

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

JANUARY 9, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on January 9, 2018 at 7:00PM at the Rockland Township Municipal Building. The following board members were present: Chairman Duane Bennetch, Vice Chairman Nathan Ohlinger, and David Wartzenuft. Also present were Attorney Alfred Crump (Township Solicitor) and interested citizens.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chairman Duane Bennetch. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag. Chairman Duane Bennetch officially welcomed newly elected Township Supervisor David Wartzenuft on board.

The minutes of the Board of Supervisors Organization Meeting held on January 2, 2018 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the January 2, 2018 Organization Meeting minutes were approved as presented. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The balance sheets, check detail and deposit detail for December 2017 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	3,084.40
106.000	General Fund – Savings	2,103,381.42
107.001	General Fund – Savings	6,159.26
107.002	General Fund – Certificates of Deposit	375,004.02
109.002	Certificate of Deposit	109,106.16
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	26,402.67
	State Aid Account – Checking	403.10
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	113,872.67
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	17,937.85
	Total as of December 31, 2017:	\$2,755,551.55

On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the balance sheets, check and deposit details for December 2017 were approved as presented. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

State Game Lands Along Forgedale Road – The Township Solicitor informed the Board that he has been referred to the mapping department, and Attorney Crump hoped to have additional information on this matter at next month's meeting. Chairman Duane Bennetch advised the Township Solicitor that he emailed Senator Bob Mensch (who sits on a Committee which oversees the PA Game Commission) regarding this matter. Senator Mensch is willing to provide assistance, but has requested a copy of all correspondence to/from the PA Game Commission related to access to the State Game Lands along Forgedale Road. After a brief discussion, the Board and Township Solicitor agreed to hold off on forwarding any information to Senator Mensch's Office until the Township Solicitor is able to speak to the mapping department.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

The Roadmaster provided a written report to the Board.

Vice Chairman Nathan Ohlinger inquired as to who should be contacted about the utility pole near Boyer's Market on Forgedale Road which is a hazard. Met-Ed apparently installed a new utility pole and moved their lines, but there are still communications lines affixed to the old bent utility pole, which is a safety hazard especially for larger vehicles and trucks. The Board instructed the Roadmaster to begin by contacting the State (PennDOT) to advise of this hazard, since Forgedale Road is a State road.

OLD BUSINESS

Birdsboro Pipeline Project Land Development Plan – Rockland & Oley Townships – The Birdsboro Pipeline Project Land Development Plan is still under review by the Planning Commission. The deadline for plan action is February 28, 2018.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update – The Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update is in progress. Township officials plan to continue to review and discuss Article 7 (Environmental Protection Overlay District Regulations) at the January 30, 2018 Planning Commission meeting.

Township Logo– Vice Chairman Nathan Ohlinger informed the Board that he was in contact with Mr. Kurt Lebo regarding quotes to reproduce the Township logo for the wall of the meeting room and for the trucks. As of tonight’s meeting, no pricing information has been received.

Sewage Advisory Committee Update – The next meeting of the Sewage Advisory Committee has not yet been scheduled. The Township Solicitor informed the Board that he will continue to try to contact Dr. Hugh Archer to obtain an update.

Lyons Fire Co. Proposal – Lyons Fire Company requested the Board consider a proposal to re-allocate funding to Lyons Fire Company and Ruscombmanor Fire Company based on call volume averages over the past four years. The new proposal currently being considered by the Board includes an 80% allocation of funding to Lyons Fire Company and 20% allocation of funding to Ruscombmanor Fire Company. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board instructed the Township Secretary to contact Brian Gottschall, Berks County Department of Emergency Services to attempt to set up a training meeting/session on run cards. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Building Code Official/Building Inspector Appointment (to replace Michael Schwenk) – This item was tabled at the January 2, 2018 Organization Meeting. Township Supervisors Duane Bennetch and Nathan Ohlinger viewed the listing of “Certified Code Officials” on the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry’s website to attempt to identify qualified individuals to replace Michael Schwenk as Building Code Official/Building Inspector. However, the website only provides limited information on the certified code officials (no contact information, company affiliations, etc.). On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Township Secretary was instructed to investigate the affiliations of the certified code officials identified by the Supervisors. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS

A listing of the unpaid bills as of January 9, 2018 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$23,308.15 from the General Fund. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzluft, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$23,308.15 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

PSATS Conference (April 22-25, 2018) – The Township received registration materials from PSATS for the 96th Annual Educational Conference & Exhibit Show in Hershey, PA. Township officials shall confirm their plans to attend the PSATS Conference with the Township Secretary, so the Secretary can submit the necessary registration paperwork to PSATS. (Registration begins January 16, 2018 and ends March 31, 2018. Registrations received after March 31st will be assessed a late fee.) On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Township Secretary was instructed to register all three Board members and any other Township employees who wish to attend the PSATS Conference in Hershey in April. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2018 Berks County Public Works Association (BCPWA) Meetings – On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzluft, the Board approved the road crew employees’ attendance at the BCPWA Meetings in 2018. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 2018. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2018 Finance Officers Association Meetings and Secretaries Association Meetings offered through Albright College's Center for Excellence in Local Government – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the Township Secretary's attendance at the Finance Officers Association Meetings and Secretaries Association Meetings offered through Albright College's Center for Excellence in Local Government during calendar year 2018 (at a cost not to exceed \$10 per meeting). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Updated Signatory Cards for Township Accounts – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved updated signatory cards for all Township accounts (adding newly elected Township Supervisor David Wartzenuft and removing former Township Supervisor Harold Meadway). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A list of correspondence dated January 9, 2018 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Reports and updates regarding zoning/building, sewage and stormwater issues and activities for December 2017 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review. Direction was needed from the Board on one code-related matter.

33 Lyons Road – Complaint – On December 28, 2017, the Township was informed that this matter is not resolved (by the complainant). On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzenuft, this matter was tabled until next month. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Tuesday, January 30, 2018 @ 7:30PM - Planning Commission Meeting (*Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting*)
Tuesday, February 13, 2018 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Steve Haring requested an overview of the Lyons Fire Company proposal. The Board informed Mr. Haring that Lyons Fire Company is proposing the Board of Supervisors consider a reallocation of funding to both fire companies that provide service to Rockland Township (Lyons Fire Company and Ruscombmanor Fire Company) based on call volume. The proposal includes a proposed reallocation of funding to include 80% to Lyons Fire Company and 20% to Ruscombmanor Fire Company. Mr. Jerry Keller informed the Board that Lyons Fire Company had a total of 261 emergency calls during calendar year 2017 and 107 of these emergency calls were in Rockland Township.

Mr. Jerry Keller, Lyons Fire Company addressed the Board. Since he has been serving with the fire company for 46 years and previously served as the Township's Emergency Management Director, he questioned why the Board would decide to meet with Brian Gottschall instead of sitting down with their experienced local fire company personnel. Mr. Keller again extended an offer to the Board to meet to review and discuss the run cards for the Township.

Mr. Brian Keller questioned whether the Board of Supervisors might consider a fire tax for Rockland Township (similar to Maxatawny Township).

Mr. Steve Haring expressed his opinion that it would seem logical to allocate funding to the fire companies based on each fire company's previous year's call volume.

There was no additional public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49PM on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer