

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

APRIL 14, 2015

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on April 14, 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 7:31PM by Chairman, Herb Meadway. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag.

Piper Sherburne from District Township was present and showed meeting attendees a spotted lanternfly egg mass which was discovered on the underside (the protected side) of a rock in District Township.

Chairman Meadway acknowledged the Township's receipt of an Oath of Office for newly appointed Township Supervisor Walter Hafer (received on March 11, 2015 and on file at the Township Office).

The meeting minutes of the March 10, 2015 Board of Supervisors meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Walter Hafer. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The balance sheets, check detail and deposit detail for March 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	322.70
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,082,421.64
108.000	General Fund – Govt Money Market	179,770.73
107.001	General Fund – Savings	1,868.84
107.002	General Fund – Savings	275,000.00
109.001	Government Money Market	118,018.90
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	200,914.73
	State Aid Account – Checking	385.19
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	286,359.65
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,471.52
	Total as of March 31, 2015:	\$2,372,840.06

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

Mr. Nathan Ohlinger requested the Board's permission for use of the township parking lot for a bipartisan meet and greet for all candidates running for Township Supervisor in 2015. The date for the proposed meet and greet event will likely be a Saturday or Sunday (date is yet to be determined and to be agreed upon by all candidates). The Board of Supervisors advised Mr. Ohlinger that, once the date and details for the bipartisan meet and greet have been agreed upon, this information shall be submitted to the Township in advance, so the Board can officially approve this event.

Mr. Tom Hollenbach requested to speak to the Board regarding burning in the Township and inquired as to what type of burning is specifically allowed. The Board of Supervisors provided Mr. Hollenbach with a copy of the Township's Burning Ordinance. The Board also advised Mr. Hollenbach that if/when a Township resident believes a violation of the Burning Ordinance is occurring, the resident is encouraged to complete a Complaint Form and submit to the Township. Upon receipt of the completed complaint form, the Township or Code Enforcement Officer will contact the property owner where the burning is occurring and provide a copy of the Burning Ordinance. If suspected violations to the Burning Ordinance continue, the Board would then authorize further investigation and possible enforcement actions. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board authorized the Code Enforcement Officer to contact the property owner to make him/her aware of regulations regarding burning and authorized the Code Enforcement Officer to further investigate possible violations to the Burning Ordinance upon the Township's receipt of a completed Complaint Form. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

PSATS Ordinance Authorizing Participation in the Pennsylvania Townships Health Insurance Cooperative Trust – The Township Solicitor has advertised Ordinance #2015-03 for consideration for adoption at tonight's meeting. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board approved Ordinance #2015-03 (PSATS Ordinance authorizing participation in the PA Townships Health Insurance Cooperative Trust). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Eastern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing – The Township Solicitor reminded the Board that the Eastern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 6:30PM at the Brandywine Middle School. The Township acknowledged receipt of the Draft Eastern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan review comments from the Berks County Planning Commission, which would be discussed at this upcoming meeting (along with any other comments received). The Township Solicitor advised the Board that the Eastern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan may be considered for adoption at the April 16th meeting, as well (depending on the extent of the comments received at the hearing).

The Township Solicitor advised the Board that he would like to hold an Executive Session to discuss a litigation matter, but recommended that this item be tabled until later in tonight's meeting agenda.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

New Drum for Asphalt Zipper (Co-Op) – On a motion by Walter Hafer, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board approved the purchase of a new drum (milling head) for the Asphalt Zipper, which is a piece of joint equipment with Longswamp Township and Hereford Township, at an estimate cost of \$4,000.00-\$4,500.00. The total repair cost (approximately \$12,000.00) would be split among all three entities with Rockland Township's portion estimated to be \$4,000.00-\$4,500.00. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2015 Seasonal Requirements – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board approved Rockland Township's participation in the Cooperative Purchasing (COSTARS) Contracts for aggregate and bituminous materials for the 2015 season, thereby eliminating the need for the Township to request bids for 2015 seasonal requirements. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2015 Road Project Update – The Roadmaster advised the Board that he is gathering information and prices for proposed road work for inclusion in the 2015 Road Project.

OLD BUSINESS

72 Mine Road Drainage – The easement has been signed and executed by the Township and Mr. & Mrs. Mark Sabol, 72 Mine Road. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Township road crew was authorized to proceed with the swale work as discussed previously and outlined in the easement, and the Board approved the purchase of any necessary materials to complete said swale work. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Beaver Creek Road Bridge Maintenance Project – Federal authorization for the sand bar removal portion of the project was received from the Army Corp of Engineers on March 23, 2015. Jerome Lendacki immediately began the work during the week of March 23rd, and the sand bar removal was completed by the March 31st deadline. The Roadmaster is working with the Township Engineer to secure the necessary permit(s) for the other phase of the project (repair of undermined and leaking bridge embankment along upstream east wing wall).

BILLS

Supervisor Walter Hafer expressed interest in attending the PSATS Annual Conference in Hershey, PA (April 19-22, 2015). Registrations made after March 31, 2015 are subject to a late fee, so the Township Secretary/Treasurer registered and paid the \$150.00 registration fee prior to the 3/31/15 deadline. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board approved Walter Hafer's attendance at the 2015 PSATS Annual Conference in Hershey in April 2015 on behalf of Rockland Township and approved the \$150.00 registration fee (retroactively) for Supervisor Hafer. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

A listing of the Unpaid Bills as of April 14, 2015 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$30,513.27 from the General Fund. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Walter Hafer, the list of unpaid bills totaling \$30,513.27 was approved for payment from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Updated Signatory Cards for Township Accounts – The Township received signatory cards from the banks where the Township holds accounts (for the purpose of removing Russell Coffin and adding Walter Hafer as an authorized signer for Township accounts). On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved completion/signature of the new signatory cards, in order to remove Russell Coffin and add Walter Hafer as an authorized signer for Township accounts. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township received notification that the Berks County Conservation District will conduct mosquito surveillance and West Nile Virus monitoring in Rockland Township this year. Surveillance will occur approximately once per month from April 1 through October 1, 2015. Surveillance may occur more often if mosquito populations and/or virus levels elevate and require enhanced monitoring. Dead birds will continue to be tested for West Nile Virus this year. Collection dates will run from May 1 through October 1, 2015. Dead birds may be reported directly to the Berks County Conservation District (Caitlin Heffner, West Nile Virus Coordinator) or by using the link found on the PA Department of Environmental Protection's West Nile Virus webpage.

Michael Pott – 6-Month Probationary Period Ends 4/25/15 – On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board approved a \$1.15/hour increase (to \$24.00/hour) for Michael Pott effective 4/25/15. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

End of Service Contract with FirstEnergy Solutions for Electric Generation (effective with May 2015 meter reading) – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board decided to allow the Township’s account to automatically return to Met-Ed’s default service, since no renewal contract was offered with First Energy Solutions beyond the Township’s May 2015 meter reading. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Stormwater Information Handout for Public – As discussed at last month’s meeting, a stormwater informational handout was prepared by the Township Engineer. A copy was provided to the Board.

The Township received the Audit Report for the year ending December 31, 2014 from Herbein & Co. The 2014 audit and financial report are available for public inspection at the Township Office. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board approved the Audit Notice for calendar year 2014 provided by Herbein & Co. for advertising. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township received a request from the Berks County Commissioners and BCERT (Berks County Emergency Response Team) for financial support for 2015 from non-member agencies. The targeted funding to support the BCERT availability would be \$500.00 per agency. The BCERT will assist any requesting agency in Berks County in response to critical incident needs. Response time to any such incident can be critical, and BCERT response time, to date, has been approximately 15 minutes for the first operators to be on scene. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, this item was tabled until future 2016 budget meetings, since no funding has been budgeted for BCERT in the 2015 budget. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Spotted Lanternfly Update: The PA Department of Agriculture recently sent out a mailing to all residents in the quarantine area. The mailing contained three items (as well as a scraping card): 1) letter to inform residents about the Spotted Lanternfly, the quarantine, and the sticky band project, 2) Spotted Lanternfly Alert with photos of life stages of the lanternfly, and 3) SLF checklist, a reminder for residents to check objects before transporting them outside the quarantine zone. Volunteers are still being sought to assist with tree banding. Three separate training sessions will be offered April 18, 25, and 29 for those pre-registered for the tree banding program. Supervisor Bennetch advised that he contacted a local scout troop to encourage community involvement in the effort to attempt to eradicate this pest. A brief discussion regarding the spotted lanternfly followed, and Piper Sherburne provided information on the spotted lanternfly to meeting attendees.

CORRESPONDENCE

A listing of correspondence dated April 14, 2015 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for their review.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Thursday, April 16, 2015 @ 6:30PM – Eastern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan Hearing @ Brandywine MS

Tuesday, April 28, 2015 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2015 @ 7:30PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Fox, Ruscombmanor Fire Company, informed the Board that he attended the Berks County Commissioners Meeting at the Department of Emergency Services on April 9, 2015 regarding 911 funding and provided an update to the Board.

At 8:23PM, the Board went into Executive Session to discuss a litigation matter. At the Township Solicitor's request, the Executive Session was conducted with Supervisors Meadway and Hafer and the Township Solicitor. The meeting reconvened at 8:27PM.

There was no additional public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28PM on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer