

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**JUNE 12, 2018**

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on June 12, 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.

The minutes of the Board of Supervisors meeting held on May 8, 2018 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the May 8, 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 May 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	4,302.85
106.000	General Fund – Savings	2,272,520.53
107.001	General Fund – Savings	285,835.99
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	229,120.91
	State Aid Account – Checking	403.25
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	114,487.74
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,390.55
	<b>Total as of May 31, 2018:</b>	<b>\$3,134,372.01</b>

On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the balance sheets, check and deposit details for May 2018 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 advised the Board that he was able to obtain an enlarged copy of an old map of School District #1 and encouraged Township officials and the Township Roadmaster to review the map (to attempt to identify the location of a vacated road from 1930 in this area). Chairman Duane Bennetch mentioned that he recently spoke to Senator Mensch regarding access to the State gamelands along Forgedale Road, and Senator Mensch inquired as to whether Rockland Township wanted the land.

Agricultural Security Area (7-Year Review) – The Township Solicitor advised the Board that a public hearing will need to be scheduled and advertised for the Agricultural Security Area 7-Year Review. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved the scheduling and advertising of the public hearing for the Township's Ag Security Area 7-Year Review for August 28, 2018 at 7:00PM and approved advertising for the consideration of any additions, modifications or deletions of land enrolled in the Township's Ag Security Area by the Board at their October 9, 2018 monthly meeting. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Edward McCorkle/Bursich Associates – The Township Solicitor advised that the Board met with Ed McCorkle, and Bursich Associates provided a proposal for the Board’s consideration. Bursich Associates would be considered as a back-up for Dr. Archer (if/when deemed necessary) to assist the Township with preparation of a response to DEP’s letter dated February 9, 2007 and to assist with the resubmission of the Township’s Act 537 Plan to PA DEP. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board agreed to table this matter until next month. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

At last month’s meeting, the Township Solicitor was asked to prepare a resolution for Board consideration which would prohibit the appointment of a Township Supervisor as Roadmaster. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved Resolution #2018-08 which prohibits the appointment of a sitting Township Supervisor as Township Roadmaster. Township Supervisor David Wartzenuft commented that he did not feel the resolution was necessary, since the Township Roadmaster position is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Michele Carstairs expressed support for such a resolution since she views this as a conflict of interest. There was no additional public comment. Supervisors Duane Bennetch and Nathan Ohlinger voted in favor. Supervisor David Wartzenuft opposed. Motion carried.

The Township Solicitor recognized the recent passing of Township resident Dr. Constance Dent and added that Dr. Dent has been a real supporter of the Township and has done so much with helping to preserve land within Rockland Township.

### **REPORT OF ROADMASTER**

The Roadmaster informed the Board that the installation and repair of guiderail on Keller Road and Forrest Road is now complete.

2018 Road Project – Double oil and chip seal coating by Asphalt Maintenance Solutions, LLC is scheduled for June 19, 2018. The 2018 Road Project includes 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 at Schweitz Road to Township Line).

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update – The Zoning Ordinance Amendment/Update is in progress. Township officials plan to continue to review and discuss Article 9 (Performance Standards for Certain Principal Uses) at the June 26, 2018 Planning Commission meeting.

Possible Dry Fire Hydrant Location for 2018 – Nathan Keller, Lyons Fire Company informed the Board that he met with Michael Pott, Roadmaster at the pond at 104 Schweitz Road. The Roadmaster estimates the driveway to access the pond would be approximately 750-800 ft., and he mentioned that it will be necessary to try to find the best pond depth in order to determine the exact location for the dry hydrant. The Roadmaster also confirmed that the Township Engineer did not have any concerns with regard to permits and/or wetlands with this project. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Township Secretary was instructed to contact M&A Excavating and Jerome Lendacki to attempt to obtain a quote for the dry hydrant installation at the pond at 104 Schweitz Road and a quote to install the driveway access to the pond (from Ruppert School Road) prior to next month’s meeting. 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. Supervisor Nathan Ohlinger inquired as to whether the Township Secretary should send a letter/update to the Sewage Advisory Committee members to inform them that the Township has not heard from Dr. Archer. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board instructed the Township Secretary to include an update in the Township Newsletter advising that the Sewage Advisory Committee meeting has not yet been scheduled due to the fact that the Township has not received any information from Dr. Archer. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## BILLS

A listing of the unpaid bills as of June 12, 2018 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$126,803.45 from the General Fund. The 6/12/18 Unpaid Bills List includes the following 2018 donations (per the approved 2018 budget): \$250.00 Albright College-CELG, \$200.00 Berks Visiting Nurse Association, \$4,500.00 Brandywine Community Library, \$100.00 Crime Alert Berks County, \$50.00 Kutztown Area Historical Society, \$16,000.00 Lyons Fire Company, \$4,000.00 Ruscombmanor Fire Company, and \$3,500.00 Topton Community Ambulance Service. The list also includes: \$10,000.00 to set up a Fire Co. Equipment Fund (per the 2018 budget), \$7,546.50 to Longswamp Township for co-op work, \$7,166.00 to Hereford Township for co-op work, \$6,048.00 to Chemung Supply for guiderail work on Keller Road and Forrest Road, and \$37,275.55\* for mill and fill road work (\*to be paid using State Aid/Liquid Fuels funds). On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenluft, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$126,803.45 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried. Eric Fox, Ruscombmanor Fire Company and Nathan Keller, Lyons Fire Company thanked the Board for their support.

## NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Duane Bennetch mentioned that Kurt Lebo finished and installed the Township logo for the meeting room wall, and the Board thanked him for his assistance with the Township logo.

DTE Energy/Birdsboro Pipeline Project – Fire Department Donation – Rockland Township received the \$5,000.00 fire department donation (for required training) from DTE Energy, and the Board briefly discussed how to distribute these funds with representatives of the Lyons Fire Company and Ruscombmanor Fire Company in attendance at tonight's meeting. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenluft, the Board authorized the Township Secretary/Treasurer to transfer the \$5,000.00 fire department donation from DTE Energy for pipeline training into the Township's Fire Co. Equipment Fund (as recommended by fire company representatives). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

At the January 2, 2018 Organization Meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors, the Board agreed to re-evaluate the hourly rate for full-time employee Thomas Weisner in June 2018. On a motion by David Wartzenluft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved an hourly rate for Thomas Weisner of \$21.85/hr. (same as the other full-time road crew employee) effective June 18, 2018. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township Secretary met with Jesse Tamburino (the new Township Emergency Management Coordinator) and reviewed the listing of County training sessions and a listing of the required NIMS training courses. Based on a review of these lists, Jesse Tamburino believes the current 2018 budgeted emergency management amounts should be adequate to cover training and expenses during 2018. The Township Secretary and Jesse Tamburino agreed to meet in late summer or early fall to review the EMC budget again prior to preparation of the 2019 budget.

Township Newsletter – The Township Secretary is working on the next Township Newsletter. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenluft, the Board approved the inclusion of the information received from Brian Gottschall, Berks County Department of Emergency Services regarding addressing, and the Board authorized the Township Secretary to finalize the newsletter and to proceed with printing and mailing of the newsletter with Heffner Printing. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

## CORRESPONDENCE

A list of correspondence dated June 12, 2018 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

Reports and updates regarding zoning, building, sewage and stormwater issues and activities for May 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 – The Board acknowledged that the hole in the wall has been repaired. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board agreed to table this matter and any further action until next month. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

42 Keller Road – Complaint – The Board briefly discussed this complaint, which may be a tenant/landlord dispute. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the Board tabled this matter until next month to allow time for Township Supervisor Duane Bennetch to contact the parties involved to obtain additional information. There was no public comment. Nathan Ohlinger and David Wartzenuft voted in favor. Duane Bennetch abstained. Motion carried.

17 Sheep Hill Road Complaint (Chickens) – On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board confirmed that this matter is now considered closed. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

9 Highland Drive – Grass/Weeds Complaint – On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board authorized a letter be sent to the owner of record (Houston, TX address) requesting grass be mowed within fourteen days. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

27 Pricetown Road – Burning Complaint – On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board authorized the Township Secretary to send a letter to the property owner at 27 Pricetown Road with a copy of the Township's burning ordinance. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:**

Wednesday, June 20, 2018 @ 7:00PM – Agricultural Security Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 26, 2018 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting (Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting)

Tuesday, July 10, 2018 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Jeffrey Cronrath asked why the PA Game Commission does not provide access to the State gamelands along Forgedale Road.

Ms. Michele Carstairs informed the Board that the lower part of Orchard Road is in very poor condition and inquired as to when the Township plans to repair the road. The Roadmaster informed Ms. Carstairs that he plans to perform some patching (base repair) on Orchard Road by the end of the year. More extensive road repairs, however, will depend on the availability of funds going forward.

There was no additional public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall  
Secretary/Treasurer