

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

APRIL 10, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on April 10, 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), Linda Cluck (Township Engineer) 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.

The minutes of the Board of Supervisors meeting held on March 13, 2018 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the March 13, 2018 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 March 2018 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 | 2,643.44 |
| 106.000 | General Fund – Savings | 2,118,794.19 |
| 107.001 | General Fund – Savings | 285,134.85 |
| 107.002 | General Fund – Certificates of Deposit | 100,004.03 |
| 109.002 | Certificate of Deposit | 109,106.16 |
| 110.000 | Petty Cash | 200.00 |
| | State Aid Account – Savings | 229,004.27 |
| | State Aid Account – Checking | 403.19 |
| 107.003 | Capital Reserve Account – Savings | 114,206.90 |
| 107.005 | Payroll Account – Checking | 17,562.42 |
| | Total as of March 31, 2018: | \$2,977,059.45 |

On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the balance sheets, check and deposit details for March 2018 were approved as presented. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Kevin Spatz requested to speak to the Board regarding 14 Day Road. Mr. Spatz informed the Board that progress is being made at the property, and the large trash pile has been taken care of. Mr. Spatz requested the Board consider allowing him until at least the summer to bring the property into compliance with all Township regulations. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved postponing enforcement actions for 14 Day Road until the August 14, 2018 monthly Board meeting. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Carol Daniels, BB&T/Oley Branch requested to be added to tonight's meeting agenda (regarding BB&T's Financial Wellness Program). Ms. Daniels was not present.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

State Game Lands Along Forgedale Road – The Township Solicitor informed meeting attendees that Township officials are in the process of reviewing the information (drawing) received from the PA Game Commission and requested more time to review this information.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

Resolution – Price Adjustment of Bituminous Materials for Small Quantities (2018 Road Project) – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzenuft, Resolution #2018-05 was approved to allow an escalator clause for bituminous materials to be included with the 2018 Road Project bid documents. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The 2018 Road Project includes double oil chip seal coat of Bick Road (from Lobachsville Road to intersection of Keller Road), Angstadt Road (from Keller Road to Lobachsville Road), Deysher Road (from intersection at Schweitz Road to Township Line), and Forrest Road (from Township Line to Township Line). On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the 2018 Road Project for advertising for bids to be opened at the May 8, 2018 meeting. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the road crew's attendance at the upcoming Pennsylvania One Call System's PA Safety Day Conference in Oaks, PA on May 15, 2018. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Birdsboro Pipeline Project Land Development Plan – Rockland & Oley Townships – The land development plan was conditionally approved by the Planning Commission on February 27, 2018 (pending compliance with all outstanding review items outlined in Township Engineer's review letter dated 2/22/2018 including FERC approval and subject to the Township's receipt of payment for any and all outstanding engineering and attorney fees associated with this project). At last month's meeting, the Board approved a time extension for the Birdsboro Pipeline Project Land Development Plan until April 30, 2018. Attorney Crump informed the Board that he, Attorney Steven Buck (representing DTE Energy), Linda Cluck (Township Engineer) and a number of DTE Energy representatives met on Friday, April 6, 2018 and worked through many of the outstanding items. The Township Solicitor advised the Board that he feels the Township is now in a position to conditionally approve the Birdsboro Pipeline Project Land Development Plan. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the Birdsboro Pipeline Project Land Development Plan subject to the following conditions: 1) Developer to provide the Township with a Developers and Maintenance Agreement satisfactory to the Township Engineer and Township Solicitor, 2) Developer to sign an O&M Agreement satisfactory to the Township Engineer and Township Solicitor (including related inspection fees), 3) Developer to pay all necessary fees and deposits, and 4) Developer will pay all outstanding engineering and attorney fees that have or will become due as the result of this project to the Township. Mr. Steve Rawlings, DTE Energy informed Township officials that DTE Energy is required to offer training programs to the fire departments and plans to gift \$5,000.00 to the fire department(s) to offset training expenses and needs. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the Birdsboro Pipeline Land Development Plan subject to the following conditions: 1) Developer to provide the Township with a Developers and Maintenance Agreement satisfactory to the Township Engineer and Township Solicitor, 2) Developer to sign an O&M Agreement satisfactory to the Township Engineer and Township Solicitor, 3) Developer to pay all necessary fees and deposits, and 4) Developer will pay all outstanding engineering and attorney fees that have or will become due as the result of this project to the Township. Mr. Eric Fox, Ruscombmanor Fire Company requested more information from Mr. Steve Rawlings, DTE Energy regarding the anticipated start date and completion date for this project. Mr. Rawlings advised that the project is expected to be complete by the third quarter of 2018, but the start date is contingent on obtaining necessary approvals and pending required notifications. Mr. Nathan Keller, Lyons Fire Company requested additional information from Mr. Rawlings on the training to be provided by DTE Energy. There was no additional public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update – The Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update is in progress. Township officials plan to review and discuss Article 9 (Performance Standards for Certain Principal Uses) at the April 24, 2018 Planning Commission meeting.

Building Code Official/Building Inspector Appointment – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzenuft, Contractors Inspection Services, Inc. (Jim Franey) was appointed as a Building Code Official/Building Inspector for Rockland Township effective immediately at the same rate as current Building Code Official/Building Inspector LTL Consultants, Ltd. Going forward, applicants who apply for a building permit with the Township must select which Building Code Official/Building Inspector they would like to work with (either Contractors Inspection Services, Inc. or LTL Consultants, Ltd.). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Zoning Hearing Board – Variance Application (94 Lyons Road) – The Rockland Township Zoning Hearing Board held a public hearing on March 7, 2018 which was continued until March 14, 2018. On March 14, 2018, the Rockland Township Zoning Hearing Board rendered their decision on this variance application. The variance was granted. A written decision will follow shortly.

Sewage Advisory Committee Update – The next meeting of the Sewage Advisory Committee has not yet been scheduled.

BILLS

A listing of the unpaid bills as of April 10, 2018 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$50,755.86 from the General Fund. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$50,755.86 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Emergency Management Coordinator Resignation – Township officials were recently informed that Steve DeCola is no longer interested in the Township Emergency Management Coordinator position. Mr. Jesse Tamburino volunteered to take over as the Rockland Township Emergency Management Coordinator. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, Mr. Jesse Tamburino, 34 Timothy Drive, Mertztown, PA was appointed as the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Planning Commission Vacancy – There is currently a vacant position on the Planning Commission, as the result of the recent passing of Harold (Herb) Meadway. Herb Meadway served on the Planning Commission since 1995, and also served just shy of ten years as a Township Supervisor. Mr. William Fredericks, 118 Beaver Creek Road expressed interest in serving on the Planning Commission and was present to speak to the Board. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board appointed Mr. William Fredericks to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission (term ending December 2019). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2017 Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Grant Application – The Township received notification dated March 30, 2018 that Rockland Township's Guiderail Improvement Project was not selected for funding during Pennsylvania's 2017 ARLE Funding Program round.

The Township received correspondence from Evan Corondi, Berks County Conservation District, notifying the Township that the Berks County Conservation District will conduct mosquito surveillance and West Nile Virus monitoring in our Township again this year. Surveillance in our area will occur approximately once per month from April 1, 2018 through October 31, 2018. Surveillance may occur more often if mosquito populations and/or virus levels elevate and require enhanced monitoring. Dead birds will continue to be tested for West Nile Virus this year. Collection dates will run from May 1, 2018 through October 31, 2018.

Possible Dry Fire Hydrant Locations – The Township Secretary provided the Board with three possible dry hydrant locations in Rockland Township; these locations were identified previously. The 2018 budget includes funds for the installation of another dry hydrant in the Township. Mr. Nathan Keller, Lyons Fire Company informed the Board that the fire company would like to perform site visits to look at the pond at Stimmel/Forgedale Roads and the pond at 104 Schweitz Road (hopefully prior to next month's meeting).

Christ Mertz Lutheran Church submitted a request to the Township dated 4/9/2018 for the partial release of escrow funds on deposit with the Township associated with their Land Development Improvements Escrow. This request was forwarded on to the Township Engineer to review, and the Township is awaiting a recommendation from the Township Engineering with regard to the release of escrow funds. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board approved the release of escrow funds to the Christ Mertz Lutheran Church as recommended by the Township Engineer (upon the Township's receipt of the Township Engineer's recommendation regarding the requested escrow release, the Township Secretary was authorized to release same amount from the Christ Mertz Lutheran Church's Land Development Improvements Escrow). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Rural, Pro-Ag Community Resolution – On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, Resolution #2018-06 was approved officially adopting a vision and motto for Rockland Township as a rural, pro-ag community. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A list of correspondence dated April 10, 2018 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Reports and updates regarding zoning/building, sewage and stormwater issues and activities for March 2018 were provided to the Board of Supervisors for review. Direction was needed from the Board on a few code-related matters.

122 Smoketown Road Complaint - On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board instructed the Township Secretary to pass this complaint along to newly appointed Building Code Official/Building Inspector Jim Franey, Contractors Inspection Services to investigate alleged construction on the property without a permit. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

17 Sheep Hill Road Complaint (Chickens) - On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board instructed the Township Secretary to send a letter to the property owner(s) at 17 Sheep Hill Road including the current zoning regulations for the keeping of farm animals, exotic animals and fowl on a residential property. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

123 Beaver Creek Road Complaint (Grass/Weeds) - On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board confirmed that this complaint/matter is now considered closed. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 @ 7:30PM - Planning Commission Meeting (*Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting*)

Tuesday, May 8, 2018 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Eric Fox informed meeting attendees that tickets are still available for Ruscombmanor Fire Company's 8th Annual Cow Chip Bingo tickets (fundraiser) to be held on Saturday, May 5, 2018, and informed the Board and meeting attendees that Ruscombmanor Fire Company expects to receive their new rescue truck soon.

There was no additional public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzluft. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer