

**RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DECEMBER 1, 2015**

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, at the Rice Township Municipal Building, 3000 Church Road, Mountaintop. Copies of the Agenda and Treasurer Reports were available to the public. Chair Marcia Thomas called the meeting to order 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.

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

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

Received Treasurer's Report: Total income for November was \$104,847.05, total expenses were \$73,509.47. There was no activity in the State and Recreation funds. Bills to be paid this month total \$18,980.58. Balances as of November 30, 2015:

General Checking: \$88,167.01	General Money Market: \$125,393.28
Liquid Fuels Checking: \$0.00	Liquid Fuels Money Market: \$2,500.24
Recreation Checking: \$3,227.75	Recreation Money Market: \$10,014.16

Total Cash on Hand: \$229,302.44

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, and all bills to be paid.

ROLL CALL: Stella - Absent Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer Pasonick reported on the Ice Lakes Dam. A Draft Plan of Investigation has been submitted to Kirk Kreider with DEP; it was submitted yesterday by email and a copy was provided to the Township. The plan contains three options for dewatering the lake. Option A is an inflatable coffer dam, Option B is pumping, and Option C is siphoning. After the lake has been dewatered thoroughly, an investigation of the pipe will be done and a Scope of Work will be proposed. If needed, repairs will be made to the 14" pipe, riprap will be removed and the pipe will be extended 50 feet. A concrete inlet box will be installed, as well as a new 14" valve and a 6'x6' aluminum platform with walkway. This will eliminate obstructions within the spillway. Estimated construction costs and dewatering range from \$54,000 to \$85,000, with siphoning being the most cost effective. The breakdown for dewatering: Cofferdam--\$40,000, Pumping--\$35,000, Siphoning--\$9,000. Repair costs are an estimated \$44,000. The estimated construction costs exceeds the amount for municipal projects, so the project will need to be advertised to pay at State wage rates. Engineer Pasonick added that if the lake is siphoned or pumped, the time to recharge the lake will depend on the amount of rainfall received. He stated that if it is drained down 6 1/2 feet, it could take quite some time to refill.

Engineer Pasonick stated that a site review of Polonia Estates was performed on October 8th and a letter was provided to the Township dated October 16th. The estimated improvement cost exceeds the retainage amount, and therefore PennEastern does not recommend releasing any of the financial securities at this time.

**RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DECEMBER 1, 2015**

Marcia Thomas stated that there was a Motion to that effect at last month's meeting. Attorney Dean notified the developer of the Township's position. Marcia introduced Attorney Paul Galante, who is sitting in for Attorney Dean.

Secretary Stier added to the Engineer's Report: She stated that a letter was sent to Kirk Kreider, Roger Adams, Chris Kulick and Bob Pitcavage with the Department of Environmental Protection, requesting a representative from their offices be present at the December meeting. Bob Pitcavage contacted the Township shortly after receiving the letter; he stated that due to the budget impasse, there is a traveling freeze. Stier asked Supervisor Pipech to explain what he found out about utilizing the MAJSA camera.

Bob Pipech stated that the camera could not be used because of the water coming out of the pipe. The only way that camera can be used is if the pipe is dry; it is typically utilized to find blockages. Bob Pipech and Marcia Thomas stated that they have both been monitoring the dam, having investigated the area 3 times within the past 2 weeks. The water is now running over the spillway thanks to rain that has filled the creek. Pipech stated that this was our first dry season in some time. He explained that we must look at the costs of this project. Senator Lisa Baker has been contacted and her office recommends applying for Local Share Account (Gaming) Grant Funds in order to dewater and make necessary repairs. Bob Pipech stated that he is in favor of siphoning; he also stated that there will be no work on the dam in the winter because the cost-override in the winter is horrendous.

Marcia Thomas stated that she agrees with Bob Pipech. We received a great letter back from Senator Baker's office. Bob Pipech added that we will submit the Grant application to both Senator Baker and to Representative Mullery.

Marcia explained that DEP has all of the information that we have; DEP will conduct their reviews and we will wait for their feedback.

Carl Smith asked about the next step of the plan. Marcia Thomas stated that they will do their review and come back to the Township. Engineer Pasonick stated that he will reach out to Kirk Kreider to make sure he received the email, but he is unsure how long it will be until we receive feedback from DEP. Pasonick explained that once DEP has approved the Draft Plan of Investigation, PennEastern will start drawing up plans that will be used in the bidding process.

Bob Pipech stated that he is not in favor of a 12" siphon because the volume of water would be too high. He suggested using two 6" siphons for better control. Marcia Thomas agreed that it would give the Township better flexibility. Engineer Pasonick explained that DEP regulations allow for 12" of water drained over a 24 hour period; he recommends reducing that to 6" of water drained over a 24 hour period. He estimates the process to take 2 weeks at the lower siphoning rate. Marcia clarified that the timing estimate is based without a rainfall variable.

Marty Wentz stated that the Engineer's report was exactly what the residents were looking for; he thanked Secretary Stier for the follow-up with DEP. He thanked the Supervisors for their support. Marcia Thomas stated that the Board cares very much about getting the issue resolved, and getting it resolved correctly. Mr. Wentz added that everything that was presented in the Engineer's Report makes sense.

**RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DECEMBER 1, 2015**

Bob Pipech stated that the park was closed down for the winter and he doesn't recommend any ice skating or ice fishing, because the conditions may cause hollow ice. Mr. Wentz was happy with the signs.

Rick Arnold asked what the approximate cost would be to PennEastern to draw up the bid documents and drawings. Engineer Pasonick stated that he would have those estimates to the Township in about a week or so. Mr. Arnold asked if Engineering costs could be included in the Gaming Grant. Marcia Thomas stated that we can look into applying for as much as we can. She added that Pasonick brings a lot of expertise to this project, as he was the Engineer on duty when the lakes were offered for sale.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to approve a Resolution (Resolution #2015-5) for the Local Share Account (Gaming) Grant, the application fees, and appoint Robert Pipech to execute all documents. The grant is for necessary repairs to the Ice Lakes Dam, as recommended by Senator Lisa Baker.

ROLL CALL: Stella - Absent Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting on November 4, 2015.

ROLL CALL: Stella - Absent Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for November 2015: The month was spent picking up leaves, which was extended by an extra week. Residents were appreciative of the extension. Bob Pipech stated that he went down to De Angelo Brothers with Fairview Township Supervisor, Russ Marhold. It is a little late for line painting now because of the temperature. Line painting is recommended for the Spring, as the cost is now 9 cents per linear foot for single line. Townships legally have to paint a double line.

Bob Pipech added information to his report in regards to the Mountaintop Area COG. While he and Russ Marhold were at De Angelo Brothers, they looked at Street Sweepers. The one they looked at was \$210,000 and required CDL licenses for operation. The COG decided against a Street Sweeper and the 3 Townships will utilize the same Street Sweeping/Line Painting service in the Spring. Mr. Pipech explained that Henry Drive will not be painted until after the paving; he suggested adding line painting to the paving bid. The COG decided to apply for LSA Grant funds to construct a Pole Barn on the COG site. It will be 3 bays with an office, 16' doors and the cost to each Township will be 10% of the total project, approximately \$13,000. Secretary Stier explained that the total funds requested will be \$135,000.

Karl Kaminski asked about the road paving timeline compared to the bridge project timeline. Mr. Pipech explained that whatever damage is done by PennDOT for the bridge project will be taken care of; the schedule for the bridge project was pushed back. Marcia Thomas explained that the project was delayed due to the extra costs incurred by the Route 309 project; it was originally delayed by 2 years, but she is unsure of the actual

**RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DECEMBER 1, 2015**

timeline for the project. Mr. Kaminski asked if there is any danger of the walls caving in; Marcia stated that PennDOT is inspecting the bridge regularly. Chief Franks added that they are inspecting it once per month. Mr. Pipech stated that the bridge is sound, but the wingwalls are an issue. If it shifts a little bit, it's not going to come down. Marcia explained that while we wait for the work to be done on that bridge, our plows are having problems because of the condition of the road.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Roadmaster's Report as presented.

ROLL CALL: Stella - Absent Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Police Report for November 2015: 168 Incidents, 95 Complaints, 4 Automobile Accidents, 21 Assist Calls, 4 Traffic Citations, 1 Non-Traffic Citation for Disorderly Conduct, 2 Criminal Arrests for Act 64 Violations.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Police Report as presented.

ROLL CALL: Stella - Absent Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Zoning Officer Report for November 2015: 1 New Home, 4 Trailer Placements, 1 Side-yard Fence, 1 Attached Deck; Total: \$625.00.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Zoning Report as presented.

ROLL CALL: Stella - Absent Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

The Planning Commission did not meet in the month of November.

Secretary Stier explained how the Township plans to utilize the website SurveyMonkey to conduct the Community Survey and collect resident data for Gypsy Moth Spraying. She stated that the Gold Membership will allow the Township to conduct multiple types of surveys/data collection at once.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to pay \$300 annually for a Survey Monkey Gold Membership with which the Township can conduct a Community Survey and collect resident data for Gypsy Moth Spraying.

ROLL CALL: Stella - Absent Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

We are looking into the costs for a private spray contractor. Residents will be able to sign up as interested property owners through a Survey Monkey link that will be posted to the website shortly. Residents not wishing to utilize the Survey Monkey website may pick up forms from the Township Secretary. Marcia Thomas stated that this was the best plan we could come up with on a Municipal level. There are no guarantees that the plan will work, but it's worth looking into. Marcia thanked Alicia for her computer skills, which allow the Township to offer things other places cannot.

Theresa Gushaulis asked how the Township plans on notifying residents of the sign-up. Secretary Stier stated that it should be advertised. Ms. Gushaulis explained that she has been working on trying to organize their own spraying in her neighborhood. She stated that she will share information with the Secretary.

**RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DECEMBER 1, 2015**

Marcia Thomas stated that she never heard back from the County regarding Gypsy Moths even after she registered to be sprayed.

Secretary Stier explained that many residents do not want to be sprayed because they keep bees. She stated that she found a sprayer who uses a bacterial agent that will not harm the bees.

Rosanna O' Donoghue asked what happens to the residents who have paid the County. Marcia Thomas stated that this is just a survey, there is no obligation to do anything.

Mark Manosky thanked the Township for doing this. He stated that the County sent his check back with no explanation. He also added that people who do not wish to be sprayed should be educated on the spraying agent.

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report and Fire Police Incident Recap are available to the public. Deputy Fire Chief Gregg Gerko read the report: "The Wright Township Fire Department responded to 36 incidents in the month of November. The incidents ranged from 1 structural fire, 1 Motor Vehicle Accident with entrapment, multiple other car accidents and many other incidents. The department completed general PM's on its apparatus and winterized the pumps and conducted training. The fire department will be escorting Santa around Rice and Wright Township on Sunday December 20th starting around 9AM. Although Santa cannot make it to every road in the town, we will attempt to get him to most of them. We encourage everyone to wave and wish him a happy holiday. His helpers will be handing out candy canes. From all of the members at the Wright Township Fire Department, we want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a Safe, Happy and Healthy New Year. If there are any questions, please contact the department direct at 570-868-3765 or email the department using the contact us portion of our website, near the bottom right hand side."

Bob Pipech asked if the department received information regarding the Ice Lakes Park. Secretary Stier stated that Chief Pettit is aware.

Rice Township books will be closed December 31, 2015. An Audit of the Township books will be conducted.

An advertisement seeking RFPs from CPAs for the 2015 Audit ran in the Citizens Voice on November 9th. No responses were received.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to re-advertise the Request for Proposals for the 2015 Audit.

ROLL CALL: Stella - Absent Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

An Audit of the Liquid Fuels account was performed by PennDOT this morning.

An Audit of the Township Pension accounts is scheduled for December 4th.

**RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DECEMBER 1, 2015**

In compliance with the Police Contract:

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to approve a Resolution (Resolution #2015-6) that payments into the police pension fund by members of the police department are eliminated for the year of 2016, and no deductions should be made from the pay of the members for the purpose of contributing to the police pension fund.

ROLL CALL: Stella - Absent Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

The State Police Fines and Penalties payment for monies collected through September 1, 2014 is \$1,224.95 and was received December 1, 2015.

The final leaf collection tally from the Road Department was a total of 1,928 bags collected this year, down from 3,878 bags collected last year (50% difference). The Township leaf collection program ended on November 20th. Residents may no longer bring leaves to the recycling center due to an anonymous complaint made to the Department of Environmental Protection.

Due to the increased cost to the Township and the Mountain Top COG, residents who want to be part of leaf pick-up in 2016 will have to purchase a \$10 COG permit and register with the Township.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to approve a Resolution (Resolution #2015-7) for the Local Share Account (Gaming) Grant, the application fees, and appoint Robert Pipech to execute all documents on behalf of the Mountain Top Area COG. The grant is for a pole barn to be utilized by all members of the COG. Each municipality will be responsible for 10% of the estimated cost.

ROLL CALL: Stella - Absent Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Marcia Thomas thanked Bob Pipech for jumping into the duties he has taken on between the Township and the COG.

Street sweeping and line painting will be done in the Spring in conjunction with Wright and Fairview Townships.

Based on past practices, the Police Department will be utilized for snow plow assistance as needed at a rate of \$14.00 per hour.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to hire Pinnacle Cleaning Service for monthly service at a monthly rate of \$84.80. Pinnacle Cleaning Service is bonded and insured.

ROLL CALL: Stella - Absent Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to approve payment of \$275.00 to Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance for the 2016 Membership renewal.

ROLL CALL: Stella - Absent Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

**RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DECEMBER 1, 2015**

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to renew membership in the Luzerne County Boroughs and Townships Association and to pay dues (\$25.00) for 2016.

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

Received renewal notice of Tax Collector Bond for the year 2016 in the amount of \$37.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Thomas, to renew the bond.

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

MOTION by Pipech, second by Thomas, to donate \$150 to the Crestwood High School PTSA Lock-In to be held in 2016. Rice Township donated \$150 in 2015 as well.

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

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to give full-time employees a holiday bonus of \$25 as a thank you for their dedicated service.

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

BUDGET PREPARATION:

The Proposed 2016 Budget has been posted and advertised.

**RICE TOWNSHIP
PROPOSED 2016 BUDGET**

SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED RECEIPTS:

RECEIPTS FROM TAXES	\$825,000.00
LIQUID FUELS RECEIPTS	\$117,836.60
LICENSES AND PERMITS (CABLE TV)	\$14,000.00
RECREATION FUNDS	\$5,000.00
INTEREST, RENTS AND ROYALTIES	\$10,000.00
CONTRACT POLICE SERVICES	\$33,000.00
FEES, UCC INSPECTIONS, RECYCLABLES	\$15,000.00
MISC. RECEIPTS	\$163.40

TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS: \$1,020,000.00

SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:

ADMINISTRATION	\$57,000.00
TAX COLLECTION	\$17,000.00
LEGAL SERVICES	\$12,500.00
GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS	\$30,000.00
POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$320,000.00

**RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DECEMBER 1, 2015**

FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$34,543.65
ZONING AND PLANNING	\$11,000.00
RECYCLING AND SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT	\$12,000.00
PUBLIC WORKS/GENERAL SERVICES	\$135,000.00
SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL (SUPPLIES)	\$40,000.00
GENERAL HIGHWAY SERVICE	\$112,000.00
PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS	\$11,000.00
DEBT INTEREST (TRUCK)	\$1,100.00
POLICE PENSION	\$45,858.25
NON-UNIFORM PENSION	\$15,525.74
WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	\$32,000.00
PROPERTY AND BONDING INSURANCE	\$60,000.00
HEALTH INSURANCE	\$73,000.00
MISC. EXPENDITURES	\$472.36

TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES: \$1,020,000.00

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to approve the budget for Rice Township for 2016 as presented, and to adopt it as of December 1, 2015.

ROLL CALL: Stella - Absent Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Rice Township Tax Rates:

Total.....	0.26 mills (property assessed value x \$0.00026)
Real Estate Transfer Taxes.....	1/2 of 1% collected
Earned Income Taxes.....	1/2 of 1% collected
Local Services Tax.....	\$5.00 Township; \$5.00 School District

There is NO tax increase for 2016.

MOTION by Pipech, second by Thomas, to pass a Resolution that the above millage and tax rate for Rice Township for 2016 be adopted as presented. (Resolution #2016-1)

ROLL CALL: Stella - Absent Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

With the snow season coming, the Police Department asks that residents remove all portable basketball hoops and refrain from parking on township roads or rights-of-way during storms for safe snow removal.

An executive session will be held prior to the 2016 Reorganization. Copies of the Township Officials list will be given to the Board of Supervisors and Supervisor Elect.

The reorganization meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., and the first regular meeting of the Board will be held immediately following. The reorganization meeting of the Township Auditors will be held on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. These dates are established by State Law.

**RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DECEMBER 1, 2015**

The Board of Supervisors, Police and Employees wish everyone a very happy, safe and healthy Holiday Season.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Bob Pipech stated that the salt sheds are filled with salt/anti-skid mixture. There will not be pure salt on our roads anymore.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alicia E. Stier
Secretary