

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

JUNE 14, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on June 14, 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 May 10, 2016 Board of Supervisors meeting were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the meeting minutes from the May 10, 2016 meeting were approved as presented. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The balance sheets, check detail and deposit detail for May 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	1,595.59
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,408,987.41
108.000	General Fund – Govt Money Market	180,138.38
107.001	General Fund – Savings	3,797.83
107.002	General Fund – Savings	275,003.98
109.001	Government Money Market	118,260.25
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	214,512.92
	State Aid Account – Checking	388.81
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	298,133.79
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,255.21
	Total as of May 31, 2016:	\$2,728,380.33

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

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

The Township Solicitor recommended the Board approve the Berks EIT Collection Fee Resolution Ordinance for advertising for consideration for adoption at the July 12, 2016 Board meeting. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Berks EIT Collection Fee Resolution Ordinance was approved for advertising for consideration for adoption at next month's Board meeting to be held on July 12, 2016. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

Hertzog School Road – Drainage Issues – This matter was not discussed. No action taken by Board.

Smoketown Road Bridge over Little Saucony Creek – The Township received notification that PennDOT plans to replace the superstructure of the Smoketown Road bridge over Little Saucony Creek. The bridge will be closed from approximately April 2017 through June 2017. The signed detour route will be entirely on PennDOT roads and will utilize Fredericksville Road, Lyons Road, Bowers Road and State Street/Main Street.

2015 ARLE Grant Application – The Township received notification that Rockland Township's Guiderail Improvement Project was not selected for funding during Pennsylvania's 2015 ARLE Funding Program round.

2016 ARLE Grant Application – 2016 applications will be accepted through June 30, 2016. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved Resolution #2016-08 authorizing application of an Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) transportation enhancement grant and committed to the completion of the any project started with grant funds. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Summer 2016 MS4 Workshop – The Township received notification that the workshops to be held in Wyomissing on June 28th and June 29th were full. The Roadmaster and Township Secretary are currently on a wait list to attend on June 29th workshop and are still awaiting confirmation of registration for the June 29, 2016 workshop.

OLD BUSINESS

Dry Hydrants Update – Per discussion at the May 10, 2016 meeting, the Township Secretary contacted Lyons Fire Company (liability concerns, contractor to install dry fire hydrant(s), etc.). Mr. Nathan Keller was present and provided input to the Board with regard to the fire company's involvement with dry fire hydrant installation. Lyons Fire Company would be willing to suggest dry fire hydrant locations and review connections to ensure connections would be suitable for fire company apparatus, but the fire company did not wish to perform the installation and would not be in a position to bear any costs associated with the dry fire hydrant installation. A brief discussion followed (including liability concerns, maintenance-related issues, etc.). At the conclusion of the discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Township Secretary was instructed to contact Lendacki Enterprises, LLC and M&A Excavating in order to obtain a cost estimate for the installation of a dry fire hydrant at the Fredericksville/Smoketown Road location (and if necessary, the Township Secretary was to provide the specifications for dry fire hydrant installation to both excavation contractors). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

89 Foxs Road – Drainage Concerns – Per instructions by the Board at the May 10, 2016 meeting, the Township Secretary sent a letter to Mr. Charles Strauss concerning stormwater runoff at 85 Foxs Road. Mr. Strauss contacted the Township, and the Township is awaiting plans/information from Mr. Strauss with regard to how he plans to remedy the stormwater runoff problems prior to implementation, so the Township can approve prior to the work being performed. Mr. Charles Strauss was in attendance and informed the Board that he has not made any changes to the property which would have promoted or increased stormwater runoff from his property and believes that much of the stormwater runoff is coming from surrounding properties since his property is about 1/3 of an acre. Nonetheless, Mr. Strauss informed the Board that he would be willing to divert the roof runoff water to the existing stormwater drain along the road; this seems like the most viable option due to the existing grading of the property and the size of his property. Mr. Strauss requested permission from the Board to connect the water from downspouts on his property to the existing Township stormwater drain and requested the Township waive any permit requirements. At this time, according to Mr. Strauss, only his basement sump pump is connected to the Township stormwater drain, so he would likely be proposing a larger pipe to add the additional stormwater

from the downspouts. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized Michael Pott, Township Roadmaster to meet with Mr. Strauss at 85 Foxs Road on-site to investigate this matter further and to see if the proposed solution would be acceptable (if not acceptable, the Roadmaster was to bring this matter back to the Board). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Zoning Ordinance Review/Amendment – Per instructions by the Board at the May 10, 2016 meeting, the Township Secretary requested quotes from three other local engineering firms (to compare costs to LTL Consultants' proposal). This information was provided to the Board. The Board requested more time to review the proposals, and this matter was tabled until next month's meeting.

Postcard/Newsletter Mailing – In lieu of the postcard mailing and per instructions by the Board, the Township Secretary prepared a four-page newsletter for consideration by the Board for approval for mailing. Supervisor Ohlinger stated that he felt the creation of a committee to review and provide input on the current Township Zoning Ordinance prior to the Planning Commission commencing revisions to the Ordinance would be a good idea, to get the public and residents more involved. The Township Solicitor advised the Board that the process of reviewing and updating of the Township Zoning Ordinance is the role of the Township Planning Commission and advised that all meetings are advertised and open to the public, so the public/residents can be as involved as they wish to be throughout the process. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved the four-page newsletter for printing and mailing as presented (with revised text provided by Attorney Crump in the Vice Chairman message). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

MS4 Waiver – The Township Engineer believes it is highly likely that Rockland Township may qualify for a waiver. Even though Rockland Township is likely eligible for a waiver, a completed permit application (or Notice of Intent) is required. Completing the Notice of Intent will require some work, including maps of the urbanized area (Forest Ridge), including storm sewer, swales, detention basins and discharge points. According to the Township Engineer, the applications would be due in September 2017, which gives the Township plenty of time to complete the application and supporting documentation. This item has been added for discussion/inclusion with budget for calendar year 2017.

Richard J. & Carol A. Blair Subdivision – Five Points Road – A time extension was previously granted by the Township until 6/20/2016. At the May 31, 2016 Planning Commission meeting, the Planning Commission approved another time extension request until September 20, 2016. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the time extension request until September 20, 2016 for the Richard J. & Carol A. Blair Subdivision was approved. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Christ Mertz Lutheran Church Land Development Plan – 16 Fleetwood Road – The Christ Mertz Lutheran Church Land Development Plan was officially accepted for Township review by the Planning Commission at their 5/31/16 meeting. At the recommendation of the Planning Commission, and per motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the following waivers were approved for the Christ Mertz Lutheran Church Land Development Plan: SALDO waivers approved from Sections 3:50, 4:204.S.6, 4:208.C.2, 4:210.B.2, 5:96 and 6:209; Stormwater Management Ordinance waivers approved from Sections 310.C.12, 310.D.9 and 310.D.15. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS

The 6/14/16 bill list includes the following 2016 donations (per the 2016 approved budget): \$13,000 to Lyons Fire Company, \$7,000 to Ruscombmanor Fire Company, \$4,500 to Brandywine Community Library, \$3,500 to Fleetwood Volunteer Fire Co. Ambulance, \$3,500 to Topton Community Ambulance Service, Inc., \$200 to Berks Visiting Nurse Association, and \$50 to Kutztown Historical Society. A listing of the Unpaid Bills as of June 14, 2016 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$84,744.94 from the General Fund. A motion was made by Herb Meadway to approve payment of the unpaid bill list totaling \$84,744.94. There was no second. Supervisor Nathan Ohlinger stated an objection to the bills and ultimately made a motion to pay the bills, withholding \$18.29 for bookkeeping and postage charges from LTL Consultants, Ltd. and withholding \$699.00 from LTL Consultants, Ltd. for not abiding by the agreement with the Township to have one sewage enforcement officer for a project whenever possible. It was recommended that these monies be withheld until LTL Consultants, Ltd. provides clarification with regard to these charges. This motion was seconded by Duane Bennetch. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Eric Fox thanked the Board and Rockland Township for their annual donation and support.

NEW BUSINESS

The Township received correspondence from Evan Corondi, Berks County Conservation District containing notification of a public meeting in regards to the 2017 Cooperative Gypsy Moth Suppression Program. The meeting is to be held at 6:00PM on Thursday, June 16, 2016 in the Council Chambers of the Hamburg Borough Building located at 61 N. 3rd St., Hamburg, PA 19562. The meeting will include details about the proposed suppression program for 2017 and include information such as gypsy moth life-cycle, program intent, requirements and costs. The objective of the program is to protect targeted forest residential, forest recreational, and other high-use or high-value forested areas from serious damage by limiting tree defoliation caused by gypsy moth larvae.

The Township received correspondence from Charles Maddona, Douglassville, PA requesting the Board of Supervisors consider the exploration of possibly establishing a police department for Rockland Township. A brief discussion followed, and no action was taken by the Board. Mr. Jerry Keller commented that he feels the Township residents deserve adequate police protection, but the costs associated with a local police force are prohibitive.

The Township received correspondence from Rosemary Lamaestra, Berks County Tax Collection Committee representative, advising that there is an opening on the TCC Board for an alternate for the Brandywine municipalities (Topton, District, Longswamp and Rockland). The Brandywine municipalities will need to appoint one person that would be willing to attend the TCC meetings, if/when Rosemary is unable to attend. Rosemary requests the names of any interested persons to serve as a TCC Alternate be sent to her as soon as possible. No interested persons were identified.

Supervisor Nathan Ohlinger requested the Board's opinion with appointing Michael Schwenk as the sole Building Code Official for Rockland Township (thereby removing LTL Consultants, Ltd. as a Building Code Official). A brief discussion followed. It was noted that the Board previously agreed to appoint both Michael Schwenk and LTL Consultants, Ltd. as Building Code Officials in order to allow a choice (preference) of Building Code Officials to all applicants/residents.

CORRESPONDENCE

A listing of correspondence dated June 14, 2016 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for their review.

Reports regarding zoning/building, sewage and stormwater issues and activity for May 2016 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review.

- Complaint Form – Ridge Drive – Livestock/goats on property. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized forwarding the complaint on to Zoning Officer, Michael Schwenk. The Code Official was instructed to send a letter to the property owner, along with a copy of the zoning regulations for keeping animals in residential areas and to request the number of animals on the property and the distance of the animals and any shelter/coop, etc. from the nearest property lines. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Complaint Form – High View Lane – The Board reviewed the complaint and ultimately determined this matter to be a landlord/tenant dispute.
- Complaint Form – Highland Drive – Grass not cut. The Board instructed the Township Secretary to send a letter to the last known owner of the property to request the grass be cut.
- Complaint Form – 104 Schweitz Road – Concern was raised with a postcard placed in local mailboxes regarding an art show/event to be held on Saturday, June 4, 2016 which stated that camping and dinner would be available on the property. Ms. Jan Cohen-Cruz was present to speak to the Board about the activities occurring on the property. The Township Solicitor requested whether there are commercial activities taking place on the property. Ms. Cohen-Cruz informed the Board that no commercial activity was occurring on the property; the property serves as a residence with art-related activities and gardening activities. Ms. Cohen-Cruz stated that the postcard was simply meant in a generous spirit to invite and meet neighbors, and she informed the Board that she would be happy to look at the Township ordinances to get a better understanding of Township regulations, if the Board felt it necessary. After a brief discussion, the Board determined that no action was required. Ms. Cohen-Cruz also informed the Board that her daughter is planning to get married on the property this Saturday, and she expressed concern as to whether this event would present problems. The Board reassured her a wedding on the property would not be a problem.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Tuesday, June 28, 2016 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jerry Keller, Lyons Fire Company, informed the Board that unfortunately a fire over the Memorial Day weekend completely destroyed a home in the Township. Multiple fire companies responded, and it was a real challenge getting fire trucks and apparatus to the property located in a very rural area off of Mine Road. Mr. Keller recommended that the Board and Township planners require proper access to all new properties in the future. It is very important that when new properties are approved by the Township that proper access for emergency vehicles is taken into consideration.

There was no additional public comment.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer