

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JANUARY 4, 2016

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, January 4, 2016, 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 7:08 p.m. It is announced that the meeting will be recorded for preparing the minutes. Interior cameras are also recording the video.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Here
 Pipech - Here
 Thomas - Here

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

Received the Treasurer's Report (read by Secretary Stier as Treasurer Wasiakowski was attending the Fairview Township Reorganization): For the month of December, the General fund had a total income of \$53,241.83; total expenses of \$68,591.36. There was no activity in the Liquid Fuels and Recreation Accounts. Bills presented for payment total \$17,153.73. Balances as of December 31st:

General Checking:	\$87,113.53	General Money Market:	\$125,395.41
Liquid Fuels Checking:	\$0.00	Liquid Fuels Money Market:	\$2,500.22
Recreation Checking:	\$3,227.75	Recreation Money Market:	\$10,014.33

Total Cash on Hand: \$228,251.24

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

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rick Arnold thanked everyone for their vote of confidence and for bringing him on as the next Supervisor. He thanked Marcia Thomas and Bob Pipech for welcoming him and mentoring him into the position. Mr. Arnold also thanked Miller Stella for the outstanding job that he has done as Supervisor over the years.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Minutes of the regular meeting on December 1, 2015.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Abstain Pipech - Yes Thomas - Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Received the Roadmaster's Report for December 2015: Roadmaster Pipech stated that while the weather was good, the Public Works department was patching. He stated that the department was out for 5 hours during the last snow storm. He stated that salt and anti-skid should not and will not be put on dry roads. Mr. Pipech explained that, up until the summer, the Public Works department will go out at 6am before the school buses run to check the roads for obstructions. This will prevent delays for people traveling early in the morning. He made reference to complaints about the road department "riding around" and clarified that the workers have

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JANUARY 4, 2016

the work area cleaned up before any threat of winter weather, and they have not. Solicitor Dean stated that once he receives the details of the complaint, he will send out a letter requesting the items be removed from the roadway. Engineer Pasonick will be responsible for identifying what repairs need to be made to the roads.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Dean congratulated Marcia Thomas for retaining her seat as Supervisor Chair and congratulated Rick Arnold on winning his seat on the Board.

He stated that Rice Township received good news last month, but it was not brought up in the December meeting because he wanted to finalize it. Rice Township is now the current owner of the land previously owned by the Rice Township Fire Company. The Fire Company was in a receivership. The Receiver, Rice Fire Company, and Rice Township wanted to take the property over. The Receiver has to get approval from the Court and the Attorney General. The Attorney General originally wanted the Receiver to sell the property; a Motion was presented to Judge Augello, explaining that they are legally obligated to turn the property over to a non-profit to keep it in the public realm. Until we got it in writing, we didn't want to announce it. Thursday the deed was recorded.

Marcia Thomas thanked Solicitor Dean for working with the other Solicitor and the Receiver. Bob Pipech would like to get a dumpster on the grounds, and to have the Public Works Department clean it up. Marcia Thomas stated that the grounds are a real resource. Historically it's the heart of the Township, and she's sure that all the people who mortgaged their homes would be gratified knowing that this day finally came.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bob Pipech commented on the cleanliness of the building; he said the cleaning crew did a great job. He thanked the Supervisors for agreeing to hire this crew, including Miller Stella. Marcia Thomas stated that the company is bonded and insured and they're doing a thorough job.

Resident Ed Slosky discussed Section 324 of the Rice Township Zoning Ordinance. He stated that he was not aware of an E&S Plan requirement until after he started building a house. He received a letter from the Luzerne County Conservation District. The representative notified Mr. Slosky that the permit should not have been issued until the E&S Plan requirement was satisfied. The representative also stated that the Township may set themselves up for a fine since the permit was issued prior to the E&S Plan submission.

Solicitor Dean stated that he would look into the issue and will discuss with the Township Engineer at the Planning Commission Meeting. He recommended that Mr. Slosky attend the meeting so that the matter can be discussed further. The meeting will be held on January 27th in the Municipal building.

MOTION by Thomas, second by Pipech, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia E. Stier
Secretary