

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**JULY 14, 2015**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on July 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), Linda Cluck (Township Engineer), 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 June 9, 2015 Board of Supervisors meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The balance sheets, check detail and deposit detail for June 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	670.34
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,228,592.22
108.000	General Fund – Govt Money Market	179,815.56
107.001	General Fund – Savings	1,868.92
107.002	General Fund – Savings	275,003.98
109.001	Government Money Market	118,048.32
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	200,965.38
	State Aid Account – Checking	385.28
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	286,372.40
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,245.63
	<b>Total as of June 30, 2015:</b>	<b>\$2,519,274.19</b>

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

Ms. Susan Bernhard requested to speak to the Board regarding 95 Lyons Road. Ms. Bernhard, realtor, requested a letter from the Township verifying that there are no public water or public sewer facilities available in Rockland Township, and that all properties are serviced by on-lot septic systems and private wells. In addition, Ms. Bernhard requested another letter from the Township with very specific language regarding the septic system and the distance between the well and septic system (a copy of the letter was presented to the Board). Upon a review of the sample letter provided by Ms. Bernhard, the Board informed Ms. Bernhard that the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer would need to inspect the property and would need to provide the second letter requested. During the discussion, Ms. Bernhard agreed to reimburse the Township for any expenses related to her request for letters from the Township. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board authorized LTL Consultants, Ltd. (Sewage Enforcement Officer) to visit the site to perform any necessary inspection and to provide the letter requested as deemed necessary for the sale of the property, with the understanding that the Township would be reimbursed for any expenses related to the requested letter(s). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Fred Fenstermacher requested to speak to the Board regarding 70 Cider Mill Road (infiltration pond not recharging properly). Mr. Fenstermacher advised the Board that an infiltration pond on Lot #20 of the FELD-3 Subdivision needs to be corrected. Mr. Fenstermacher proposed two options to correct the infiltration pond. The first option would be via the remedy outlined on the approved subdivision plan (by adding a pipe through the berm), and the other option would be a rain garden. The infiltration pond and options to correct the infiltration pond were discussed with the Board, Township Engineer, Mr. Fenstermacher and the Warmkessels (parents of the property owner). After a brief discussion, Fred Fenstermacher agreed to perform the infiltration pond remedy according to the approved plan and agreed to possibly regrade the area around the swale, if determined necessary. The Township Solicitor advised that it is important for the Township Engineer to be notified when the work is being performed, so the Township Engineer can inspect to ensure that the work is done according to the plan. Mr. Fenstermacher agreed to contact LTL Consultants, Ltd. to arrange the necessary inspections. Mr. & Mrs. Warmkessel expressed some concerns with the shared driveway (including a considerable drop-off near the driveway pipe). A brief discussion regarding the driveway followed. After the discussion, Chairman Meadway concluded that the Township was not in a position to provide labor and materials (to backfill driveway, etc.) at the owner's request. All Board members agreed with Chairman Meadway's conclusion.

### **REPORT OF SOLICITOR**

The Township Solicitor had nothing to report.

### **REPORT OF ROADMASTER**

2015 Road Project (Seal Coat Portion) - Completed 7/6/15 – Hill Road, Oley Furnace Road & Ruppert School Road. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board authorized payment of the Asphalt Maintenance Solutions invoice for the seal coat portion of the 2015 Road Project prior to next month's 8/11/15 meeting after review/approval by Charles Paris, PennDOT. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2015 Road Project (Paving portion) – Paving has not yet been scheduled. Per contract, paving is to be completed by 8/14/15.

Winter Municipal Agreement with PennDOT – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board approved Resolution #2015-10 and authorized signature of the Winter Municipal Agreement with PennDOT for the 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019 & 2019-2020 winter seasons. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Rockland Township's Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Grant Application was submitted on June 26, 2015.

Berks County Road Salt Order Participation Form for 2015-2016 Winter Season – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board authorized participation in the Berks County Road Salt Bid for the 2015-2016 winter season at 700 tons (same as for the 2014-2015 winter season). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Roadmaster contacted PennDOT regarding the installation of a speed bump near the sharp turn at 296 Forgedale Road and provided an update to the Board. PennDOT informed the Roadmaster that they would not consider installation of a speed bump along Forgedale Road, and the State does not install rumble strips within 500' of residential housing. Mr. Falcone was disappointed with this update, but informed the Township that he would explore other options to address this hazard.

## OLD BUSINESS

There was no additional old business.

## BILLS

A listing of the Unpaid Bills as of July 14, 2015 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$22,385.95 from the General Fund. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the list of unpaid bills totaling \$22,385.95 was approved for payment from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## NEW BUSINESS

The Township received notification dated 6/12/15 from PennDOT advising that Rockland Township qualified for reimbursement based on an evaluation of the costs associated with winter services for the 2014-2015 winter season. Rockland Township is to receive a payment (severe winter adjustment) in the amount of \$16,574.39 in the next sixty days.

The Reading 120 Cycling Event – Sparta Cycling is requesting a letter from the Township granting permission for the event to occur. The event is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2015. Based on the map and information provided, it appears that only Forgedale Road/Lyons Road will be included in the bike route (State roads). On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board approved providing a letter of support for The Reading 120 Cycling event to be held on September 12, 2015. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SR 662-05M Fleetwood Borough Roadway Reconstruction Project – Construction of the project will begin in January 2016 and will require three years to complete. Both truck and car detours will be utilized. To minimize impacts to the traveling public, the project will be constructed by “legs”. The five legs consist of N. Franklin St. (SR662), W. Main St. (SR1010), S. Richmond St. (SR662), the signalized intersections & Main Street between the intersections (SR1010), and E. Main St. (SR1010). A copy of the preliminary detours has been provided. An increase in truck traffic is expected through Rockland Township when the truck detour is implemented in Stage 6 of construction. The detour route will include SR1021 (Lyons Rd/Forgedale Rd to Pricetown Rd) and will be in effect from February 2018 to October 2018. Vice Chairman Bennetch advised of existing truck restrictions on Forgedale Road. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board agreed to have the Township Secretary contact Lisa Martin, McTish, Kunkel & Associates, to notify them of existing posted truck restrictions on Forgedale Road, which may impact the planned truck detour through Rockland Township. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Bennetch expressed concern about the amount of traffic and speed of traffic along Lake Road and recommended some type of speed reduction device (perhaps speed awareness riser(s)). A brief discussion followed. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board instructed the Roadmaster to contact PennDOT to investigate possible traffic calming and/or speed reduction devices for Lake Road. An interested resident suggested a sign which meters or displays a vehicle’s speed and which states “strictly enforced”. There was no additional public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Codification of Ordinances Proposal from Michael Peter, General Code – The Board briefly discussed the proposal and ultimately decided to table the proposal until next month’s Board meeting (to allow more time for the Board to review the proposal and write down questions, etc.).

Township's Certificate of Deposit to Mature 7/23/15 - On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board authorized the Township Treasurer to investigate the best interest rate available when the certificate of deposit matures later this month and reinvest at the best interest available. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Banking Proposal from First Priority Bank – First Priority Bank provided a proposal for the Township's business and is offering a 0.3% interest rate. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to take no action on this proposal.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

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

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:**

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

Tuesday, August 11, 2015 @ 7:30PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jerry Keller, Assistant Fire Chief, Lyons Fire Company, thanked the Township for their annual donation and thanked Roadmaster, Michael Pott for his assistance to the fire company with recent accidents and emergency calls after hours (providing barricades, closing roads, etc.).

Mr. Kenneth Heffner questioned the status of the complaint for 17 Boyer Road. Supervisor Bennetch advised that the Township met with the property owner to discuss the safety concerns raised in the recent complaint, and the most recent update indicates that the property owner has hired Barry Issett & Associates to look into the engineering/structural concerns. Mr. Heffner inquired as to the Township's standard procedures for handling such complaints. Supervisor Bennetch informed Mr. Heffner that the property owner has been cooperative and has agreed to resolve the issues and the Township has provided a reasonable timeframe for addressing the concerns raised in the complaint. If it is determined that any structural work is necessary, the Township's code official will need to be involved to perform the necessary inspections to confirm that any work is done according to code.

14 Day Road – The Board noted that the thirty day deadline to address the property maintenance issues on this property has expired. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board authorized that the property maintenance issues (garbage/rubbish and safety concerns due to the condition of the dwelling which was damaged by fire) at 14 Day Road be turned over to LTL Consultants, Ltd. (code official) to proceed with further enforcement actions. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Board briefly discussed a complaint received recently regarding chickens. Supervisor Bennetch raised some concerns regarding ambiguity with the language in the Township's Zoning Ordinance in Section 8.04.12 and concluded that, in order to be in compliance, the owner of the chickens would need to move their chicken coop to comply with the 100 foot setback from property lines. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board authorized the Township Secretary to send a letter to the property owner requesting that the property owner move the chicken coop to comply with the 100 foot setback from property lines (and remind the property owner that all fenced in areas for chickens shall be fifteen feet from property lines). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township Solicitor advised the Board that the Township will need to review the Township's existing Zoning Ordinance for compliance with the new Eastern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan, and this item (ambiguity of text in 8.04.12) could be addressed during the Zoning Ordinance review/update. The Township Solicitor also suggested the Board begin to think about whether they would like to hire an engineer/consultant to assist with the Zoning Ordinance review/update process.

The Township Secretary requested clarification from the Board as to how to handle two existing grass complaints recently received by the Township. A discussion was held regarding procedures for complaints. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board did not authorized the Township Secretary to send a letter for the Shady Creek Lane grass complaint, and the Board did authorized the Township Secretary to send a letter requesting that the grass be mowed for the property along Keller Road. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Bennetch suggested the Board consider a motion to adopt a motto that Rockland Township is a rural, pro-agricultural community. The suggestion was discussed briefly. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Board agreed to adopt the motto: "Rockland Township is a rural, pro-agricultural community". There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM on a motion by Walter Hafer, seconded by Duane Bennetch. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall  
Secretary/Treasurer