

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

JULY 10, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on July 10, 2018 at 7:00PM at the Rockland Township Municipal Building. The following board members were present: Chairman Duane Bennetch and Vice Chairman Nathan Ohlinger. 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.

The minutes of the Board of Supervisors meeting held on June 12, 2018 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the June 12, 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 June 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	4,415.81
106.000	General Fund – Savings	2,234,334.46
107.001	General Fund – Savings	286,216.26
107.002	General Fund – Certificates of Deposit	100,004.05
109.002	Certificate of Deposit	109,106.16
110.000	Petty Cash	200.00
	State Aid Account – Savings	229,186.17
	State Aid Account – Checking	403.28
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	114,640.05
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	15,000.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	17,916.99
	Total as of June 30, 2018:	\$3,111,423.23

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

Mr. William Koch and Mr. Dale Reppert, Arthur Funk & Sons spoke to the Board regarding fencing requirements for the Christ Mertz Lutheran Church Land Development Plan. Mr. Koch and Mr. Reppert requested the Board consider approving the following changes to the fencing requirement as depicted on the approved land development plan by Rockland Township: 1) To eliminate the detention pond fence surrounding the infiltration basin (which is now to be converted into a rain garden), and 2) To eliminate the fencing surrounding the playground or outdoor activity area; however, a small section of fence is necessary to restrict children from climbing on a corner of the roof and a section of fence is necessary to extend from the sprinkler room corner of the building along the top of the steep embankment. Mr. Reppert informed the Board that the Township Engineer has reviewed the proposed fencing changes and is not opposed to the proposed changes. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the revised fencing plan (as discussed with Mr. Koch and Mr. Reppert at tonight's meeting and as outlined above) for the Christ Mertz Lutheran Church – 2016 Building Expansion Land Development Plan. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

State Game Lands Along Forgedale Road – Chairman Duane Bennetch advised that the Township received communication from Senator Bob Mensch's Office inquiring about whether Township officials would like Senator Mensch's office to facilitate a meeting between the PA Game Commission, Rockland Township officials and Senator Mensch's office to discuss this matter further. If Township officials are interested in meeting, Senator Mensch's office requested an outline of what the Township would like to discuss during this meeting. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board instructed the Township Secretary to contact Senator Mensch's office and request that Senator Mensch's office facilitate a meeting with the PA Game Commission, Township officials, the Township Solicitor and Senator Mensch to discuss what records the PA Game Commission may have with regard to an abandoned road which would have provided access to this land and to discuss the possibility of Rockland Township taking ownership of this land. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Agricultural Security Area (7-Year Review) – The Township Solicitor informed the Board that the public hearing has been duly advertised for Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at 7:00PM at the Rockland Township Municipal Building, and the notice of public hearing will be mailed to all landowners who have property listed in Rockland Township's Agricultural Security Area.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

The Roadmaster informed the Board of a parking/driveway issue which has been brought to his attention. A property owner recently added a parking area (extension to an existing driveway) to park a recreational vehicle. Rockland Township's Driveway Ordinance specifies that driveways shall be located a minimum of ten (10) feet from any side property line. This parking area is much closer than 10 feet. The Roadmaster stopped by to speak to the property owner and provided him with a copy of the driveway ordinance regulations; however, the property owner continues to park the recreational vehicle closer than 10 feet to the property line. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved forwarded this matter on to the Township Code Official to investigate this issue and send a letter to the property owner if necessary. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update – The Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update is in progress. Township officials plan to review and discuss Article 10 (Parking and Loading Requirements) and Article 11 (Signs) at the July 31, 2018 Planning Commission meeting.

Possible Dry Fire Hydrant Location for 2018 – Rockland Township has recently learned that the proposed driveway or access road for the fire company to access the pond at 104 Schweitz Road from Ruppert School Road crosses at least one approved building lot (not yet built upon). The Township Solicitor suggested Lyons Fire Company representatives and Township officials start investigating other possible sites as a dry hydrant location in the event it is determined that the dry hydrant at the 104 Schweitz Road property is no longer a viable option. The Board instructed the Township Secretary to send a letter to the property owner regarding this matter and encouraged Lyons Fire Company representatives to begin to investigate other possible dry hydrant locations in the Township. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, this matter was tabled until next month. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

On June 15, 2018, Rockland Township received a letter from Michael Morris, PA DEP advising that the Township's Act 537 Official Plan remains incomplete and requesting a response within one month to notify PA DEP of any progress being made in the resubmission of the Township's Act 537 Plan. The Township Solicitor recommended the Board authorize Edward McCorkle, Bursich Associates to contact Michael Morris at PA DEP on the Township's behalf to find out where things stand and to find out what the Township needs to do. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved Edward McCorkle, Bursich Associates as Rockland Township's representative and liaison with PA DEP pertaining to the Township's Act 537 Plan and approved compensation of Bursich Associates staff providing professional services on behalf of Rockland Township per Bursich Associates' 2018 Municipal Fee Schedule. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized Edward McCorkle, Bursich Associates to contact Michael Morris, PA DEP to find out the status of the Township's Act 537 Plan and to find out what needs to be done. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS

The 2018 Road Project is complete which included double oil and chip seal coat of Bick Road (from Lobachsville Road to intersection of Keller Road), Angstadt Road (from Keller Road to Lobachsville Road), and Deysher Road (from intersection of Schweitz Road to Township Line). An invoice dated 6/30/2018 was received from Asphalt Maintenance Solutions, LLC totaling \$92,983.80. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved payment of the invoice from Asphalt Maintenance Solutions, LLC totaling \$92,983.80 from the State Aid Fund pending review and approval by PennDOT representative Charles Paris. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

A listing of the unpaid bills as of July 10, 2018 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$35,902.59 from the General Fund. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$35,902.59 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Berks County Comprehensive Plan 2030 Draft Update – Rockland Township received correspondence from the Berks County Planning Commission requesting Township officials review the plan and provide any comments within 45 days. A public open house meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 16, 2018 from 5:30PM-7:30PM at the Berks County Agricultural Center. The Rockland Township Planning Commission reviewed the Plan at their June 26, 2018 meeting and offered no comments. The Board of Supervisors also offered no comments on the Plan.

The Township received notification from PennDOT that Rockland Township has qualified for reimbursement of \$347.14 based on PennDOT's evaluation of the costs of winter services for the 2017/2018 winter season (pursuant to the terms and conditions in the Winter Traffic Services Agreement with PennDOT). The Township can expect to receive these funds shortly.

LTL Consultants, Ltd. Staffing Changes – Rockland Township received notification from John Weber, LTL Consultants, Ltd. of recent and upcoming staffing changes at LTL Consultants, Ltd. Linda Cluck will be retiring effective July 13, 2018 and will be replaced by Jessica Adams, P.E. LTL Consultants, Ltd. also provided the Township with a revised list of Sewage Enforcement Officers for Board approval and submittal to the PA Department of Environmental Protection. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the revised list of Sewage Enforcement Officers received from LTL Consultants, Ltd. was tabled until next month. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Zoning Hearing Board Variance Application (147 Frederickville Road – Fronheiser) – The Rockland Township Zoning Hearing Board rendered their decision on the variance application for 147 Frederickville Road, and the written decision from the Zoning Hearing Board was received. The variance was granted with conditions.

2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – The Berks County Department of Emergency Services has completed the 2018 Hazard Vulnerability Assessment and Hazard Mitigation Plan update and is requesting that all Berks County municipalities consider adoption of the May 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update by resolution to remain eligible for funding under 44CF201.6(d)(3). On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, Resolution #2018-09 was approved thereby adopting the 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Emergency Operations Plan Update for Rockland Township – Jesse Tamburino, EMC is requesting that the Board consider officially adopting the updated Emergency Operations Plan (July 2018) for Rockland Township. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, Resolution #2018-10 was approved thereby adopting the Emergency Operations Plan Update for Rockland Township. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Thank-You Letter to Kurt Lebo – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized a thank-you letter be sent to Mr. Kurt Lebo for his assistance with the Township logo project. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Thank-You Letter to DTE Energy – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized a thank-you letter be sent to DTE Energy for their recent \$5,000.00 donation for fire department training. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Duane Bennetch inquired about drafting and sending a joint letter (possibly including Alsace, Ruscombmanor and Rockland Townships) to State Senator Judy Schwank encouraging more police activity along Pricetown Road and Lake Road to address numerous traffic concerns. After a brief discussion, the Board did not authorize any action regarding this matter at this time.

The Township Secretary informed the Board that PLGIT's current interest rate for savings accounts is currently 1.71%, which is considerably higher than our current interest rate of 0.35% with BB&T and inquired whether the Board wanted to consider moving any funds from BB&T to PLGIT. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Township Secretary to transfer \$1.1 million from the Township's BB&T savings account to PLGIT (savings account). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

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

10 Lobachsville Road – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board now considers this matter closed. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

17 Sheep Hill Road Complaint (Chickens) – At the 6/12/2018 meeting, the Board closed this matter. The Township Secretary informed the Board that she spoke to the original complainant on 6/20/2018 and the complainant alleges that the chickens are still present and able to roam free. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to take no action on this matter.

9 Highland Drive – Grass/Weeds Complaint – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, this matter was tabled until next month. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

42 Keller Road – Complaint – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, this matter is now considered closed (since the complainant has moved). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

23 Shady Creek Lane – Grass/Weeds Complaint – The Township Zoning Officer reports that the property is still not mowed and states that letters to the property owners are being returned marked “unclaimed”. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board instructed the Township Zoning Officer to move forward with legal proceedings (i.e. non-traffic citation to the local DJ’s office) if necessary. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Anne Coldren, 42 Keller Road spoke to the Board about a drainage/stormwater issue on her property and requested that the Township maintain the culvert as had previously been agreed. According to Ms. Coldren back in 1994-1995 the Township redirected water along her property in an effort to direct stormwater to a stream, and she had a verbal agreement with the Roadmaster at that time that the Township would maintain the entire length of the culvert. Ms. Coldren said that since that time the Township has not been maintaining the culvert as agreed and as a result during heavy rainstorms her driveway washes out and her garage floods. The Township Roadmaster informed Ms. Coldren that the Township road crew has maintained and will continue to maintain that portion of the culvert located in the road right-of-way area. However, the road crew does not typically perform work or maintain stormwater facilities on private property, and since he is not aware of any agreement to maintain the entire length of the culvert, he will need to investigate to determine whether there is an evidence of any such maintenance agreement for 42 Keller Road documented in Township records.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Tuesday, July 31, 2018 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting (Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting)

Tuesday, August 14, 2018 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer