

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

MARCH 8, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on March 8, 2016 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 February 16, 2016 Board of Supervisors meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The balance sheets, check detail and deposit detail for February 2016 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	1,532.08
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,253,235.41
108.000	General Fund – Govt Money Market	179,930.06
107.001	General Fund – Savings	3,795.24
107.002	General Fund – Savings	275,003.98
109.001	Government Money Market	118,123.50
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	28,257.36
	State Aid Account – Checking	388.46
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	297,931.01
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,378.27
	Total as of February 29, 2016:	\$2,385,881.53

On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the balance sheets, check and deposit details for February 2016 were approved as presented. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Ray Maillet, Business Development Officer, First Priority Bank, requested to speak to the Board. Mr. Maillet informed the Board that First Priority Bank's current rate for municipal funds is 0.45% with no minimum balance requirements. All deposits would be collateralized (per Act 72), and checks and deposit slips would be provided at no cost for the duration of our accounts with First Priority Bank. Due to the distance to the nearest branch office, First Priority Bank is offering "Remote Deposit Capture" free of charge and no per item fee or maintenance fee would be applicable. At the Board's request, Mr. Maillet informed that he would forward a list of references (including current municipal customers) to the Township. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board tabled a decision on the First Priority Bank banking proposal until next month's meeting. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Karen Fineran, 54 Conrad Road, requested to speak to the Board. Ms. Fineran and the Board briefly discussed the Board's recent request to have the property line surveyed (per discussion at the February 16, 2016 Board meeting), and Ms. Fineran requested the Board consider ordering the removal of "no trespassing" signs along her property line. The Board advised that the Township prefers not to get involved in private matters between neighbors, and unless there is good reason to believe a violation exists, the

Township will not get involved in personal matters nor authorize a Township code official's involvement in this matter. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board agreed to table any correspondence with the property owner(s) at 56 Conrad Road until July 2016. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Board provided clarification on procedures for handling burning complaints (advising that the proper Township code official will investigate burning complaints in instances where burning is believed to not comply with the Township's Burning Ordinance, upon the Township's receipt of a completed complaint form and authorization by the Board to investigate the matter further).

Mr. Karl Gardner, 140 Deysher Road, requested to speak to the Board. Mr. Gardner expressed concern with the Township's recent mowing of vegetation located in, and possibly beyond, the Township road right-of-way area at his property along Deysher Road. According to Mr. Gardner, this vegetation (including dwarf hackberry trees and other native plants and trees) was not hazardous to traffic, and Mr. Gardner requested that the Township stop mowing/cutting harmless vegetation and trees. Roadmaster Michael Pott informed Mr. Gardner that the Township maintains the shoulder of the roadway (which includes the mowing of vegetation and trimming of trees under six inches in diameter) to prevent safety hazards, and the Roadmaster stated that any trees or vegetation cut were located in the road right-of-way area. After a brief discussion, the Roadmaster and Mr. Gardner agreed to meet at the property to discuss maintaining the road right-of-way area along his property at 140 Deysher Road going forward.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

The Solicitor informed the Board that he was recently contacted by Mr. Tom Hollenbach's attorney regarding burning occurring at 16 Lobachsville Road. Mr. Hollenbach's attorney requested information on the newly appointed Zoning Officer who would be responsible for handling burning complaints going forward.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

Hertzog School Road – Drainage Issues – On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board requested the Township Engineer to look into the drainage issues/concerns along Hertzog School Road in order to assess the problem and to provide a report to the Board on what further actions might be necessary to remedy the problem(s). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2016 Road Project – The 2016 Road Project includes the paving of Clay Valley Road (from Forgedale Road to Kutz Road), Day Road (from Schweitz Road to End), and Foxs Road (from Carls Hill Road to Lyons Road). On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the 2016 Road Project for advertising for bids to be opened at the April 12, 2016 meeting. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Department of Labor & Industry Letter regarding incident on Ridge Drive (7/4/2015) – On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board authorized Attorney Crump to contact L&I (and to find out about specifications for burying of the cable, the name of the contractor(s) responsible for installation of the cable, and permits lifted and record of inspections for installation of the cable). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2016 Municipal Road Maintenance & Safety Symposium (April 18, 2016) – On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board authorized the road crew to attend the 2016 Municipal Road Maintenance & Safety Symposium training sessions in Hershey, PA on April 18, 2016 at the cost of \$65./person. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Dry Hydrants Update – The three locations being considered for dry fire hydrant installation are Stimmel Road & Forgedale Road, Clay Valley Road & Kutz Road, and Smoketown Road & Fredericksville Road. Information obtained by the Township since last month's meeting was shared with the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Eric Fox, Ruscombmanor Fire Company, was also present and provided some general information and a cost estimate (\$1,000-\$1,500) for materials to the Board. It has not yet been determined who will install the proposed dry hydrants nor who will pay the costs associated with materials and installation of the dry hydrants. Prior to moving forward, the Township acknowledged the need for consent of the property owners. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board instructed the Township Secretary to write a letter to the three property owners (where the proposed dry fire hydrants are being considered) to see whether the property owners would allow dry hydrants at these locations before proceeding further. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Act 537 Plan Letter Dated January 29, 2016 from PA DEP – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized Mavickar Environmental Consultants (Dr. Hugh Archer) to work with PA DEP to revise the Township's Act 537 Plan, and the Board approved the draft letter prepared on the Township's behalf by Dr. Archer for forwarding to PA DEP. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Richard J. & Carol A. Blair Subdivision – Five Points Road – At the February 23, 2016 Planning Commission meeting, the Planning Commission approved at time extension request for the Richard J. and Carol A. Blair Subdivision until June 20, 2016. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved the time extension request for the Richard J. and Carol A. Blair Subdivision until June 20, 2016. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS

A listing of the Unpaid Bills as of March 8, 2016 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was **\$35,135.96** from the General Fund. Herb Meadway made a motion to pay the bills totaling \$35,135.96. However, this motion was not seconded. Supervisor Ohlinger expressed concerns with three specific invoices from LTL Consultants, Ltd. which reference "miscellaneous expenses/tasks" totaling \$683.61. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved payment of all bills on the Unpaid Bills List, excluding the \$683.61 for the LTL Consultants invoices referenced, totaling \$34,452.35 from the General Fund, and the Board requested clarification from LTL Consultants, Ltd. on the disputed invoices prior to consideration of these invoices for payment. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

CY2015 Reimbursement for Enforcing the PA Sewage Facilities Act – LTL Consultants, Ltd. provided the Township with a completed application for reimbursement for enforcing the Sewage Facilities Act for 2015. The total amount of reimbursement is \$4,141.03. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the completed application for enforcing the Sewage Facilities Act for 2015 in the amount of \$4,141.03 for signature and forwarding to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Zoning Hearing Board Variance Application – Christ Mertz Lutheran Church, 16 Fleetwood Road, is requesting a variance from Section 10.02.8 of the Rockland Township Zoning Ordinance which requires that no major repairs, substantial alterations, or extensions to any building be permitted unless the plans for such changes shall provide for the bringing of the entire property into conformity with the off-street parking provisions of the Zoning Ordinance, or in the alternative, a ruling that Section 10.02.8 of the Zoning Ordinance is inapplicable in as much as Applicant's proposed expansion of a non-conforming

use complies with Section 12.04.1 of the Zoning Ordinance which permits a non-conforming building or structure to be enlarged or altered in a way that decreases the non-conformity. The Board of Supervisors may provide comments on this application to the Zoning Hearing Board. The public hearing for the variance application is scheduled for Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 7:00PM. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board recommended the Zoning Hearing Board grant the requested variance to Christ Mertz Lutheran Church. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A listing of correspondence dated March 8, 2016 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for their review.

Reports regarding zoning/building, sewage and stormwater issues and activity for February 2016 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review. The Board provided direction on the following items/complaints:

- 14 Day Road – Property owner requested an extension to the deadline for compliance to the end of July 2016. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved extending the deadline for compliance to July 31, 2016. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Conrad Road – Signs Complaint – The property owner at 56 Conrad Road informed the Township that the existing signs have been brought into compliance with the Township Zoning Ordinance. This matter (as discussed earlier this evening) was tabled until July 2016.
- 42 High View Lane – Stephanie Stronsick is working with the PA Game Commission to seek authorization to rehabilitate bats on her property. As part of this process, the PA Game Commission is requesting a letter (on Township letterhead) advising that this activity is allowed per local/Township ordinances. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized that this inquiry be forwarded to the Township Zoning Officer, Michael Schwenk, Schwenks Code Enforcement LLC to investigate this matter and respond appropriately to Ms. Stronsick on behalf of the Township. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Tuesday, March 29, 2016 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, April 12, 2016 @ 7:30PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Todd Gummo requested clarification on the Township's Act 537 Plan and inquired whether the updated plan involved public sewer.

Supervisor Bennetch recommended the Board consider sending out a postcard mailing (possibly tri-annually) to seek volunteers to form a Sewage Planning Advisory Committee to provide assistance with sewage planning throughout the process of updating the Township's Act 537 Plan. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved a mailing seeking volunteers to be considered for a Sewage Planning Advisory Committee. Mr. Jerry Keller, Lyons Fire Company, inquired as to whether there would be sufficient space available in such a mailing for the fire company to include information to share with Township residents/taxpayers. There was no additional public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

There was no additional public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10PM on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer