

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

AUGUST 8, 2017

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on August 8, 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 July 11, 2017 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the July 11, 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 July 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	2,785.84
106.000	General Fund – Savings	2,045,361.77
107.001	General Fund – Savings	6,438.40
107.002	General Fund – Certificates of Deposit	375,004.00
109.002	Certificate of Deposit	109,106.16
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	245,898.54
	State Aid Account – Checking	393.76
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	63,643.27
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	17,856.55
	Total as of July 31, 2017:	\$2,866,688.29

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

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

Fair Districts PA – Township resident Deborah Sieger, 30 Forgedale Road, provided correspondence to the Township requesting the Township Supervisors consider adopting a resolution in support of fair, independent, bipartisan and impartial legislative and congressional redistricting. A brief discussion followed. Ms. Sieger requested the Board pass this resolution in support of Senate Bill 22 and House Bill 722 creating an eleven person commission (no politicians) to oversee the redistricting process. Township Supervisor Duane Bennetch expressed concern about the proposed make-up of the committee in the wording of the House Bill. After discussion, Attorney Crump inquired as to whether the Board wanted to approve such a resolution or table until next month. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Herb Meadway, Resolution #2017-09 was approved in support of a citizens commission for legislative and congressional redistricting. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

State Game Lands along Forgedale Road – Rockland Township received a response from the PA Game Commission to our letter of June 29, 2017. The letter states that the Commission was aware that the referenced property had limited access when it was acquired by gift in 1997. The letter also mentions that the road through which access would have been secured was abandoned or vacated by the Township in 1930. Furthermore, a bridge which formerly serviced the property no longer exists. Therefore, the PA Game Commission extends their support for the Township to reopen the road which was closed in 1930, as it would benefit the citizens of the Township to have access to the Game Lands. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Township Solicitor and Board were to continue to investigate access to the PA Game Commission land along Forgedale Road. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Appointment of Volunteer(s) to Serve on Township's Ag Security Area Committee – Township resident Bryan Grube expressed an interest in serving on the Rockland Township Ag Area Security Committee. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, Bryan Grube was appointed to serve on the Ag Security Area Committee (as resident). The Board and Township Solicitor noted that one active farmer was still needed for appointment to the Ag Security Area Committee.

FELD-3 Subdivision Escrow (Frederick Fenstermacher) – Rockland Township received an escrow release request from Fred Fenstermacher for the FELD-3 Subdivision. The Township Engineer reviewed the escrow release request and based on LTL Consultants, Ltd.'s site observations to close the maintenance period, the Township Engineer is recommending a release of all monies held for this project, less any fees or costs still outstanding on behalf of the FELD-3 Subdivision. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board approved the release of the remaining \$24,964.75 escrow balance on behalf of the FELD-3 Subdivision, less any outstanding engineering or attorney fees not yet reimbursed to the Township. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

14 Beaver Creek Road – Dead trees – The Roadmaster was contacted recently regarding several dead trees located at 14 Beaver Creek Road. Some of the trees are located within the Township right-of-way, and a couple of the trees appear to be located outside the Township right-of-way. Mr. Floyd Kurtz reminded Township officials that school buses will be using the road in the not-too-distant future. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the Township sending a letter to the property owner(s) regarding the trees along Beaver Creek Road. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Sale of 1998 International via Municibid – On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board authorized the Roadmaster to proceed with the sale of the 1998 International truck, plow and spreader via Municibid. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Roadmaster informed the Board that the road crew has started the second mowing cycle and will start line painting in August. The Roadmaster also provided the Board with an update on the co-op traffic paint bid. Longswamp Township advertised for bids, and no bids were received. As a result, the Township will be utilizing the State contract (via Costars) for traffic paint for 2017.

OLD BUSINESS

Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update – The Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update is in progress. Township officials agreed to continue to review and discuss Article 2 (Definitions), Article 3 (Zoning Map & Zoning Districts) and Article 4 (AP-Effective Agricultural Preservation District) at the August 29, 2017 Planning Commission meeting.

Logo Design Contest Entries – Township Secretary Karen Krall informed the Board that the artist is still working on reproduction of the logo, and there is nothing new to report at this time.

Rory Gehman Minor Subdivision II Plan – Sally Ann Furnace Road – The Planning Commission conditionally approved the Rory Gehman Minor Subdivision II Plan at their meeting on July 25, 2017, pending planning module approval from PA DEP. As of tonight's meeting, planning module approval from PA DEP was still pending. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board conditionally approved the Rory Gehman Minor Subdivision II Plan pending planning module approval from PA DEP. 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 is then to be reviewed by the Committee and the Committee's comments will be provided to the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors.

BILLS

The paving portion of the 2017 Road Project is complete which included the paving of Highland Drive (from Ridge Drive to Crown Lane) and Keller Road (from Lobachsville Road to Forgedale Road). An invoice was received from New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc. in the amount of \$155,412.03. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch, payment of the invoice from New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc. for the paving portion of the 2017 Road Project totaling \$155,412.03 from the State Aid Fund was approved, pending review and approval by PennDOT representative Charles Paris. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

A listing of the unpaid bills as of August 8, 2017 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$22,370.15 from the General Fund. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$22,370.15 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Quality First Home Interiors Studio Land Development Plan – 128 Lyons Road – Rockland Township received the following from Berks Surveying and Engineering: Land development plan application and applicable review fees for both the Township and the County, Quality First Home Interiors Studio Land Development Plan, copy of deed, copy of highway occupancy permit, PNDI endangered species search and minor drainage plan. On July 25, 2017 the Planning Commission officially accepted the Quality First Home Interiors Studio Land Development Plan for Township review. The Township Engineer provided a review letter, which was discussed/reviewed by the Planning Commission. On July 25, 2017, the Planning Commission conditionally approved the Quality First Home Interiors Studio Land Development Plan pending all comments in the Township Engineer's review letter dated 7/23/17 being properly addressed and pending receipt of the Berks County Planning Commission's review letter. A revised plan was submitted to the Township on August 2, 2017. The Township Engineer provided a review letter dated August 2, 2017, which confirms that all pending items in the previous review letter dated 7/23/17 were properly addressed. Rockland Township has also received the Berks County Planning Commission's review letter dated August 3, 2017. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Quality First Home Interiors Studio Land Development Plan was officially approved for signature. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Birdsboro Pipeline Project Land Development Plan – Rockland & Oley Townships – Rockland Township received the following from Dawood Engineering: Land development plan application and applicable review fees for both the Township and the County, drainage plan application and applicable review fee, Birdsboro Pipeline Project Land Development Plan, and a Stormwater Management Report. At the July 25, 2017 Planning Commission meeting, the Planning Commission officially accepted the Birdsboro Pipeline Project Land Development Plan for Township review. The Township Engineer provided a review letter dated July 24, 2017. At the request of Mr. Paul Wilson, Dawood Engineering, the Planning Commission tabled discussion of the plan and the Township Engineer's review letter until the August 29, 2017 Planning Commission meeting.

Birdsboro Pipeline Project – Special Exception Application to the Zoning Hearing Board – The Rockland Township Zoning Hearing Board received an application from DTE Midstream Appalachia, LLC (Robert Levan) for a special exception per Section 5.04.16 and 7.03.6 of the Rockland Township Zoning Ordinance. The proposed project is for a pipeline meter pad utilizing a gravel drive and a gravel pad. A copy of the special exception application was provided to the Board. The Board of Supervisors may provide comments on this application to the Zoning Hearing Board. The Zoning Hearing Board has scheduled a hearing for Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at 7:00PM at the Rockland Township Building to hear the DTE Midstream Appalachia, LLC (Robert Levan) special exception application. The Board of Supervisors offered no comments to the Zoning Hearing Board on the application.

Berks County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Al Zentner (Emergency Management Coordinator) and Jerry Keller (Lyons Fire Company) reviewed the Berks County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for Rockland Township and provided input and comments to the Board. A copy of the proposed Berks County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, incorporating comments/suggestions from the EMC and Lyons Fire Company has been provided to the Board for consideration. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board approved the Berks County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for submittal to Berks County Department of Emergency Services. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Certificate of Deposit Maturity (First Priority Bank) – The Township received notification of a certificate of deposit maturity on July 23, 2017. The Secretary/Treasurer provided the Board with current interest rates, and the Board decided to invest the funds with PLGIT at a term of 24 months at a rate of 1.7%. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board approved (retroactively) investing the funds with PLGIT in a 24-month CD at a rate of 1.7%. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2016 Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Grant Application – The Township received notification dated July 13, 2017 that Rockland Township's Guiderail Improvement Project was not selected for funding during Pennsylvania's 2016 ARLE Funding Program round.

2020 Census – The U.S. Census Bureau invites Rockland Township to participate in the 2020 Census Local Update of Census Addresses Operation (LUCA). This would be the only opportunity for Rockland Township to review and update the Census Bureau's residential address list prior to the 2020 Census. Participation in LUCA can help ensure an accurate count for Rockland Township. A response from the Township is requested, even if the Township declines to participate. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board agreed to table this matter and requested the Township Secretary obtain additional information on what would be involved with participation in the 2020 Census LUCA. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Township Newsletter – The Township Secretary is working on the next Township Newsletter and will prepare a Fall Township Newsletter for Board approval at September's monthly meeting. Township officials should confirm what topics shall be included.

CORRESPONDENCE

A list of correspondence dated August 8, 2017 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

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

Kutz Road – Complaint Form (Grass/Weeds): The Board decided no further action was required by the Township Code Official, since the property had been mowed shortly after the complaint was received by the Township. This matter is considered closed.

46 High View Lane – Complaint Form (Property Maintenance-Related Issues) – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board authorized this matter be passed along to the Township Code Official for follow-up, and the Board authorized the Code Official to move directly to enforcement actions. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Anonymous Complaint – The Board decided to take no action on the anonymous complaint.

The Board briefly discussed current procedures for complaints filed with the Township. The Board confirmed that the Township Secretary is to add the complaint to the next Board meeting for direction on how to proceed and what action would be taken by the Township. The Board also discussed procedures for on-going burning issues/complaints with Jerry Keller, Lyons Fire Company.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Wednesday, August 23, 2017 @ 7:00PM – HEARING – Zoning Hearing Board – Special Exception Application
(Birdsboro Pipeline Project)

Tuesday, August 29, 2017 @ 7:30PM - Planning Commission Meeting (Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update)

Tuesday, September 12, 2017 @ 7:30PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Raid Conrad, 24 Five Points Road, advised the Board of a water pooling situation at 25 Five Points Road. The water pools up along the side of the road and causes a real potential hazard in the winter (icing). The Roadmaster informed Mr. Conrad that he would look into it and will be in contact with him.

There was no additional public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52PM on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer