

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JUNE 2, 2015

Marcia Thomas explained that she has driven both roads at least 4 times in the last couple of months. The roads were built on a swamp by order of the state, so it will be a continuous issue. Miller Stella added that the courts allowed the roads to be constructed in that location, so the Board of Supervisors is not at fault. Marcia stated that the immediate entrance into Woodberry to the start of the curbing is her first concern. The area between Catalpa and Basswood is her second concern. Mark Taney explained that no base repair was done in those areas, that the damage just showed up this year. Miller Stella agreed with those areas and added that he'd like to see Fairwood Boulevard finished before he leaves office. He stated that Fairwood should receive minor base repair and an overlay, while Aleksander should get an overlay. Marcia said that depending on what happens in the bidding process, if we can do another project that will address other areas that need repair, we can look at that down the road. She asked Engineer Pasonick about a time table--if it would be possible to open the bids before the July meeting. Andy Pasonick responded that he would have to look at the advertising requirements, but should be able to set something up before the next meeting. Miller Stella stated that he would like to have the work done before the snow this year.

Bob Pipech spoke to Engineer Pasonick regarding a previous repair to Fairwood Boulevard. He asked why the base repair is so extensive, and so expensive, when heavy trucks are still going to be travelling the road. Mr. Pipech asked why the Engineer recommends going down 10 inches. Engineer Pasonick replied that the Township Ordinance calls for 4" of BCBC and 6" of 2A. Marcia Thomas stated that those specifications are for new construction. Pasonick explained that he was directed to build to Township standards; at minimum, the Township could go down 3 inches and put BCBC down, which would still qualify as PennDOT Standards. He stated that the Township could save 20% by cutting an inch off the original specifications. Marcia Thomas stated that she was not aware of the directions given to the Engineer, and she does not know of any municipality that repairs 30 year old roads to a brand new development road standard. Dorrance put a project out to bid for a mile of Prospect Road for 1 1/2" mill and Superpave wearing surface, not a 10" rebuild. Engineer Pasonick explained that certain roads can be done this way, but advised that Fairwood Boulevard would break up in a couple of years if some necessary base repair is not completed.

Joan Pipech asked Miller Stella what was done to the road near her house, located between Fairwood and Aleksander Boulevards. She stated that since Miller Stella repaired that portion of the road, it has been fine. Miller explained that the repair was done to 300 feet with a wearing course and a slight crown with Superpave on top. Those repairs were done 4 years ago. Mrs. Pipech asked why big holes were dug, filled in, and then parts around them blown out. Miller Stella stated that he has no problem with very minor base repair; the Township has a working budget and needs to stay within that working budget. He stated that we cannot change the earth, and that if every municipality did extensive base repair, every municipality would be broke. Joan Pipech explained that big trucks are still travelling those roads and sometimes even running over the concrete divider. Despite the weight of those trucks on those roads, the 300 feet that Miller Stella repaired is still holding up.

Miller Stella stated that he would like to have PennEastern look at Fairwood and Aleksander Boulevards. He believes that Aleksander only needs an overlay. He explained that there are 4 pipes underneath that road, which is built on a swamp, so no matter what is done to that road, it will always heave and bounce. Miller stated that the Township will be in the same situation in 4 years with those roads. He would like to get a few proposals for Fairwood Boulevard: one with a mill and an overlay, and one with minor base repair. Mark Taney stated that

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The Rice Township Police Department will be joining Wright Township and Fairview Township Police Departments for "National Night Out." The event will take place on August 4, 2015 from 4pm to 9pm at the Wright Township Park.

The Luzerne County Solid Waste Management Department has announced Free Electronic Recycling Collection for the following dates and locations:

June 6, 2015 - Butler Township Fire Hall from 9 am to 3 pm

June 13, 2015 - Hanover Area Junior Senior High School from 9 am to 3 pm

Flyers are available to the public and contain a list of acceptable items for collection.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mark Manosky asked if Fairwood and Aleksander Boulevards are the only roads to be repaired for this year. Marcia Thomas stated that she would be happy to see what happens with the bids and then look at the other roads recommended for repair by the Engineer. She asked if he was concerned with the state of Wilderness Drive. Mark Taney stated that there are 4 roads of immediate concern to him, one of which was Wilderness Drive. He stated that 2 sections of the road that may completely fall apart if the Township does not act soon. Taney added that sections of Henry Drive are in the same condition. Marcia Thomas suggested amending the Motion to include Wilderness Drive as an add alternate. She believes that the worst section of Wilderness starts at mailbox #8 and goes up the hill. She stated that she would like to see some tree trimming at the bottom of the U to bring some sunlight into that area to help dry out the road in between snow storms.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Stella, to amend the previous Motion to include a section of Wilderness Drive (from mailbox #8 and up the hill) as an add alternate.

ROLL CALL: Stella - Yes

Taney - Yes

Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Miller Stella recommends having the tree trimming done in January or February when the leaves are off the trees. He stated that the Township will get the best price in that time period as well.

Theresa Gushaulis asked if the Township is in communication with PennDOT regarding repairs to Nuangola Road and Church Road. Bob Pipech explained that PennDOT was originally going to pave it, but now they're just patching potholes. Mark Taney stated that he has been in contact with Representative Mullery's Office regarding the situation. The process is up to PennDOT scheduling. Residents are encouraged to call Representative Mullery's office with concerns as well.

Dennis Kijek asked if the Treasurer's report was read; Marcia Thomas confirmed that it was read and approved. Mr. Kijek asked why the 5-year plan did not include all Township roads. Marcia explained that the Township requested a prioritized list, but that's not to say it's set in stone. Other roads may be added in time.

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Denise Manosky suggested installing a blinking yellow light near the Ice House Pub. She stated that making a left onto Nuangola Road from Heslop Road is very dangerous due to traffic coming from that direction. She has diverted her route down Willowby for better sight distance. Marcia Thomas asked all residents to be conscious of their driving speed for the safety of other residents.

Bruce Sabatini, representing Cub Scout Pack 433, asked about sponsoring a clean-up of the Rice Township Nature Trail. Marcia Thomas approved the clean-up and invited the Cub Scouts to come to a meeting to explain the project.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Stella, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alicia E. Stier
Secretary