

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**MARCH 16, 2017**

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on March 16, 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 meeting minutes of the Board of Supervisors meeting held on February 14, 2017 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the February 14, 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 February 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	1,487.68
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,852,657.89
107.001	General Fund – Savings	6,422.52
107.002	General Fund – Savings	275,003.98
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	53,612.27
	State Aid Account – Checking	393.67
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	133,688.28
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,533.35
	<b>Total as of February 28, 2017:</b>	<b>\$2,551,105.80</b>

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

Mr. Dave Wartzenuft, Lyons Fire Company informed Township officials of the need to update the Township's run cards (which are used by the 911 center for dispatching purposes). The updates are minor EMS updates and are primarily "maintenance-type" updates to add the new service in Kutztown and to add Oley Ambulance (ALS) for service in the Township. Since Township officials wanted to have final approval of all run card changes, Mr. Wartzenuft was simply requesting that the Board of Supervisors recognize and approve the proposed EMS/ALS updates to the Township's run cards. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the run card changes as presented by Dave Wartzenuft, Lyons Fire Company. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Jesse Zerbe, Fleetwood Fire Co. EMS, and Mr. John Shook, Penn State Hershey Life Lion, were present to inform the Board of Supervisors that the consolidation of Fleetwood Fire Co. EMS and Milton Hershey Medical Center's Life Lion Emergency Medical Services is moving forward and the "switch-over" will likely occur on April 1, 2017. Mr. Zerbe also advised that a number of town hall meetings were conducted to address any community concerns, and he and Mr. Shook took some time to answer

questions from meeting attendees. Mr. Zerbe and Mr. Shook also provided the Board of Supervisors with an "Agreement for Service" (between Rockland Township and Penn State Milton Hershey Medical Center) to confirm the consolidation on or about April 1, 2017. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the "Agreement for Service" with Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center/Hershey Medical Center Life Lion Emergency Medical Services (Resolution #2017-06) was approved confirming the Board's knowledge and approval for the Hershey Medical Center Life Lion Emergency Medical Services to assume responsibility for such functions and operations from Fleetwood Fire Co. EMS and to perform EMS functions and operations within Rockland Township (as set forth in said agreement). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Brian Hohenshilt, 138 Fredericksville Road was present to speak to the Board regarding a letter he received recently from the Township's Code Enforcement Officer, Michael Schwenk. Mr. Hohenshilt informed the Board that he is frustrated that he continues to be contacted by the Township with regarding to burning on his property, since he feels that all burning being conducted on his property complies with the Township's Burning Ordinance. The Township Solicitor encouraged Mr. Hohenshilt to contact the Code Official directly to resolve this matter and to ensure that all future burning conducted complies with the Township Burning Ordinance.

### **REPORT OF SOLICITOR**

46 Keller Road – Tree Limb: The Township Solicitor informed the Board that the Second Class Township Code allows for the removal of any tree or shrub growing within the right-of-way of any township road which the Board of Supervisors finds to constitute a hazardous or dangerous condition to the use of the highway or which impairs the use or maintenance of the public road. Rockland Township has been made aware of a recent incident where a tractor trailer driver had to maneuver around the tree limb at 46 Keller Road, causing the driver to side swipe a resident's vehicle. In addition, the tree limb causes a dangerous condition to exist while Township vehicles are performing snow removal. Therefore, the Township Solicitor prepared a resolution for the Board's consideration; the resolution would officially declare the tree limb at 46 Keller Road a hazardous and dangerous condition, if approved by the Board. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, Resolution #2017-07 was approved declaring the tree limb at 46 Keller Road a hazardous and dangerous condition and authorizing the removal of said tree limb. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. The Township Secretary was instructed to send a letter to notify the property owner(s) at 46 Keller Road of the need to have the offending tree limb removed or trimmed sufficiently so as not to impede traffic on Keller Road or during snow removal. The property owner(s) shall have the right to have the offending tree limb removed or trimmed prior to April 20, 2017. If the tree limb is not removed or adequately trimmed by April 20, 2017, the Township road crew is authorized by the Board of Supervisors to have said dangerous tree limb(s) removed on or shortly after April 20, 2017. All wood or logs derived from the removal of the tree limb(s) which impede traffic along Keller Road shall remain the property of the property owner(s).

### **REPORT OF ROADMASTER**

2017 Road Project includes the paving of Keller Road (from Lobachsville Road to Forgedale Road) and Highland Drive (from Ridge Drive to Crown Lane) and seal coating of Beaver Creek Road (from Forgedale Road to Kutz Road) and Stimmel Road (from Forgedale Road to Fleetwood Road). On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch, Resolution #2017-05 was approved to allow an escalator clause for bituminous materials to be included with the 2017 Road Project. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the 2017 Road Project was approved for advertising for bids to be opened at the April 11, 2017 meeting. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the purchase of two pallets of crack seal, three drain boxes and two safety grates. 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 continue to review and discuss Article 2 – Definitions at the March 28, 2017 Planning Commission meeting.

Township Newsletter – The March 2017 edition of the Rockland Township Newsletter was finalized and mailed to property owners on Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

Letter Received 10/7/2016 from PA DEP Requesting Update on Progress with Resubmission of Rockland Township's Act 537 Official Plan – Email correspondence dated March 16, 2017 from Kalyn Scarangella, Mavickar Environmental confirmed that Dr. Archer would not be able to attend tonight's meeting.

Logo Design Contest Entries – Four logo design contest entries were on display. Three logo designs were submitted by Township residents; the fourth logo design was a consolidation of all three logo design entries. The Board of Supervisors sought input from meeting attendees and requested meeting attendees vote on their favorite logo design. The voting process did determine one clear favorite, but there was some concern expressed about the cost to reproduce. After a brief discussion of the design entries, it was ultimately decided to change the type set on one of the logo designs and to try to determine the cost to reproduce the log design(s). On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, this matter was tabled until next month. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **BILLS**

A listing of the unpaid bills as of March 16, 2017 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$32,506.83 from the General Fund. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$32,506.83 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Maturity of Two Certificates of Deposit (PLGIT) – The Township received notification on February 15, 2017 from PLGIT that two certificates of deposit matured. The Secretary/Treasurer provided the Board with current interest rates, and the Board decided to reinvest the funds with PLGIT at a term of 12 months at a rate of 1.14%. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved (retroactively) reinvesting the funds with PLGIT in a 12-month CD at a rate of 1.14%. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mollie Prey, Tax Collector, inquired whether Rockland Township would be agreeable to reimbursing her for the cost of new checks (due the recent acquisition of National Penn Bank by BB&T). The cost would be \$24.96 per 100 checks. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved reimbursement of expenses for the cost of new checks to the elected Tax Collector, Mollie Prey. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Gerhart, Hartman & Ritner – Broker of Record Letter – The Township Solicitor informed the Board that our new insurance agent, Gerhart, Hartman & Ritner (Don Hausknecht was the insurance agent representative who attended the February 14, 2017 monthly Board meeting), has offered to provide additional services to the Township, if the Township were to provide a broker of record letter. The broker of record letter will remove our old broker (Chester Perfetto Agency) and replace with Gerhart, Hartman & Ritner with our insurance carrier(s). Gerhart, Hartman & Ritner would provide assistance with insurance coverage renewals and quotes, HRA issues, etc. on behalf of Rockland Township. There would be no cost borne by Rockland Township for their services. Gerhart, Hartman & Ritner would be compensated by each of the insurance carriers directly. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved preparation and signature of a broker of record letter naming Gerhart, Hartman & Ritner as Rockland Township's Broker of Record effective March 16, 2017. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township received an inquiry on February 27, 2017 from a Township resident (24 Lobachville Road) asking whether there are any volunteer opportunities with Rockland Township for a 16 year-old high-school student who needs to complete 25 hours of community service to graduate from Brandywine High School. The Board of Supervisors discussed possible volunteer opportunities for a 16-year old; however, the Board felt somewhat limited to what type of volunteer work could be offered, due to limitations with insurance, facilities, etc. The Board agreed to provide opportunities for community service in the form of cleaning up the shop and Township Building, washing/waxing trucks, weeding around the Township Building, possible painting, etc., but no volunteer work would involve work on or along roadways or on any type of equipment. The Township Secretary was instructed to pass this information along to the Township resident to see whether the work outlined would be something the 16 year-old may be interested in performing. During the discussion, representatives from the Lyons Fire Company informed the Board that the fire company would be able to offer young volunteers work to complete the community service requirement to graduate. In fact, the fire company is currently working with a couple high-school students who are in the process of completing their community service. If the 16 year-old is interested, he should be encouraged to stop down at the fire company any Tuesday night.

#### Spotted Lanternfly Update:

- On March 6, 2017, Coopersburg Borough and Salisbury Township were added to the quarantine, which restricts movement of any material or object that can spread the pest.
- SPOTTED LANTERNFLY PUBLIC MEETINGS – Spring 2017 – A list of public meetings scheduled for Spring 2017 was made available to all meeting attendees and is posted on the Township website.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

A listing of correspondence dated March 16, 2017 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for their review.

Reports regarding zoning/building, sewage and stormwater issues and activity for February 2017 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review.

54 Orchard Road – Complaint – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the complaint regarding unlicensed cars on the property was forwarded on to the Code Official. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

21 Ridge Drive – Complaint – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board confirmed that the Code Official shall proceed with further enforcement to remove vehicles and any non-permitted accessory structures on the property. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

26 Forgedale Road – Complaint – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board confirmed that the Code Official shall proceed with further enforcement to have the camper removed and the property brought into compliance with Township ordinances and local regulations. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Tuesday, March 28, 2017 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting (Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update)  
Tuesday, April 11, 2017 @ 7:30PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Steve Haring requested additional information and clarification from the Board of Supervisors and the Township Solicitor regarding the status of the Township's Act 537 Plan. Additional meeting attendees also asked questions regarding the Township's Act 537 Plan, Dr. Archer's work and

involvement in this project, and inquired about public sewer in Rockland Township. Township officials informed the public that public sewer does not appear to be a viable solution (financially speaking) and with Dr. Archer's assistance, the Board of Supervisors is hopeful to submit a draft Act 537 Plan to PA DEP which would offer alternative solutions to address the Township's short-term and long-term sewer needs in lieu of public sewer.

Mr. Leonard Blair was present to express his concerns to the Board about the possibility of public sewer in Rockland Township and his desire to ensure the rural character of the Township. With his many years of experience in construction and sewage systems (and years of experience serving on a planning commission), Mr. Blair volunteered to help the Township in working with PA DEP to explore options (other than public sewer) to address the Township's short-term and long-term sewer needs. The Township Solicitor informed Mr. Blair that Township officials are seeking to identify residents who may be interested in serving on a Sewage Advisory Citizens Group, and he was encouraged to add his name to the list. Mr. Blair informed the Township Solicitor and Township officials that his name was already on the list.

There was no additional public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57PM on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall  
Secretary/Treasurer