

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 11, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was held on September 11, 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 August 14, 2018 were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by David Wartzenuft, the August 14, 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 August 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	4,883.64
106.000	General Fund – Savings	1,134,579.25
107.001	General Fund – Savings	1,391,539.48
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	229,308.27
	State Aid Account – Checking	403.34
107.003	Capital Reserve Account – Savings	114,978.26
107.004	Fire Co. Equipment Fund	15,000.00
107.005	Payroll Account – Checking	18,593.75
	Total as of August 30, 2018:	\$3,118,596.20

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

Mr. David Leach, 15 Steep Lane requested to speak to the Board regarding Steep Lane (Stonefield Heights Subdivision). Mr. Leach advised the Board that he is in the process of trying to sell his home and the fact that Steep Lane has not yet been dedicated to the Township may cause an issue with the sale of his home. The Township Solicitor informed Mr. Leach that the Township cannot accept the road for final dedication until the necessary improvements are complete. The Township Solicitor also informed Mr. Leach that he has been in contact with Mr. Jerome Lendacki, and Mr. Lendacki informed the Township that he will perform the necessary improvements and has taken on the responsibility of snow plowing (and will continue to do so until the road is dedicated to the Township). Mr. Leach inquired whether the Township could put any pressure on Mr. Lendacki to perform the necessary improvements in a reasonable time frame. The Township Solicitor agreed to contact Mr. Jerome Lendacki to obtain something in writing from Mr. Lendacki stating that he will perform the necessary improvements and will continue to plow Steep Lane. Ms. Carol Herbert (the potential purchaser for 15 Steep Lane) and her realtor Ms. Deb Bensinger expressed concern about this matter ultimately affecting her property value, in the event the improvements are never completed and about what might happen if Mr. Lendacki is no longer around to plow and maintain the road.

Ms. Karen Winegardner, Ms. Jennifer Johnson, and Ms. Heather Wicke were present from the Brandywine Community Library requesting the Board consider increasing funding to the library for calendar year 2019. The library representatives thanked the Board for their support (\$4,500.00 donation for calendar year 2018) and provided an overview of the free services and programs the library provides to the community. Ms. Winegardner advised the Board that approximately 86% of their funding comes from local support, and the library raises about 20% of their funding. Library representatives requested the Board consider an increase of up to \$5.00/per person (with a population 3,778 for the 2010 census that would equate to approximately \$18,890.00). If the library is able to secure a community average of \$5 per capita from local municipalities, additional funding from the state would be available. The Board advised Ms. Winegardner that the Board will review the information and will ultimately decide on a donation amount for next year during the Township's 2019 budget meetings. Ms. Winegardner reminded the Board that the library is willing to assist the Township with getting important information out to the public and would be willing to discuss how the library may be of assistance to the Township in these efforts.

REPORT OF SOLICITOR

State Game Lands Along Forgedale Road – Township officials are awaiting proposed dates for the meeting with Senator Mensch and the PA Game Commission. Based on the information received from Senator Mensch's office, the meeting is likely not to occur before October 2018.

Edward McCorkle, Bursich Associates – The Township Solicitor informed the Board that Edward McCorkle, Bursich Associates 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. The Township Solicitor recommended a proposed meeting date and time with Mr. McCorkle of Monday, September 24, 2018 at 8:00AM at the Township Building. The Township Secretary was instructed to reach out to Mr. McCorkle to try to coordinate the meeting with Bursich Associates and the Township Supervisors.

REPORT OF ROADMASTER

Henry Road Bridge Damage – The Township Roadmaster and the Board of Supervisors were able to inspect the Henry Road Bridge and agreed to move forward with having the Township Roadmaster obtain three quotes for the repair of the damage area on the one wall (including resetting the stones with mortar and rebar to add strength). The Roadmaster also informed the Board that he reached out to LTAP and plans to meet with an LTAP representative on September 24th to discuss possible viable options to prevent large trucks and vehicles from using Henry Road to attempt to deter future damage to the bridge. Different ideas to prevent large vehicular traffic on Henry Road were briefly discussed. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartenluft, the Board authorized the Roadmaster to speak to LTAP to discuss options and signage to deter large vehicular traffic and authorized the Roadmaster to proceed with such signage/measurers recommended by LTAP at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Tree Along Schweitz Road – The Township Roadmaster informed the Board that the tree along Schweitz Road was taken down by the Township road crew (the tree is no longer hung up on wires).

42 Keller Road – The Roadmaster informed the Board that he found no evidence in Township records of any type of maintenance agreement for that portion of the culvert located on private property at 42 Keller Road (as discussed at the July 10, 2018 monthly Board meeting). The Township typically does not perform maintenance on private property and with no evidence of such a maintenance agreement in place the Township road crew will continue to clean out the culvert at 42 Keller Road in the right-of-way area only.

Diamond Mower Flail Head – The Roadmaster advised that the 2018 budget includes the purchase of a new mower head for the Diamond mower (estimated cost budgeted is \$13,700.00), and he would like Board approval to proceed with the purchase of the mower head. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved the purchase of a Diamond Mower 50” HD Flail Head at an estimated cost of \$13,700.00 using monies from the Capital Reserve account (per the 2018 budget). 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 13 (Administration and Enforcement) at the September 25, 2018 Planning Commission meeting.

Possible Dry Fire Hydrant Location for 2018 – Township Supervisor David Wartzenuft informed the Board that Lyons Fire Company representatives went back out to 104 Schweitz Road to re-evaluate access to the pond and has determined that this is not a feasible location for a dry hydrant. Supervisor Wartzenuft recommended the Board keep money in the budget for a dry hydrant next year and recommended tabling this matter until Spring 2019. In the meantime, the Lyons Fire Company representatives will investigate other possible dry hydrant locations to pursue for 2019.

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

September 2018 Township Newsletter – On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Township Secretary to proceed with finalizing the September 2018 Newsletter and authorized the printing and mailing of the newsletter with Heffner Printing. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BILLS

Rockland Township received invoices from New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc. totaling \$59,126.56 for the paving of Forrest Road (materials). On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board approved payment to New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc. totaling \$59,126.56 from the State Aid account for Forrest Road paving. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

A listing of the unpaid bills as of September 11, 2018 was provided for the Board of Supervisors approval. The total of the unpaid bills for approval was \$26,978.03 from the General Fund. On a motion by David Wartzenuft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved payment of the unpaid bills totaling \$26,978.03 from the General Fund. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

District Township Zoning Ordinance – Rockland Township received a copy of the proposed District Township Zoning Ordinance and Map for review and comment. A public hearing is scheduled for September 26, 2018 at the District Township Building, and any comments are requested by September 26th. The Board offered no comments on the proposed District Township Zoning Ordinance.

Foreign Fire Allocation to Fire Companies – The Secretary/Treasurer expects to receive the Township’s foreign fire monies from the State in mid-late September 2018. As required by Act 205, proceeds from this check must be paid within 60 days to the fire relief associations that serve our community. Typically the distribution of foreign fire monies is approved by the Board at the monthly meeting in October each year. The Board will need to confirm how the foreign fire monies are to be allocated/distributed to the fire relief associations for 2018. After a brief discussion, this matter was tabled until next month’s meeting.

2018 Berks County Convention – Township officials received an invitation to attend the 2018 Berks County Convention to be held on Thursday, October 18, 2018 at the Oley Fair Center.

Municipal Recycling Program Performance Grant Application for CY2017 (under Section 904 of Act 101) – Rockland Township’s performance grant application for calendar year 2017 has been prepared and provided to the Board. Rockland Township’s estimated performance grant totals approximately \$70.00 for 2017 (based on 13.11 total commercial tonnage). On a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the Board approved the Township’s Municipal Recycling 904 Performance Grant Application for calendar year 2017 for submittal to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The Township Secretary prepared the Township’s 2019 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Rockland Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan. The total MMO obligation for the 2019 MMO is \$21,713.00, and this calculation is intended to meet the requirements of Act 189. On a motion David Wartenluft, seconded by Duane Bennetch, the 2019 MMO for the Rockland Township Non-Uniformed Pension Plan totaling \$21,713.00 was approved. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Zoning Hearing Board Application – An application was received from William Davis Baseley II and Carol W. Baseley, 111 Schweitz Road requesting a variance from Section 5.05.1 of the Rockland Township Zoning Ordinance to build a detached garage. The Board may provide comments on this application to the Zoning Hearing Board. The Board offered no comments on the variance application.

The Township received a letter from the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board dated 9/6/2018 with information on the Agricultural Conservation Easement (ACE) Program. The information provided describes the success and importance of the ACE Program in keeping the future of the agricultural industry in our county/region. To recognize the program, the farm families and the farms, the Berks County Agricultural Preservation Board would like to commission signs for placement on preserved farms so that all who pass by will observe the land permanently preserved for agricultural production. The purpose of the letter was to reach out to the Board of Supervisors to see whether Rockland Township might consider financially supporting the “A Farm Forever” sign project. The Township Secretary was instructed to obtain additional information from the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board for consideration during the Township’s 2019 budget meetings.

Replace Carpet in Township Office – After a brief discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by David Wartenluft, the Board authorized moving forward with new flooring in the Township Office and instructed the Township Secretary to obtain quotes for new flooring (carpet or tile). There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

A list of correspondence dated September 11, 2018 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review.

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

Clay Valley Road (Rats) – The Township received two complaints regarding rats. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board ultimately decided to take no action, until the complainants are able to offer some type of evidence of a violation of the Township property maintenance ordinances or other Township ordinances at the specific address provided on the complaint forms prior to the matter being forwarded on to the proper code official. There was no public comment. All were in favor. Motion carried.

78 Keller Road (Sewage Complaint) – The Township SEO reported that he has not heard back from the property owner at 78 Keller Road, and the deadline to remedy the situation has expired. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Nathan Ohlinger, the Board authorized the Township SEO to do what is deemed necessary to get this sewage malfunction remedied in a reasonable time frame. All were in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

Tuesday, September 25, 2018 @ 7:30PM – Planning Commission Meeting (Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting)

Tuesday, October 9, 2018 @ 7:00PM – Board of Supervisors Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jeffrey Cronrath mentioned that Med-Ed was out to look at the tree along Schweitz Road and left.

There was no additional public comment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13PM on a motion by Nathan Ohlinger, seconded by Duane Bennetch. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer