

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

DECEMBER 8, 2015

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on December 8, 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 November 10, 2015 Board of Supervisors meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The balance sheets, check detail and deposit detail for November 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	1,521.54
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,294,694.13
108.000	General Fund – Govt Money Market	179,890.94
107.001	General Fund – Savings	1,869.19
107.002	General Fund – Savings	275,003.98
109.001	Government Money Market	118,097.82
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	28,246.77
	State Aid Account – Checking	388.27
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	286,414.54
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	17,899.20
	Total as of November 30, 2015:	\$2,413,332.54

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

Mr. Perry Wiltrout, 69 Hertzog School Road, requested to speak to the Board. Mr. Wiltrout expressed a number of safety concerns with Hertzog School Road (including no sidewalks, no shoulders for children to walk to the bus stop, no turnaround for commercial and emergency vehicles, lack of stormwater control measures) and also disputed stormwater-related charges applied against the stormwater escrow he deposited with the Township. Mr. Wiltrout played a recording from Julia Behm, Director of Transportation, Brandywine Heights School District for the Board, regarding Hertzog School Road. The Board advised Mr. Wiltrout that the current conditions of Hertzog School Road (no sidewalks and minimal road shoulders) are typical of a number of roads in this rural Township. During the discussion with Mr. Wiltrout, Mr. Nathan Ohlinger requested that meeting attendees calm down and communicate respectfully with one another. Mr. Eric Fox commented that it is the parents' responsibility to ensure the safety of their children in getting to the designated school bus stop. As the discussion concluded, the Board advised Mr. Wiltrout that they did not need to respond to his accusations and encouraged him to obtain documentation to support and substantiate his accusations. The Board also informed Mr. Wiltrout that he could utilize the Right-To-Know Law for answers to his questions.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

The Township Solicitor informed the Board that he has not yet received the Service Electric franchise agreement, but he is still working to obtain a copy of the agreement. The Township Solicitor also wanted to thank Mr. Walter Hafer for his service to the Township and community (in filling the vacated Supervisor position).

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

The Roadmaster informed the Board that he is in the process of obtaining quotes for repairs/upgrades to the Township's above-ground fuel tank (float valves are sticking, gauges are not working, and the alarm bell on one of the systems keeps going off). He obtained a quote from Hafer Petroleum for approximately \$4,500.00 and is hoping to obtain additional quotes to compare prices before work is performed.

OLD BUSINESS

FREM Subdivision Revised Final Plan – Cider Mill Road – The Rockland Township Zoning Hearing Board is scheduled to render their decision regarding the Kuder's variance application on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 7:00PM at the Rockland Township Municipal Building. On 11/24/15, the Planning Commission approved a time extension request from Mr. Todd Kuder until January 15, 2016 to review and act on the FREM Subdivision Revised Final Plan. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board approved the time extension until January 15, 2016 to review and act on the FREM Subdivision Revised Final Plan. Mr. Perry Wilttrout inquired about stormwater control for this subdivision. There was no additional public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS

A listing of the Unpaid Bills as of December 8, 2015 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval is **\$22,437.24** from the General Fund. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Walter Hafer, the list of unpaid bills totaling \$22,437.24 was approved for payment from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

The proposed 2016 budget has been advertised for consideration for adoption at tonight's meeting (and made available for public inspection). The 2016 budget includes taxes remaining at the same levels as 2015 with budgeted expenses (all funds) totaling \$1,337,510.00. Resolution #2015-13 Tax Levy Resolution was prepared to fix the tax rate for 2016 at 1.0 mills (same as 2015), and Resolution #2015-14 was prepared to officially adopt the 2016 budget. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch, Resolution #2015-13 (to fix tax rate for 2016 at 1.0 mills) and Resolution #2015-14 (formally adopting the 2016 budget totaling \$1,337,510.00) were approved. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township received notification from Vincent Falci, Harbridge Consulting Group, that upon a thorough review of all of the IRS pre-approved documents associated with the Rockland Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan, several technical issues arose which require an update to the documents. The proposed amendment and paperwork have been provided to the Board. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Walter Hafer, Resolution #2015-15 was approved amending the Rockland Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan as recommended by Harbridge Consulting Group. Mr. Perry Wilttrout asked whether he could ask a question. Vice Chairman Duane Bennetch inquired whether the question was related to the pension plan amendment. Mr. Wilttrout's question was not related to the current agenda item; therefore, Mr. Wilttrout was instructed to hold his question until the public comment period at the end of the meeting. There was no additional public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township received correspondence from Highmark Blue Shield announcing that identity protection services would be available for all Blue members at no cost to the member. The correspondence and information received from Highmark was provided to the Board. If the Board wants to proceed with offering protection for Highmark members, the Township will need to advise Highmark by December 18, 2015 (for protection to begin January 1, 2016). Highmark will only offer this protection to employees and their covered dependents if the Board confirms its desire to do so. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board approved providing identity protection services to all Blue members via Highmark, as long as there was no cost incurred by the Township for this protection. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Open Enrollment periods with PSATS Trustees Insurance Fund (providing life insurance and short-term disability coverage for eligible Township employees) are January and July. During the Open Enrollment period, the Township can make changes to the current plans or add additional plans. PSATS requests notification of charges within 30 days in advance of the Open Enrollment period, in order to process the request. Current coverage for life insurance for eligible employees is \$12,000. Current coverage for short-term disability insurance for eligible employees is \$165/week (or \$248/week if hospital confined). Rates sheets for different plans available through PSATS Trustees Insurance Fund were provided to the Board. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board approved switching to "Plan B" for short-term disability for eligible employees (\$250/week or \$375/week if hospital confined), effective January 2016, if able to comply with the 30-day prior notification for processing plan changes with PSATS. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A listing of correspondence dated December 8, 2015 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for their review.

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

The Board provided direction on the following items/complaints:

- Conrad Road – Shed Complaint – This matter was tabled at the 11/10/15 Board meeting. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board authorized the Township's Code Official to request the property owner(s) at 54 Conrad Road obtain a permit for the shed, if it was determined that no permit was on record at the Township Office. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Keller Road – Grass Complaint – Property was mowed on 11/17/15 and deemed to be in compliance. Matter closed.
- 14 Day Road – The Township received an application for a demolition permit on 11/25/15 for the fire-damaged structure, and the property owners are working to clean up the entire property. Matter is progressing. No action taken by Board.
- Lobachsville Road – Burning Complaint/Investigation Report – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board authorized LTL Consultants to contact the property owner at 16 Lobachsville Road to review the Township's Burning Ordinance and recent Notice of Violation, to alleviate any confusion with what is and is not allowed concerning burning. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- A Township resident stopped by the Township Office and expressed a safety concern regarding a refrigerator, which is being stored outside a property in the Township. The resident expressed concern because the door of the refrigerator was still attached, and there are children in the neighborhood. During a brief discussion, the Board noted that the resident did not wish to file a formal written complaint. The Board recommended the resident contact the PA State Police.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Wednesday, December 16, 2015 @ 7:00PM – Zoning Hearing Board Decision (Kuder Variance)
Tuesday, December 29, 2015 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Year-End Meeting
Tuesday, December 29, 2015 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting
Monday, January 4, 2016 @ 7:30PM – Board of Supervisors Reorganization Meeting
Tuesday, January 5, 2016 @ 7:00PM – Auditors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Perry Wiltrout had a question for Vice Chairman Duane Bennetch regarding the need to obtain a building permit and stormwater control.

Mr. Nathan Ohlinger apologized to the Board of Supervisors and the residents for his previous outburst during tonight's meeting.

Mr. Eric Fox, Ruscombmanor Fire Company, advised the Board that the fire company is in the process of obtaining prices for a new rescue truck. While preparing for the 2017 budget, Mr. Fox asked the Board to consider additional funding toward the purchase of the new rescue truck (in addition to the Township's annual donation), since any financial assistance toward the purchase of the new truck from the municipalities they serve would be greatly appreciated.

Vice Chairman Duane Bennetch asked Mr. Jerry Keller whether the Township can move forward with dry hydrants in the Township. Mr. Keller informed the Board that he would request than Nathan Keller attend the next meeting to discuss this matter further with the Board.

There was no additional public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM on a motion by Walter Hafer, seconded by Duane Bennetch. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer