

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

OCTOBER 11, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on October 11, 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 7:32PM by Chairman Herb Meadway. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag.

The meeting minutes of the September 13, 2016 Board of Supervisors meeting were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the minutes from the September 13, 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 September 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	2,805.72
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,535,858.95
108.000	General Fund – Govt Money Market	180,335.75
107.001	General Fund – Savings	3,801.61
107.002	General Fund – Savings	275,003.98
109.001	Government Money Market	118,389.80
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	53,541.24
	State Aid Account – Checking	393.30
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	237,126.41
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	17,862.23
	Total as of September 30, 2016:	\$2,634,425.15

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

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

Revised Application for Solicitation Permit – On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the revised/updated application for a solicitation permit was approved (which the Township Solicitor reviewed for consistency with the Township's Solicitation Ordinance). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township Solicitor informed the Board of Supervisors that the Township recently received correspondence from an attorney in Philadelphia who represents Mr. Harold Lindbuchler (deceased). Mr. Lindbuchler lost his life as a result of an accident at 275 Forgedale Road on February 24, 2016. The correspondence simply requests Rockland Township to acknowledge the attorney's representation in this matter. The Township Solicitor will respond on behalf of Rockland Township, and Rockland Township's insurance carrier was notified of this correspondence.

Dry Hydrant Easement Agreement – The Township Solicitor prepared a draft easement agreement for the installation and use of a dry fire hydrant at 171 Fredericksville Road. The Township Solicitor informed the Board that he will need to make some changes to the agreement and will send another draft agreement to the Board, prior to contacting Mr. Norman Burkholder to review the proposed easement agreement.

The Board briefly discussed the possibility of installing a dry fire hydrant at the existing pond at 104 Schweitz Road with Jerry Keller, Lyons Fire Company. Mr. Keller advised that he has some concerns with regard to access (due to the distance of the pond from Schweitz Road or Ruppert School Road), but he plans to further investigate the viability of dry hydrant installation at this location and will report back to the Board at a future date.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

Hertzog School Road – Drainage Issues – Dean Druckenmiller, Berks County Conservation District, was contacted regarding his recent site visit to 69 Hertzog School Road and his meeting with the property owner. The information obtained from Mr. Druckenmiller was provided to the Board. No action on this matter was taken by the Board.

The Roadmaster informed the Board that the Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council has awarded the Fuel Oil (#2 Heating Oil, Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel and Gasoline ITB #16-36-PB) bid to Talley Petroleum Enterprises. Also, the Roadmaster advised the Board that the Township road crew spent a good bit of time in Longswamp Township assisting with paving projects and other co-op work. The Longswamp, Hereford, and Rockland road crews will begin line painting shortly.

OLD BUSINESS

Dry Hydrants Update – The Township Roadmaster and Driveway Permit Administrator, Michael Pott, expressed concern about the lack of sufficient site distance at the proposed dry hydrant access/driveway off of Fredericksville Road and recommended the Board consider contacting the State (PennDOT) to secure a Highway Occupancy Permit for the proposed access/driveway prior to moving forward with installation. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized LTL Consultants, Ltd. (Township Engineer) to contact PennDOT to determine whether a Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) from the State would be necessary for the proposed dry fire hydrant access/driveway off of Fredericksville Road (SR1022) and to investigate what fees and paperwork would be required by PennDOT for obtaining a State HOP. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Richard J. & Carol A. Blair Subdivision – Five Points Road – The time extension for review of the Richard J. & Carol A. Blair Subdivision is in effect until December 20, 2016. There are no new items for this month's agenda. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Richard J. & Carol A. Blair Subdivision plan was tabled until next month. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update – The Township Secretary spoke to Matthew Mack, Ludgate Engineering and confirmed that Ludgate Engineering will attend this month's October 25, 2016 Planning Commission meeting at 7:30PM to meet the Township's elected and appointed officials and to "kick-off" the Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update Project.

BILLS

The Township received payment on 9/20/16 in the amount of \$26,435.76 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania serving as the 2016 Commonwealth allocation supporting the Volunteer Fire Relief Association(s) of the volunteer fire companies. As required by Act 205, proceeds from this check must be paid within 60 days to the fire relief associations that serve our community. The proposed payments to the fire relief associations are as follows: \$15,861.46 to Lyons Volunteer Firefighter's Relief Association (60%) and \$10,574.30 to Ruscombmanor Fireman's Relief Association (40%). These amounts are included in the unpaid bills list for payment from the General Fund. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved payment of \$15,861.46 to Lyons Volunteer Firefighter's Relief Association and \$10,574.30 to Ruscombmanor Fireman's Relief Association serving as 2016 Foreign Fire Relief payments. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township received payment on 9/23/16 in the amount of \$17,498.58 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania serving as the 2016 Commonwealth allocation of general municipal pension system state aid. The Township's 2016 payment to the pension plan totals \$17,721.77 (contribution based on 10 percent of eligible members' prior year's wages). This amount is included in the unpaid bills list for payment from the General Fund. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved payment of \$17,721.77 to the Rockland Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan serving as 2016 contributions for eligible employees. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

A listing of the unpaid bills as of October 11, 2016 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$65,339.82 from the General Fund. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the unpaid bill list totaling \$65,339.82 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 from The Benecon Group that our HRA Administrative Services Agreement will not be re-newed effective October 1, 2016. The Chester Perfetto Agency has informed the Township that PrimePay will handle full administration of the HRA at a cost of \$70 per employee per month (including a \$250 set-up fee) effective October 1, 2016. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the HRA Administrative Services Agreement with PrimePay to handle full administration of the HRA (replacing The Benecon Group) effective October 1, 2016. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. It was noted that the Township Secretary will contact PrimePay directly to confirm the HRA administration costs, since the rate of \$70 per employee per month seems high in comparison to administration costs paid to The Benecon Group.

The Township received a letter from Michael Morris, Sewage Planning Specialist, PA DEP, on October 7, 2016 requesting an update on the progress being made with regard to the resubmission of Rockland Township's Act 537 Official Plan. The Township Solicitor confirmed that Dr. Hugh Archer, Mavickar Environmental Consultants, was notified of the correspondence received by the Township from PA DEP, and Dr. Archer will respond on behalf of the Township (and advise that Mavickar Environmental Consultants is working on the Township's Act 537 Official Plan). The Township Solicitor and Township Supervisors also provided additional information to meeting attendees on the Township's Act 537 Plan.

Ms. Piper Sherburne informed the Rockland Township Supervisors that as a result of District Township's current review of its Zoning Ordinance for consistency with the Eastern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan, it was noted that Rockland Township, District Township and/or Topton Borough (entities involved with the Eastern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan) must comply with the state's new medical marijuana law (to allow for medical marijuana). This is an item which should be addressed during Rockland Township's Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update project.

The Rockland Township Zoning Hearing Board held a public hearing on September 21, 2016 and rendered a decision on the variance application for Owen McPeake, 75 Orchard Road, to use a detached summer kitchen on the property to host the practice of oriental medicine (by applicant). The applicant's request for a variance was granted with conditions. A copy of the final written decision is available at the Rockland Township Municipal Building.

Tire Grinding/Recycling Program – Supervisor Ohlinger mentioned that he contacted the Berks County Commissioners, Senator Mensch's Office and Ed Boito with PA DEP to discuss the possibility of developing a Tire Grinding/Recycling Program (grinding tires and reusing them) and possible grant monies available for such a program. As a result of these preliminary discussions, it was determined that it would be useful to contact municipalities throughout the County to further assess whether proper tire disposal is a problem in various communities and to assess overall interest in such a program. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board instructed the Township Secretary to send an email to municipalities throughout Berks County to try to assess whether tire disposal is a problem in various communities and to assess interest in participation with a Tire Grinding/Recycling Program. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY INFORMATION:

- **Egg masses** have been spotted during the week of September 19, 2016, per Dana Rhodes, PA Department of Agriculture. This is a few weeks earlier than previous years.
- **Spotted Lanternfly Public Meeting** to be held on October 27, 2016 from 6:00PM-8:30PM at the Goodwill Fire Company, 537 Chestnut Street in Bally. Pennsylvanians interested in learning more about the spotted lanternfly are invited to attend.
- **Contractor Training – Spotted Lanternfly Control** – Goodwill Fire Company, 537 Chestnut Street, Bally, PA 19503 from 1:00PM-3:00PM. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is seeking contractors to bid on tree removal, tree herbicide application and tree insecticide application. To be qualified to bid, commercial pesticide applicators must be licensed in category 6 (Ornamental and Shade Trees) and category 10 (Right-of-way and Weeks).
- **PRESS RELEASE – October 7, 2016** – Quarantine Against Spotted Lanternfly Expands to Include Allentown City (seven additional municipalities in Lehigh, Montgomery counties also included in quarantine)
- **2016 Spotted Lanternfly Awareness Calendar Contest** – The purpose of this contest is to educate students and their families about the importance of inspecting items prior to leaving the quarantine area. Applicants must be in first, second, third, fourth, fifth or sixth grade. Poster contest entries are to be sent to the PA Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry, and must be postmarked by November 14, 2016

**Spotted lanternfly information sheets have been made available to meeting attendees. This information is also available in the Township Building lobby area and on the Township website.*

CORRESPONDENCE

A listing of correspondence dated October 11, 2016 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for their review.

Reports regarding zoning/building, sewage and stormwater issues and activity for September 2016 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review. Direction was requested from the Board on a few complaints and/or code-related matters.

- Complaint – 46 High View Lane – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board agreed to forward this complaint on to the Township Code Enforcement Officer for further investigation and to determine whether the property should be condemned or to proceed with taking the necessary actions to get the property cleaned up and in compliance. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Complaint – 21 Hill Road – On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board agreed to pass this complaint on to the Code Enforcement Officer to investigate and provide an update to the Board on the status of the tire removal at 21 Hill Road. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Complaint – 138 Main Street – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board agreed to forward this complaint on to the Code Enforcement Officer for further investigation of the possible accumulation of unlicensed, unregistered cars on the property. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Complaint – 138 Fredericksville Road – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board agreed to instruct the Code Enforcement Officer to move forward with legal action for any confirmed violations of the Township Burning Ordinance. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Complaint – 14 Day Road – Per Michael Schwenk, Township Code Enforcement Officer, the property owners have requested an extension (possibly 2-3 months) of the deadline to clean up the property. After a brief discussion, and on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board was not in favor of granting another deadline extension and was not in favor of a controlled burn (without input/consent from the Lyons Fire Company) and instructed the Code Enforcement Officer to move forward with legal action. The Board noted that a demolition permit was still valid until 12/3/2016 for the structure(s) damaged by fire; the main concern is the accumulated trash/garbage/rubbish that still exists on the property. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Complaint – 9 Highland Drive - The Board believed that some mowing has occurred on the property. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board instructed the Code Enforcement Officer to recheck the property to determine whether or not the property is now deemed to be in compliance of the Township's Brush/Grass/Weeds Ordinance (Ordinance #93-6). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Complaint – 120 Lyons Road – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board instructed the Code Enforcement Officer to send a letter to the property owner to request an update regarding compliance of the parking expansion with any and all Township ordinances. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Complaint – 21 Ridge Drive – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board instructed the Code Enforcement Officer to determine whether the animals were allowed to be on the property in December 2009 (based on the zoning regulations in place at that time) and to determine whether any zoning violations occurred and/or exist concerning the keeping of these animals on the property. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Tuesday, October 25, 2016 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting
 Thursday, October 27, 2016 @ 1:00PM – Budget Meeting (Board of Supervisors)
 Tuesday, November 8, 2016 – GENERAL ELECTION
 Tuesday, November 15, 2016 @ 7:30PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Township Supervisor Nathan Ohlinger thanked the Board members and the Township Solicitor for their cooperation.

Mr. Jerry Keller, Lyons Fire Company, reminded meeting attendees of National Fire Prevention Week and reminded residents to check smoke alarm batteries and carbon monoxide alarms. Mr. Keller informed the Board that the Lyons Fire Company's Community Fire Safety Day held on Saturday, October 1, 2016 was a success, and Mr. Keller also advised that Lyons Fire Company chief officers and fire trucks are now equipped with the heroin overdose antidote, Narcan (and training was received). Mr. Keller thanked the Township for their continued support of the Lyons Fire Company.

Mr. Jerry Keller, Lyons Fire Company, shared a very nice email which was received at the fire station thanking first responders for their recent assistance at a vehicle accident/incident which occurred on Henry Road. Mr. Keller mentioned that such nice gestures and comments are much appreciated and are well received by their volunteers.

Mr. Steve Haring requested additional information from the Board on the Township's Act 537 Plan and a Township mandated pumping program. Township officials assured Mr. Haring and meeting attendees that the Township is working with Mavickar Environmental Consultants to explore all possible options (including possible community systems) to adequately address sewage problems and/or malfunctions and the Township's long-term sewage needs without the need to install public sewer.

There was no additional public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
 Secretary/Treasurer