

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

Pasonick to Roger Adams, who must be contacted before any work is done to the dam. A permit is required for any modification.

Miller Stella asked if any blueprints were found--Engineer Pasonick said no. He did locate subdivision drawings, which showed the 2 concrete blocks that were added to narrow the spillway. Pasonick stated that the dam is fairly old. He plans on asking DEP if they have any drawings attached to permits or inspection reports.

Miller Stella asked if a dam expert is coming in to inspect the issue. Engineer Pasonick replied that in the past, Townships had to have Emergency Action Plans and someone to inspect the dams. He stated that when he contacts Rogers from DEP, he will ask about inspections. Pasonick explained that he has done them before for Lake Blytheburn.

Marcia Thomas asked if Engineer Pasonick met with a representative from DEP at the dam; he did not. Marcia explained that DEP was notified of the issue as soon as the Township was made aware of the situation. They were onsite within 24 hours of notification. The Township has been involved with DEP all along, as they are the regulating agency. The Department of Environmental Protection regulates all the dams in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Marcia verified with Engineer Pasonick that every direction given by DEP has been followed. Pasonick stated that any kind of modification to the dam requires a permit. Marcia Thomas stated that DEP did not advise the Township to take any actions at all, other than to consult with the Township Engineer. Bob Pipech stated that Chris Kulick, from DEP, advised that this would be a long process. It will not be cured overnight.

Engineer Pasonick explained that the pipe being watched is a discharge port, designed to relieve pressure. If the pipe were to be blocked, the integrity of the dam could be compromised. At this time, the Engineer recommends letting the water flow, while attempting to obtain permission from DEP to make modifications to the dam. Bob Pipech stated that he investigated the upper lake, and did not see water feeding into the lake.

Mike Grochowski was told that PPL installed the pipe in the 1960s, and he believes the drawings will be available.

Marcia Thomas stated the Rice Township has met all inspection requirements since the dams were conveyed to the Township. It has been inspected on a regular basis.

Janeann Lokken explained that the Blytheburn Lake Dam is inspected every year by DEP and a private Engineer; they both tell the Lake Association what needs to be done to maintain the dam. She stated that the Lake Association would have to pay \$30,000 to drain the dam if it is not maintained. The permit for that dam costs \$7,500.

Karl Kaminski asked what happened to the dam and what are the possible remedies. Bob Pipech explained that the dam is not leaking; there is a 13" pipe going through the spillway about 5 feet down. Water is pouring out of the pipe and the location of the hole was discovered; water is moving from the upper lake to the lower lake.

There is speculation about what actually broke to make this happen, but no one will know what happened until the lake drains down.

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Mr. Wentz asked Engineer Pasonick to clarify what steps are being taken to remedy the situation. He asked if DEP is being responsive; Pasonick explained the sequence of phone conversations.

Kevin Rogan thanked the Supervisors for reacting quickly; he said the process was dragging. Mr. Rogan spoke with Chris Kulick, who informed him that it is now up to the Supervisors to come up with a plan, any plan, and submit it to the state.

Kevin McDonald asked if the draining of the lake would be an opportunity to remove muck and other issues along the shore. Marcia Thomas stated that the Township owns the bottom of the lake while the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania owns the water. She is unaware of what the regulations would be for property owners; she advised all property owners to contact DEP directly before doing any work in wetlands.

Engineer Pasonick will talk to Roger Adams from DEP tomorrow. Mr. Wentz stated that waiting to talk to DEP does not stop the Township from creating a plan. He asked who will put together this plan and who will contact PPL to see if they have drawings--he would like action items to be recorded.

Solicitor Dean summarized that Engineer Pasonick will be contacting DEP to find out about permitting requirements as well as researching the plans.

Miller Stella asked Janeann Lokken which Engineering firm inspected Blytheburn Lake. She stated that Midlantic Engineering inspected their dam; Engineer Pasonick was asked by Marcia Thomas to contact them. Joan Pipech stated that the Township Engineer should be given the chance to do the work before another professional is brought in.

Engineer Pasonick discussed possible solutions, including a coffer dam or a sleeve for the pipe.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: No report.

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

Wright Township Volunteer Fire Company Report and Fire Police Incident Recap are available to the public. Miller Stella read the Wright Township Report: "To the Rice Township Board of Supervisors, your September Report. The Wright Township Fire Department responded to 23 incidents in the month of August as of the date of this report 8/31/2015. Most of the incidents were motor vehicle accidents but they also included two structural fires, several vehicle fires and a few other emergencies. This brings the year total to 253 incidents. The department attended National Night Out in the Wright Township Park. We handed out glow necklaces and fire safety information to families who attended. We also had apparatus on display to help educate and respond to questions as needed. The department assisted Rice, Wright and Hanover Police at a DUI Check Point on SR309 by providing lighting as we have many times in the past. The department completed maintenance on all of its apparatus including a repair to the Tower/Ladder outrigger and an internal fitting in the pump compartment. The department Annual Letter Drive will be starting around the second week of September. This is a large portion of our fundraising efforts to update equipment and apparatus. Please watch for it in the mail

and we thank everyone for past and continued support. The department attended the auction at the Rice Township/Independence Fire Department several weeks ago and retained a portion of the items once owned by the department. Some of the items we were able to utilize include radio equipment, pagers, turn out gear for our

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The Mountain Top Kite Festival will be held on September 26th from 10am to 4pm in the Rice Township Municipal Park. There will be no cost for children to participate.

Luzerne County Solid Waste Management has announced two dates in October for the 2015 Free Used Tire Recycling Events. Information is available to the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Karl Kaminski asked about the status of the fire hall property. Solicitor Dean stated that the equipment was auctioned off; there is one last piece of equipment, which has a lien on it, which needs to be sold. He spoke to the Receiver today and once that is negotiated, the disposition of the property will be determined by the court in conjunction with the Attorney General's office. Rice Township Volunteer Fire Company/Independence Fire is the current property owner. The Township does not own the property. Everything must go through the Receiver, courts and Attorney General. There are deed restrictions requiring the property go to a charitable organization, and the goal is to move it into Township ownership.

Bob Smith asked if there will be a way to slow the traffic in the event that the polling place is moved. Chief Franks stated that an extra officer will be scheduled that day. Marcia Thomas verified that there will be an extra officer on duty for the Kite Festival as well.

Miller Stella discussed the Wounded Warrior Project and asked the Township to donate \$500 to this cause. Marcia Thomas asked for more information about the charity before a donation is made.

Bob Pipech thanked Mike Grochowski for his help with the dam; he asked that divers going into the lake be careful and to notify the Township if they are going to be diving.

Wes Deaton asked if anyone has checked the swamps that feed the lake to see if they're dry. Bob Pipech verified that they are dry.

Ann Kijek asked about the condition of bodies of water in Nuangola. Marcia Thomas stated that we'd look into it.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia E. Stier
Secretary