

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

AUGUST 14, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on August 14, 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 July 10, 2018 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the July 10, 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 July 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	4,832.22
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,157,206.67
107.001	General Fund – Savings	1,389,479.89
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	229,245.52
	State Aid Account – Checking	403.31
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	114,808.08
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	15,000.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,080.38
	Total as of July 31, 2018:	\$3,138,366.28

On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the balance sheets, check and deposit details for July 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 that Township officials were recently informed that the PA Game Commission is not able to sell or give the land over to the Township and land swapping does not seem like a viable option. However, the Township Solicitor recommended the Board consider moving forward with the planned meeting with Senator Mensch and representatives from the PA Game Commission to try to have the PA Game Commission lay out possible access to the State game lands. Board members also mentioned that they would like to discuss whether the Township and the Game Commission could work together to provide public access to this land. As a result of this discussion, the Board instructed the Township Secretary to proceed with contacting Senator Mensch's office to request that Senator Mensch's office facilitate a meeting with the PA Game Commission, Township officials, the Township Solicitor and Senator Mensch to discuss this matter further.

Edward McCorkle, Bursich Associates – The Township Solicitor informed the Board that Edward McCorkle, Bursich Associates recently spoke to Michael Morris, PA DEP regarding the status of Rockland Township's Act 537 Plan. Mr. McCorkle would like to meet with the elected Township officials to discuss the Board's desired Act 537 Plan approach before meeting with Michael Morris and before completing the Task Activity Report requested by PA DEP. At this time, the Township Solicitor is awaiting additional information and suggestions from Mr. McCorkle/Bursich Associates.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

Henry Road Bridge Damage – The Township Roadmaster informed the Board that the Henry Road bridge recently sustained damage (and provided pictures of the damage to the Board). The wall of the bridge is approximately six inches away from the road surface and needs to be repaired on the one side. The other side of the bridge has a damaged stone wall which also needs to be repaired. The Board and Township Roadmaster discussed having the bridge inspected to ensure it is structurally sound before moving forward with the necessary repairs. After a brief discussion, on a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board tabled this matter until the water level decreases and the Township can view and assess the underside of the bridge. 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 12 (Nonconformities) at the August 28, 2018 Planning Commission meeting.

Possible Dry Fire Hydrant Location for 2018 – Mr. Dionicio Cruz was present to speak to the Board about the proposed dry fire hydrant at 104 Schweitz Road, in response to the Township's recent letter regarding the access road/driveway to the pond. The property owners continue to be in favor of the proposed installation of a dry hydrant at the pond on their property, however now that it is understood that the driveway may cut across other building lots (also currently owned by the property owners of 104 Schweitz Road), the property owners would prefer that only one lot be affected by the proposed driveway to the dry hydrant. Supervisor David Wartzenuft informed Mr. Cruz that the fire company will go back out to the site to re-evaluate whether a one-lane driveway (crossing over only one lot) would be feasible. The Township Solicitor mentioned that the fire company and Township officials should also investigate other possible dry hydrant locations, in the event the dry hydrant at 104 Schweitz Road is no longer a viable option.

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

Revised Sewage Enforcement Officer Listing from LTL Consultants, Ltd. – LTL Consultants, Ltd. provided the Township with a revised list of Sewage Enforcement Officers for Board approval and submittal to PA DEP. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved the following three individuals to serve as sewage enforcement officers (primary and alternate) for Rockland Township for submittal to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection: Matthew Hoffert (03540), Robert Wuerth (03430) and John Yoder (03266). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Damage Assessment Reporting to the County – As a result of the recent heavy rain storms in early August 2018, the County recently reached out to all municipalities and emergency management coordinators to encourage damages be reported to the Berks County Department of Emergency Services (flooded basements, basement wall collapses, etc.). Township officials expressed concern that perhaps not all property owners who experienced damages as the result of these recent storms notified the Township Office or the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator so these damages could be reported to the County. After a brief discussion, the Board instructed the Township Secretary to include a reminder to Township residents of the need to report damages promptly to the Township or the Township Emergency Management Coordinator in the event of an extreme weather event, natural occurrence, etc. (and to keep in mind that often the County reporting deadline is just a couple days from the date of the actual weather event or natural occurrence so it is important to report any damages promptly).

Vice Chairman Nathan Ohlinger inquired whether Rockland Township could bill communications or utility companies for time/expenses incurred by the Township for closing roads, etc., as the result of the communications/utility companies' failure to take care of trees in a timely manner (once notified by the Township that trees pose a safety hazard to the public). The Township Solicitor advised Supervisor Ohlinger that the Township likely is not able to bill such utility companies; however, the Township should notify the communications/utility company of the safety concern and also send a letter to the property owner if the tree is located on private property (outside the road ROW). On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzluft, the Board authorized the Township to notify the communications/utility companies when trees are determined to pose a safety hazard and shall also notify the property owner if a tree is located on private property (outside the road ROW area). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS

A listing of the unpaid bills as of August 14, 2018 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$24,150.16 from the General Fund. On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$24,150.16 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

The Township received renewal rates for dental coverage with United Concordia. There was no proposed increase in renewal rates for the period 10/1/2018 through 9/30/2019 with United Concordia. On a motion by David Wartzluft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved renewal of dental coverage with United Concordia for the period 10/1/2018 through 9/30/2019 with no rate increase. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township received renewal rates for health and vision coverage with Highmark Blue Shield. There were no proposed increases in renewal rates for health or vision coverage for the period 10/1/2018 through 9/30/2019 with Highmark Blue Shield. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzluft, the Board approved the renewal of health and vision coverage with Highmark Blue Shield for the period 10/1/2018 through 9/20/2019 with no rate increase. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A list of correspondence dated August 14, 2018 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

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

17 Sheep Hill Road Complaint (Chickens) – On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized this complaint be forwarded on to the code official for investigation and follow-up. 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, this matter is now considered closed (since it does not appear that a violation of the Township's Brush/Grass/Weeds Ordinance exists at this time). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

14 Day Road – An update regarding property clean-up efforts and progress to date was provided to the Board by the Township Zoning Officer. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, this matter is now considered closed. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Wednesday, August 22, 2018 @ 7:00PM – Ag Security Area Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 28, 2018 @ 7:00PM – PUBLIC HEARING – Ag Security Area

Tuesday, August 28, 2018 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting (Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting)

Tuesday, September 11, 2018 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Supervisor David Wartzenuft thanked the Township Roadmaster and road crew for their assistance during recent heavy rain storm(s). Vice Chairman Nathan Ohlinger also thanked the fire company for their efforts and response.

There was no public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer