of October 13, 2015 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval is \$94,625.04 from the General Fund. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Walter Hafer, the list of unpaid bills totaling \$94,625.04 was approved for payment from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

FREM Subdivision Revised Final Plan – Cider Mill Road – The Township received a plan titled “FREM Subdivision Revised Final Plan” for Township review, including the completed application forms and review fees for both the Township and the County. The Planning Commission officially accepted the plan for review at their 9/29/15 meeting. The County application form, County review fee and two copies of the plan were mailed to the Berks County Planning Commission. The FREM Subdivision Revised Final Plan seeks to modify lot #7 to make it a building lot. The Township Engineer provided a review letter dated 9/25/15. As a result of the Township Engineer’s review letter and discussion at the 9/29/15 Planning Commission, the owner of Lot #7 has submitted a variance application to the Rockland Township Zoning Hearing Board on 10/6/15 seeking a variance from Section 8.02 of the Township Zoning Ordinance. The variance application will be added to the upcoming 10/27/15 Planning Commission agenda and the 11/10/15 Board agenda for an opportunity to provide comments to the Zoning Hearing Board.

The Township received a “2016 Statement of Costs” for communications services for the calendar year 2016 for Rockland Township from the Berks County Department of Emergency Services, as authorized by the Board of Commissioners. Rockland Township’s 2016 communications services invoice total is \$13,552.47 (same as for 2015).

The Township received correspondence from Darla Moore, Supervisor, Compliance Analysis, Spectra Energy with a request for identified site information. Spectra Energy (a gas pipeline operator) is required to annually enlist the assistance of local public safety officials in identifying certain types of sites or facilities adjacent (1,000’ on either side) to the pipeline which meets the following criteria: 1) a small, well-defined outside area that is occupied by twenty or more persons on at least 50 days in any twelve-month period (such as playgrounds, parks, swimming pools, sports fields, and campgrounds); b) a facility that is occupied by persons who are confined, are of impaired mobility, or would be difficult to evacuate (schools, elder care, assisted living/nursing facilities, prisons and child daycares). If the Township is aware of any site/facility that meets the above criteria in our jurisdiction, Spectra Energy is requesting additional information on such sites/facilities. After a brief discussion, the Board was unable to identify any sites in Rockland Township that would meet the criteria outlined by Spectra Energy.

The Township received correspondence from Penn State Extension advising of a Spotted Lanternfly Meeting planned for mid-October in Berks County. Pennsylvanians interested in learning more about the spotted lanternfly, an invasive species found in the state last fall, are invited to a public meeting on October 22, 2015. The event will take place from 6:00PM-8:30PM in the Brandywine Heights Middle School auditorium located at 200 W. Weis Street in Topton. Representatives from Penn State Extension, the PA Department of Agriculture, Penn State’s College of Agricultural Sciences’ Department of Entomology and the Department of Biology at Kutztown University will provide information regarding the eradication efforts to date, as well as answer any question regarding the related quarantine order. This meeting is open to the public and pre-registration is not required. The Township has also received notification from Dana Rhodes, PA Department of Agriculture, that additional Townships (Longswamp Township and most recently Oley Township and Upper Hanover Township) have been added to the quarantine area. Piper Sherburne, District Township, encouraged attendance at this public meeting, which is also intended to lay out plans for next year (spraying program and tree removal, etc).

The Township received correspondence from Daniel Cohen, Cohen Law Group with an offer of a free legal assessment of the Township's cable franchise agreement and/or wireless facilities ordinance if the law firm is contacted by October 30, 2015. The Board acknowledged that the Township does not have a copy of the original franchise agreement. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board authorized the Township Solicitor to contact Service Electric to find out when our franchise agreement is scheduled to be renewed and to inquire about obtaining a copy of the franchise agreement. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township received correspondence dated 9/9/15 via certified mail from Jill Nagy, Township Solicitor for Longswamp Township regarding a hearing date change for the Longswamp Township Official Map and Corresponding Ordinance. Longswamp Township intends to hold a hearing on October 27, 2015 at 7:00PM (which was previously scheduled for October 20, 2015) at 7:00PM. Thereafter, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Longswamp Township Board of Supervisors may consider said ordinance for adoption. Rockland Township may submit comments by the 10/27/15 hearing date. The Board offered no comments.

The Township received correspondence from District Township regarding a proposal for an addition to the District Township Agricultural Security Area. The proposal includes three properties owned by Joyce A. Schantz, Trustee Schantz Family Trust. The proposal will be on file and open to public inspection at the District Township Office. Objections to the proposal must be filed with District Township within 15 days. The District Township Agricultural Security Area Advisory Committee will meet to review this application on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 7:00PM. The Township Solicitor informed the Board that the properties to be added to the District Township Agricultural Security Area do not touch or extend into Rockland Township, and therefore determined no action was required by the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE

A listing of correspondence dated October 13, 2015 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for their review.

Reports regarding zoning/building, sewage and stormwater issues and activity for September 2015 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review.

The Board provided direction on the following items/complaints:

- Conrad Road – Shed Complaint – The complainant requested the Board of Supervisors visit his property to view the property line. The Township Solicitor recommended to the Board that if such a visit were agreed upon, both property owners should be present. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board is to receive a letter from a licensed surveyor verifying that the existing pins (which serve to identify the property line in question) are true and correct by the next Township meeting to be held Tuesday, November 10, 2015 or this issue will be dropped. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Keller Road – Grass Complaint – Property still not mowed. An update from Melvin Metts with Single Source Property Solutions was provided to the Board. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board agreed to hold off on any further enforcement action and requested that 79 Keller Road be mowed by the next Board meeting (11/10/15). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- 14 Day Road – LTL Consultants’ monthly report indicates the property is cleaned up. The structure/dwelling destroyed by fire is not yet addressed. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board requested the Code Official send a letter to the property owner to thank them for their cooperation in cleaning up the property thus far and to request that steps be taken to address the structure/dwelling destroyed by fire by the next meeting (11/10/15). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Fredericksville Road – Burning Complaint – Multiple burning complaints for the same property have been received by the Township. A copy of the Township Burning Ordinance was mailed previously to both parties. Supervisor Bennetch suggested requesting that the complainant and two other neighbors file written letters or complaints to the Township (similar to the action requested by the Board in the Lobachsville Road burning complaint). The Township Solicitor advised the Board that this burning complaint differs from the Lobachsville Road complaint. Mr. Jerry Keller questioned why the Board is not taking proper enforcement actions, if/when the Township receives a legitimate burning complaint. He also reminded the Board that the fire company is often called out to these types of burning disputes between neighbors when the Township does not take measures to properly enforce the Township Burning Ordinance. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the complainant and two other neighbors should provide written verification to the Township that the Burning Ordinance is being violated. A few meeting attendees expressed concern with the Board requiring a minimum of three written complaints before the Township would investigate the complaint. There was no official vote on the original motion. After a lengthy discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board agreed to rescind its previous motion regarding the Lobachsville Road burning complaint and agreed to provide after-hours contact information for the Code Official, LTL Consultants, Ltd., to the complainants (for the Lobachsville Road and Fredericksville Road burning complaints only) to properly investigate alleged violations of the Township Burning Ordinance. There was no additional public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Tuesday, October 27, 2015 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting
 Friday, October 30, 2015 @ 1:00PM – 2016 Budget Meeting
 Tuesday, November 3, 2015 – ELECTION DAY
 Tuesday, November 10, 2015 @ 7:30PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Chairman Herb Meadway advised that Senator Bob Mensch’s office is hosting an Annual Veterans Appreciation Breakfast at Upper Perkiomen High School on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at 7:45AM for any veterans who might be interested in attending.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
 Secretary/Treasurer