

**RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**APRIL 5, 2016**

The duly advertised regular meeting of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, April 5, 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 7:00 p.m. It is announced that the meeting will be recorded for preparing the minutes. Interior cameras are also recording the video.

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

Also present were: Please see attached sign in sheet.

Received the Treasurer's Report: General fund income: \$108,072.33, General fund expenses: \$144,070.88. Liquid Fuels income: \$120,023.01. Recreation fund expenses: \$750.00. Bills to be paid total: \$26,097.46\*

\*Audio states \$13,727.27, due to an Excel error, although all bills were listed for payment on the report distributed to the residents. The report has been corrected and is included at the end of these Minutes.

Balances as of March 31, 2016:

General Checking: \$78,975.72    General Money Market: \$75,400.82    First Keystone: \$50,000.00  
Liquid Fuels Checking: \$1,023.01    Liquid Fuels Money Market: \$121,502.35  
Recreation Checking: \$2,477.75    Recreation Money Market: \$10,014.83

Total Cash on Hand: \$339,394.48

**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.**

We received the 2015 Municipal Annual Audit and Financial Report from Grevera & Associates. Copies of the Concise Financial Statement are available to the public and the full report is available for public inspection. The statement has also been advertised.

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to authorize payment to Grevera & Associates for the 2015 Municipal Audit in the amount of \$2,950.00.

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Marcia Thomas stated that the Engineer will be speaking about Laurel Drive at the end of the meeting, so public comment regarding this issue may want to wait until the Engineer has given his report. All residents will be given an opportunity to make public comment regarding the issue.

Resident Jeffrey Lutz, 624 Deer Rack Drive, presented a formal complaint to the Board. He stated that he has owned his property for approximately 12 years and has encountered stormwater runoff issues. He stated that

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the amount of runoff has increased in the past couple of years. Within the last 5 years, Deer Rack Drive has encountered a puddle in the middle of the road after rain. That puddle has been overflowing into his property, and the Aqua PA project has caused flooding in his backyard. He stated that flooding is so bad that it is encompassing his shed. The water needs to go somewhere.

Marcia Thomas stated that she spoke with the Engineer regarding this issue. Engineer Pasonick stated that there is not currently a stormwater system in place.

Mr. Lutz stated that he constructed a berm to help divert the water after his garage flooded. Engineer Pasonick stated that he would get contact information for Mr. Lutz.

Marcia Thomas added that prior to Bob Pipech's appointment to the Roadmaster position, there were discussions with the firm that owns the water system. Aqua PA was to help the Township out in exchange for any Road Cut Permit Fees. She believes that this is a good time to talk to the company to see if there was a way to install swales and assist in developing a Stormwater Management Plan for the area. The first section of the development predates any State laws overseeing Stormwater, and the residents in there have been living with it ever since.

### **BUSINESS MATTERS:**

**MOTION** by Thomas, second by Pipech, to accept the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on March 1, 2016.

ROLL CALL: Arnold - Yes

Pipech - Yes

Thomas - Yes

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Received the Roadmaster's Report for March 2016: Bob Pipech stated that he's spent a lot of time on the pipe so far. He went into the pipe with boots on and confirms that it is deteriorated. Chris Goetz, Municipal Services Specialist from PennDOT, came out and inspected the area. The Public Works Department used the backhoe to excavate down to the top of the pipe.

Mr. Pipech stated that he doesn't want the personal liability associated with a temporary fix. He stated that safety is priority and this is not a quick fix. He added that there is a gas line going through the culvert, as well as an electrical conduit, and the Township cannot let inexperienced people perform the repair.

He also explained that a Grant was filed last year for repairs to a road in Laurel Lakes. Mr. Pipech intends to file a change order, should the Township be approved for those funds, and utilize that money for this project.

Marcia Thomas stated that the Board is fully aware of the 45+ houses that must reroute themselves around the lake. She stated that the Board is taking their responsibilities very seriously.

The Road Crew has been patching potholes. The park was opened and fishing is now allowed. The bathrooms will be opened once warmer weather arrives.

Marcia stated that it was discussed last month to advertise for quotes for tree trimming. This will open up some canopies that will allow the sun to thaw the roads.





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around \$100,000. Bob Pipech and Engineer Pasonick discussed what size pipe should be utilized. Pasonick stated that permits would be needed from DEP and the Conservation District.

Supervisor Arnold asked if the Engineer was leaning toward a pipe instead of a concrete culvert because of economic reasons. Engineer Pasonick stated that he suspects the pipe would be more economical, but will bid out the concrete box culvert as an alternate just to see what the prices come in at.

Carl Smith asked what the lifespan of a steel pipe would be compared to the concrete culvert. Engineer Pasonick stated that a steel pipe will last 30-40 years whereas the concrete culvert will last 40-50 years. Carl Smith suggested determining financial feasibility based on the cost compared to the lifespan of the product.

Marcia Thomas stated that PennDOT will need to approve the project due to the fact that Liquid Fuels funds will probably be utilized.

Carmen Magistro, Oakmont Lane, asked about advertising parameters. Engineer Pasonick explained that the ads must not be closer than 3 days apart and must be advertised no less than 10 days before the opening of the bids. Roughly it would take 2 weeks minimum, preferably 3 weeks. Marcia Thomas stated that advertising requirements are prescribed by the State. The Engineer must obtain permits due to the stream crossing. Mr. Magistro asked for an estimated time that the work will begin. Engineer Pasonick estimated 60 to 90 days.

Marcia Thomas explained that the State could take some time to approve the applications for the permits. Engineer Pasonick stated that GP-11, issued by DEP, could take as long as 4 months to approve. Marcia Thomas stated that we are asking for an emergency permit.

Jim Kelly, Laurel Lakes Drive, asked about the possibility of steel plating for temporary access to open the bridge. Engineer Pasonick stated that he would take a look at it, and discussed the void span necessary. Mr. Kelly asked about limiting the weight allowed over the bridge.

A Laurel Lakes resident asked about installing an ADS pipe. Engineer Pasonick isn't sure if they are made big enough for this project. The resident asked about making the pipe smaller. Engineer Pasonick stated that it is an option if it is approved by DEP.

A resident asked about the supposed gas line going through the bridge. Bob Pipech stated that he doesn't think it's a waterline, because it would freeze. Engineer Pasonick explained that there are 2 4-inch conduits running through the bridge. He suspects them to be either electrical or communication services. They will need to be relocated. Marcia Thomas stated the PA One Call will be notified prior to a reopening of the road.

John Kaminski stated that the culvert has been collapsing for at least a year now, and the Township has filled it in with cold patch at least 3 times that he is aware of. He asked what took so long before anyone decided to do anything about it. Bob Pipech stated that it was not on his watch. Mr. Kaminski stated that he feels the Township has let the residents down.

Karl Kaminski asked about a temporary bridge, similar to what Plymouth Township constructed. Engineer Pasonick stated that rights-of-way would need to be looked at, and stated that there is a cost associated with such a contingency.

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Chris Rivera stated that he has been a resident of Laurel Lakes for 7 years. He explained that Laurel Lakes is made up of about 200 households, 500 people, and 300 voters. This is his first meeting. He thanked all the public officials and employees. He stated that, of the 200 households, approximately \$20,000 is generated in municipal taxes, \$200,000 is generated in income taxes, and \$400,000 is generated in County taxes. He explained how the residents of Laurel Lakes mostly take care of themselves, including obtaining a grant to build a dam, weed management, picking up trash, gypsy moths, etc. Mr. Rivera stated that the money spent on lily pad management at the Ice Lakes has caught his attention. Marcia Thomas stated that the Ice Lakes are owned by the Township. Mr. Rivera asked the Township to keep him updated so that he may relay messages to the residents of Laurel Lakes. When the culvert sank, residents were not notified, the road was just closed. Mr. Rivera asked for a passageway for strollers and bikes. He stated that the road has a 10 ton weight limit and there is about 15 tons of gravel sitting in the middle of it. He offered to get the residents involved to help the Township and stated that a clean-up day is scheduled for April 16th and 17th to clear out debris. Mr. Rivera stated that we must all work together.

Carmen Magistro stated that Aqua PA is not doing a good job. He asked if the company is obligated to fix the roads. Marcia Thomas stated that there have been conversations between the Board, the Solicitor, and Aqua PA. She stated that the 1st phase of Laurel Lakes was constructed in the 60s, prior to Stormwater Management Regulations. Mr. Magistro stated that Aspen Drive is taking a big hit, and he doesn't want to see the Township paying for the patching that Aqua PA should be doing.

Jim Kelly asked why no one has addressed the issue of the old clubhouse. It is grown in, it was on fire at one point. A couple of years ago someone was burning garbage. Mr. Kelly stated that the building should be condemned and torn down. Marcia Thomas stated that it would be looked at. Chief Franks stated that it is in private hands and the owner is a Laurel Lakes resident who uses the building for storage. Mr. Kelly stated that the building is covered in graffiti and isn't properly posted. A resident asked about the Blighted Property Policy just passed by the State.

Carl Smith asked if the storage of appliances requires a certain zoning classification, and if that classification is met. Mr. Smith stated that the property next door, where the old swimming pool was located, has a for sale sign with a Philadelphia phone number listed. Mr. Smith would like to know if Zoning Ordinances are being violated.

Mr. Pipech excused himself from the meeting, as he is still recovering from major surgery. He thanked everyone for their cards and well-wishes.

Residents asked for a timeframe to complete the bridge project. Engineer Pasonick stated that it would take at least 4 months.

Marcia Thomas stated that no one budgets for this kind of incident. She stated that this road will be fixed, and funding will not slow this down.

Rick Arnold asked the Engineer to look into a temporary single lane, possibly with a weight restriction if necessary.

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A Laurel Lakes Resident stated that this is a little more than an inconvenience to the residents. She stated it is 1.3 miles around the lake, and it takes some time to get around it. She stated that she is concerned regarding emergency services.

Another resident stated that the Board seems dismissive to the idea of temporary plates to open a driving lane due to cost effectiveness. Marcia Thomas explained that the Engineer was on-site immediately, a representative from District 4 was on-site within 36 hours and the insurance company has been contacted. She stated that we will expedite the process as soon as possible.

John McAndrew, Lakeview Drive, asked if the pipes going through the culvert would delay the project. Engineer Pasonick stated that the utility companies must be called prior to excavation for every project. Marcia Thomas stated that the utilities are marked at the beginning of a road project, so the process will not be slowed down.

Mr. McAndrew asked if the Aqua PA project is finished. Marcia Thomas stated that we will find out.

Janeann Lokken stated that the Church Road and Henry Drive project could take up to 9 months. Marcia Thomas stated that we will try to complete this project in a timely manner.

Chris Rivera relayed a message from a Laurel Lakes resident. The resident asked for the Police to be aware of people blowing through stop signs in the Laurel Lakes development. Marcia Thomas stated that the issue came up last month.

EMA Director Bryan Brown reminded residents to utilize the SWIFT911 App to communicate with the Township.

A resident from Coplay Place asked about adding another stop sign to the corner where the Rendezvous is located. He stated that there are traffic problems in that area. Marcia Thomas stated that the State regulates where the Stop Signs are located. Chief Franks asked if the resident was looking for a 3-way stop at that portion of the road. He stated that it wouldn't be permitted. Four-way stop signs currently in place were grandfathered in. Chris Rivera clarified that the resident is referring to the corners of Lakeview Drive, Laurel Drive and Laurel Lakes Drive. There is only 1 stop sign located there, and most people roll through it. Chief Franks stated that the postal service renamed a portion of the road, but it is legally still 1 road (Laurel Drive and Laurel Lakes Drive). There was discussion about clearing the shrubbery at the Rendezvous for better driving visibility. Marcia Thomas stated that we would look at the Line of Sight issues.

Marcia Thomas stated that she has received complaints from Laurel Lakes residents regarding the Police presence in the community. Chief Franks stated that there is a Facebook page or email group informing residents of their presence in the community. Within 2 minutes of being parked in Laurel Lakes, Chief Franks received a text message from a resident, informing him that the notification went out to the residents. Marcia Thomas asked all residents to stop for stop signs and to be conscious of speed limits on every road.

Elvio Benzi, Wilderness Estates, stated that in 1975, Barletta put the roads in for Wilderness Estates. He discussed the timeline for the construction of the road and how it has changed the flow of water since he has lived at his residence. He stated that from 1993 to 2006, he has talked to the Zoning Officer and had drain tile

