

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on September 13, 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 August 9, 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 August 9, 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 August 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	2,945.07
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,473,551.42
108.000	General Fund – Govt Money Market	180,289.19
107.001	General Fund – Savings	3,800.71
107.002	General Fund – Savings	275,003.98
109.001	Government Money Market	118,359.24
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	53,495.05
	State Aid Account – Checking	393.30
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	237,070.20
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	25,483.95
	Total as of August 31, 2016:	\$2,579,698.27

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

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

The Township Solicitor had nothing to report.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

Hertzog School Road – Drainage Issues – The Roadmaster informed the Board that he met with the property owner of 69 Hertzog School Road (along with the Township Engineer) to discuss increased stormwater runoff as a result of significant changes to the ground cover on his property. Shortly after the Township's meeting with the property owner, the property owner met with Dean Druckenmiller, Berks County Conservation District. Per the property owner's meeting with the Conservation District, it is the Township's understanding that the property owner does not intend to perform any of the suggested stormwater measures to help control stormwater runoff from his property nor does the property owner agree to pay any related costs. The Roadmaster informed the Board that the Township may want to consider contacting the Berks County Conservation District to inquire about

Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads funding to possibly help cover some of the anticipated costs to remedy the drainage concerns along Hertzog School Road. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Township Secretary was instructed to contact Dean Druckenmiller with the Berks County Conservation District to obtain additional information on his site visit to 69 Hertzog School Road and his meeting with the property owner. Mr. Norman Burkholder offered comments to the Board regarding drainage along Hertzog School Road. There was no additional public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

85 Foxs Road – The Township completed the pipe connection for Mr. Strauss to connect to the Township's pipe, as discussed at previous meetings. The Roadmaster confirmed that Mr. Strauss connected the new pipe (containing roof runoff from 85 Foxs Road), and this work is now complete.

2017 Mack Truck Update – The Roadmaster obtained the final paperwork to move forward with the purchase of a 2017 Mack truck to replace the 1998 International dump truck. Supervisor Nathan Ohlinger inquired whether the Township should consider other truck models. Vice Chairman Duane Bennetch informed Supervisor Ohlinger that the Board had previously made the decision to move forward with the Mack truck (via Costars pricing). On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board authorized the Township Roadmaster to sign the necessary paperwork to proceed with the actual building and upfitting of the truck, with the understanding that any payment for the new 2017 Mack truck would not be required until January 2017 (since funds would need to be properly allocated for this purchase in the 2017 budget). Mr. Norman Burkholder inquired as to whether the Township needed this truck. The Roadmaster advised that while the 1998 International does not have significant mileage, maintenance costs keep increasing and body rust is fairly significant. There was no additional public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Dry Hydrants Update – Lendacki Enterprises LLC and M&A Excavating visited the Fredericksville/Smoketown Road site in order for the contractors to provide the Township with a cost estimate for dry fire hydrant installation. A cost estimate was received on 9/13/16 from Lendacki Enterprises LLC. No cost estimate was received from M&A Excavating. The cost estimate received from Lendacki Enterprises LLC totaled \$4,500.00 for the dry hydrant installation and \$3,000.00 for 200LF driveway improvement for dry hydrant access. The Roadmaster expressed concern regarding site distance with the proposed location of the dry fire hydrant access from Fredericksville Road. A brief discussion regarding the dry fire hydrant installation followed. At the conclusion of the discussion, Mr. Norman Burkholder and Mr. Jerry Keller (representing the Lyons Fire Company) were in agreement to moving forward with the dry fire hydrant installation. The Township Solicitor advised that he would proceed with preparation of a dry hydrant easement agreement. Mr. Jerry Keller informed the Township Solicitor that he will try to obtain a sample easement agreement. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board awarded the dry fire hydrant installation project to Jerome Lendacki, Lendacki Enterprises, LLC at a total cost of \$7,500.00, subject to Rockland Township obtaining the appropriate easement from the property owner at 171 Fredericksville Road. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. The Township also acknowledged receipt of an email from Jan Cohen-Cruz dated August 19, 2016 informing the Township that their property at 104 Schweitz Road has a pond that covers about an acre, and the property owner(s) would be glad to make it available to the Township in case of fire (for consideration for dry fire hydrant installation). The Board requested Lyons Fire Company check out the pond at 104 Schweitz Road to see whether installation of a dry fire hydrant at this location would be feasible. At this time, however, the Board will only proceed with the dry hydrant installation at 171 Fredericksville Road.

Zoning Ordinance Review/Amendment – Quotes from three other local engineering firms were received, in order to compare costs to LTL Consultants’ proposal. This information was provided to the Board, and this item was tabled at last month’s meeting. Supervisor Ohlinger expressed his desire to get the community involved in the zoning ordinance update. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board decided to award the Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update project to Ludgate Engineering (per proposal submitted). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. The Township Secretary was instructed to contact Ludgate Engineering to inquire about the most efficient and cost effective way to proceed with this project. The Board suggested Ludgate Engineering attend the October 25, 2016 Planning Commission meeting to meet the Township’s elected and appointed officials and to “kick-off” the zoning ordinance amendment/update project.

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 September 20, 2016. At the August 30, 2016 Planning Commission meeting, the Planning Commission approved a time extension request on behalf of the Richard J. & Carol A. Blair Subdivision until December 20, 2016 and recommends the Board do the same. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the time extension request until December 20, 2016 for the Richard J. & Carol A. Blair Subdivision. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

September 2016 Township Newsletter – Per discussion at last month’s meeting, the Township Secretary prepared a draft newsletter for Board approval prior to mailing to Township residents. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the September 2016 Edition of the Township Newsletter for printing (via Heffner Printing) and mailing. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS

A listing of the unpaid bills as of September 13, 2016 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$67,554.42 from the General Fund. On a motion by Herb Meadway, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the unpaid bill list totaling \$67,554.42 was approved for payment from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

The Township received renewal rates for health and vision coverage with Highmark Blue Shield. Highmark Blue Shield is proposing an approximate 9% increase for health coverage effective 10/1/2016 through 9/30/2017, although vision coverage has decreased approximately 1.7%. Information obtained from the Chester Perfetto Agency was provided to the Board for consideration. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved renewal of health and vision coverage with Highmark Blue Shield effective 10/1/2016 through 9/30/2017. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

No applications were received by the Township during the month of August 2016 for the inclusion of land to the Rockland Township Ag Security Area. The Township Solicitor advised that the Township is required to conduct a 7-year review of the Township’s Ag Security Area (to occur during CY2017).

The Township received an invitation for Township officials to attend the 2016 Berks County Convention to be held on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at the Oley Fair Centre. All Township Supervisors, elected auditors and the tax collector were instructed to inform the Township Secretary if they plan to attend, so the Secretary can submit the required paperwork by the 10/1/2016 deadline.

The Rockland Township Zoning Hearing Board held a hearing on August 10, 2016 and rendered a decision on the variance application for Andy George, 52 Cider Mill Road, to install a 1,200 sq. ft. detached garage (pole building). The applicant's request for a variance was denied (from both the size restrictions of the building and the minimum side yard setbacks). A copy of the final written decision is available at the Rockland Township Municipal Building.

The Rockland Township Zoning Hearing Board held a hearing on August 17, 2016 and rendered a decision on the variance application for Troy Bower, 50 Highland Drive, to install a 1,200 sq. ft. detached garage (pole building). The applicant's request for a variance was denied (from both the size restrictions of the building and the minimum yard setbacks). A copy of the final written decision will be available at the Rockland Township Municipal Building, upon receipt of the decision from the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor.

The Township's pension plan consultant, Thomas Redmond (Redmond Consulting) is retiring. Tom provided the Township with the name of one of his associates, Don Consul, Conred Consulting, Inc., who is willing to provide the same services provided by Tom Redmond at the same rate(s). On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway, the Board appointed Donald Consul, Conred Consulting, Inc. as the Township's new pension plan consultant (to replace Tom Redmond); compensation for Donald Consul will be the same as for Thomas Redmond. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A listing of correspondence dated September 13, 2016 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for their review.

Reports regarding zoning/building, sewage and stormwater issues and activity for August 2016 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review. Direction was requested from the Board regarding a complaint and/or code-related matter.

- Complaint Form – High View Lane – Per the Board's instructions at the 8/9/16 Board meeting, the Township Secretary sent a letter to the property owner requesting compliance within thirty (30) days. Property is now mowed, but no update on the status of stagnant pool water or railing on the porch. The Township noted that an offer was made on the property to the bank, and the Board was hopeful that this matter would be resolved without the need to involve the code official. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board agreed to table this matter until next month. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Tuesday, September 27, 2016 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, October 11, 2016 @ 7:30PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor Nathan Ohlinger expressed concerns with bicyclists riding in "packs" or large groups and with cyclists not obeying all traffic laws. Supervisor Ohlinger inquired about what the Township could do to encourage cyclists who utilize the rural roads in the Township to consider riding single file, to stay in smaller groups, and to obey all traffic laws. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Township Secretary was instructed to send a letter to the Velodrome requesting that the Board's suggestions (to promote safety for both cyclists and motorists on rural roads) be passed along to any cyclists who utilize our Township roads. Lieutenant Vincent D'Angelo with the PA State Police, Troop L, reminded the Board and meeting attendees that bicycles are considered vehicles in the state of Pennsylvania, and therefore, have as much right to the use of roadways in the state as vehicles (and must obey all of the laws that apply to the vehicles). There was no additional public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Lieutenant Vincent D'Angelo with the PA State Police, Troop L, was present at tonight's meeting to provide crime stats and crash stats. Lieutenant D'Angelo also questioned whether the Board and/or meeting attendees had any concerns to pass along to the PA State Police. Supervisor Bennetch expressed concern with speeding and Deka traffic. Mr. Norman Burkholder expressed concern with speeding and recent crashes along Fredericksville Road. Mr. Jerry Keller, Lyons Fire Company, expressed concern with the increase in heroin and drug problems in the area. A short discussion followed regarding heroin and drugs, with residents acknowledging the work and efforts by the Brandywine Heights Area School District in addressing this on-going problem (a problem which is not just limited to our immediate area).

Supervisor Herb Meadway inquired to the Township Solicitor about the process of establishing a homeowner's association.

Jerry Keller, Lyons Fire Company, invited all Township officials and the general public to its Community Fire Safety Day to be held on Saturday, October 1, 2016 at the Lyons Fire Station from 9:00AM-2:00PM.

Mr. Jeffrey Cronrath requested an update on the 14 Day Road complaint.

The Township Solicitor mentioned that Coach Sam Lovello (longtime Brandywine Heights wrestling coach) will be solely missed. He served as a positive role model and mentor for a number of the youth in our community.

There was no additional public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23PM on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Herb Meadway. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer