RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AUGUST 4, 2015

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, August 4, 2015, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda and Treasurer Reports were available to the public. The meeting was called to order by Chair Marcia Thomas at 7:00 p.m. It is announced that the meeting will be recorded for preparing the minutes. Interior cameras are also recording the video.

An executive session was held on July 16, 2015 regarding personnel.

ROLL CALL: Stella - Here
Pipech - Here
Thomas - Here

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

Received Treasurer's Report: General fund total income for July was $43,106.04, total expenses were $142,102.94. In the Liquid Fuels account, we had no income except interest, but our expenses were $1,321.21. There was no activity in the Recreation fund. Bills presented for payment for August total $40,807.10.

Balances as of July 31, 2015:

General Checking:	$89,488.76	General Money Market:	$150,383.70
Liquid Fuels Checking:	$47,142.58	Liquid Fuels Money Market:	$50,066.92
Recreation Checking:	$3,727.75	Recreation Money Market:	$10,013.50

Total Cash on Hand: $350,823.21

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, and all bills to be paid.
ROLL CALL: Stella - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mark Manosky stated that he attended the LCCC Gypsy Moth meeting. The County stated that they didn't spray because no one was interested. He said that everyone should send in their forms. The qualifications included living near a forest, woods or Gamelands. He believes most everything in Rice should qualify. There are alternatives to spraying, but they are very expensive. August 14th is the deadline to get the applications in to the County.

Felicia Bierzynski stated that she has been communicating with a gentleman from the County. She also attended the meeting. Her household has decided that the County is too picky on what they want: number of egg masses in a tree, how many acres, the size of the buffer, etc. She has decided to hire a private company. Nuangola Borough has been in touch with the same private company.

Marcia Thomas stated that she is not sure when Luzerne County will be making a commitment to spraying for next year. She understands that Lackawanna County opted into the program the previous year, the State paid 80% of the cost of spraying everything. The County only had to come up with 20%. Marcia has heard at other

Municipal meetings that if the County has to spray, why should individuals have to pay for it? Felicia Bierzynski stated that the County has no interest in spraying at this time. Marcia Thomas stated that it would be very foolish of County Council to have such a stance considering the response to the lack of spraying this year. Mrs. Bierzynski said that no one needs to make a commitment now, just make sure you get your name on a list for consideration. In the Spring, spraying is done after the eggs hatch and the worms measure 1-inch. Marcia thinks we should keep our options open. She suggested sending another letter to the County expressing our concerns, and encouraging the County to opt into the spraying program for 2016.

Miller Stella stated that the letter should include a request to expedite matters to include public notice of spray schedules as well as consideration to make this program completely County funded. This way, the public is notified in a timely manner so that they don't need to jump through hoops if other arrangements need to be made.

Don Herres, Senior Warden from St. Martin's Church, spoke regarding the 2015 Kite Festival, scheduled for September 26th. The event is being co-sponsored by the Mountain Top Rotary Club. The money is being used to provide children 12 and under with a kite. This is a community event, not exclusive to St. Martin's.

He also invited the Election Board to utilize the church facilities as a polling place. Miller Stella stated that an extra Police Officer should be brought in that day for safety reasons; Bob Pipech and Marcia Thomas agreed. Marcia Thomas stated that the current location needs to be moved. Bob Pipech added that the Municipal Building is lacking in the area of handicapped accessibility. According to Secretary Stier, so long as everything is processed by September 3rd, the change would be made for the 2015 General Election.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Stella, to send the Election Board's request to the County to relocate the polling site to the St. Martin-in-the-Fields common room for 2015.
ROLL CALL: Stella - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to approve a donation of $500.00 from the Recreation Fund to the 2015 Kite Festival being held by St. Martin's In the Field Church on September 26, 2015. Last year, Rice Township donated $500.
ROLL CALL: Stella - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

Miller Stella asked if there were enough kites for all the kids last year. Don stated that he was not in attendance, but believed there were enough. Marcia Thomas believed there were at least 120 children last year and asked Mr. Stella if he would like to increase the donation. Miller stated that we should keep it $500 for this year, and increase it next year depending on the turnout.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting on July 7, 2015.
ROLL CALL: Stella - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for July 2015: With 4 days of rain, we started cutting weeds in the Township. Weeds were cut for 8 days and 90% of it is done. There are 2 more roads to go. We've been patching Laurel Lakes. Patching is done for 5 hours, and is followed by 3 hours of sealing. Bob Pipech stated that he did not want any roads opened up. The Pennsylvania Game Commission is in the process of live-trapping the beavers at the Ice Lakes. If they are unable to trap them, we have permission to break the dam, which will provide us with the necessary access to areas that need to be mowed. The backhoe is down at the moment and needs a new radiator. The walking path has been taken care of and the Public Works department will be working on removing most of the foliage around/near the park restrooms. Mr. Pipech stated that they were a safety hazard.

Miller Stella made reference to an article regarding Luzerne County wanting Municipalities to take over County roads and bridges. He stated that taking over the road/bridges would create financial hardship for the Township. We would have to purchase more salt and anti-skid. Bob Pipech explained that the Rice Township portion of the road is approximately 1.13 miles long and is landlocked between Wright and Dorrance Townships. Mr. Pipech announced that he will be attending the meeting regarding this issue.

MOTION by Stella, second by Pipech, to decline the adoption of Rice Township's portion of Blytheburn Road.
ROLL CALL: Stella - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

Marcia Thomas spoke about the spillway out of the lower Ice Lake on Henry Drive, explaining that the area is full of weeds and saplings. She asked if this is something the Township needs to clear. Chief Franks explained that previously, Stella Construction came in with a machine and dug it all out. He and Bob Pipech agreed that certain regulations must be followed in order to clear out that area. Miller Stella stated that DEP originally recommended clearing the brush, which we did, but now it is coming up twice as thick. Chemicals cannot be used in that area. Miller recommended waiting until Fall, when all the leaves are gone, because there are a lot of snakes in that area. Marcia Thomas stated that we will do some research before making a decision on how to move forward.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Stella, to accept the Roadmaster's Report as presented.
ROLL CALL: Stella - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Police Report for July 2015: 191 Incidents; 130 Complaints; 1 Automobile Accident; 40 Assist Calls; 24 Traffic Citations Issued; 4 Criminal Arrests--1 Simple Assault, 3 Possession of Controlled Substance; 2 Capeus Warrants Served.
MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Police Report as presented.
ROLL CALL: Stella - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Zoning Officer Report: 14 Permits were issued in the month of July totaling $1,063.80. There were 2 in-ground pools, 1 with a fence, 2 trailer placements, 6 driveway permits (repaves and installs), 1 carport, 1 shed, 1 garage and 1 hot-tub enclosure.

Marcia Thomas explained that Alan Snelson was appointed as the Zoning Officer to replace Mr. Pipech. Alan is trying very hard to retire, but has agreed to accept the office on an interim basis. She stated that Dorrance Township appointed their Secretary as the Assistant Zoning Officer and believes that we should follow their lead. Solicitor Dean stated that Rice Township goes above and beyond what other communities do in having a Zoning Officer hold office hours two nights per week. He does not believe that practice is necessary since the Secretary is in the office 5 days per week and may assist with Zoning matters. Miller Stella and Bob Pipech agreed with Solicitor Dean.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Zoning Report as presented, and also to appoint Alicia Stier to the position of Assistant Zoning Officer, compensation to be determined.

ROLL CALL: Stella - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

The Planning Commission did not hold a meeting in the month of July.

Mountain Top Area Joint Sanitary Authority Minutes from June 8, 2015 are available to the public.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report--Nothing submitted prior to the meeting.
Wright Township Fire Police Incident Recap--Miller Stella read: There were 3 motor vehicle accidents, 1 tree in the road, 2 vehicle fires, and 1 residential fire alarm. Total time spent in Rice Township: 3 hours and 26 minutes. Bob Pipech informed the Board that the Fire Truck has been returned, well equipped, to the Public Works garage.

The Board of Supervisors received the Rice Township Audit Report December 31, 2014 prepared by Matt Foster & Associates, and it is on file in the township office.

Advertisements were placed, requesting Proposals for preparing the Rice Township Comprehensive Plan. One "bid" was received. According to the Community Development Grant regulations, at least 3 bids must be received, otherwise the Township must re-advertise.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to re-advertise the RFP relating to the Comprehensive Plan funded by a Community Development Grant.

ROLL CALL: Stella - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Rice Township Board of Supervisors and the Rice Township Police Department commencing January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018.

ROLL CALL: Stella - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

Marcia Thomas thanked the Police Department for their excellent work; Bob Pipech thanked Marcia Thomas and Miller Stella for a good meeting regarding the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to request an actuarial cost study from both the uniform and non-uniform pension plans.
ROLL CALL: Stella - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

The Board of Supervisors advertised and received bids for the "as is" retired 2008 Chevrolet Impala Police vehicle and equipment. Sealed bids were received until 4 p.m. Friday, July 31, 2015. The Supervisors have the right to reject any or all bids. The following bids were received:

Chicago Motors Inc.	$2207.00
J. B. Taxi	$1133.00
Yousef Dabbagh	$1168.00

MOTION by Stella, second by Pipech, to accept the bid from Chicago Motors Inc. in the amount of $2207.00 for the purchase of the "as is" retired 2008 Chevrolet Impala Police vehicle and equipment.
ROLL CALL: Stella - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Stella, to pay $7,614.00 to H. A. Thomson Co. to renew the Township Property, Equipment and Auto Insurance Policy for the period August 1, 2015 to August 1, 2016.
ROLL CALL: Stella - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to allow a Beekeeping Club to utilize the Township Building on the third Thursday of every month.
ROLL CALL: Stella - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes
MOTION CARRIED.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: No business matters to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Denise Manosky asked for an update on the 2015 Paving Project. Secretary Stier explained that Chris Goetz was in the building today to issue a project number for Liquid Fuels. American Asphalt received notification to proceed, which gives them a 30 day window to begin the project.

Mark Manosky asked if anyone knew the plan for Nuangola Road potholes. Bob Pipech stated that PennDOT was out yesterday patching. Miller Stella suggested contacting Representative Mullery's office about the concern.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Stella, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alicia E. Stier
Secretary