MINUTES **September 12, 2023**
for
REGULAR MEETING
Rockefeller Township Board of Supervisors

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Rockefeller Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Township building by Chairman, Colin Clayberger

PRESENT

Colin Clayberger, Paula Greco, Julie A. Powell, Atty. Edw. Greco, George Herrold, Ron Bingaman, Michael Stender

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Paula made a motion to approve the minutes. Colin seconded the motion. Motion passed without opposition.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Paula made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and file for audit. Colin seconded the motion. Motion passed without opposition.

CORRESPONDENCE

SPECIAL INTEREST

Michael Stender – Area Representative – Representative Stender had promised to stop by on occasion and meet with those in his district. He explained that since taking over the office from Senator Linda Culver, he promoted Melissa Corbin as his office manager. He stated that he works closely with the Senator's office. He asked if the township had concerns for him. Colin stated that he would like to see the state give more of the Liquid Fuels Tax monies to the township. He stated that things continue to rise and there is no additional funds. Paula stated that she feels that these Solar Farms that are coming in should have to pay the local governments a fee just like the Gas Companies had to. She stated that they are taking primes farmland and the township, people, get nothing in return. Julie asked if he could check to see where the issue lay regarding the state increasing the hourly fee for elected/appointed Auditor's. She stated that the state only pays them $10. An hour and she feels that is a decision each individual Board should be able to make for their Auditor Board. She said that Rockefeller Township's team is amazing and worth so much more than $10. An hour. If the township had to pay a professional Auditor or Accounting firm the cost would be upwards of $12,000-$15,000, perhaps higher and those funds would ultimately hurt the amount of work we are able to do to the roads. Rep. Stender stated he knew there was discussion about it, and he would try to get an update. Julie said she had been talking to Linda and Jeff Cole about this for years and that last year she wrote a letter encouraging change and a wage increase. Atty. Greco said that the State of Pennsylvania needs to fund the Public Defender's Office. As the Chief Public Defender for Northumberland County, he stated it is difficult to find anyone that wants to work in the office because the pay rate is so low. He said it is not just his office, our county but all over. Colin asked the residents if they had any questions for the Representative, but they did not.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items)

None

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Canceled the meeting for September – no business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Road Status Report – The crew worked alongside the Tar & Chip sub-contractor to get all the Seal Coat work completed in the township. They mowed the sides of the roads, borrowing Shamokin Township's mower. They helped Upper Augusta township with a project, mowed the township lawn and continued to maintain the township equipment. Julie stated that she met with an engineer from the consulting firm that did the Bridge inspections. She said that he told her and Larry that the bridge on Peace Valley Road is in fantastic condition. He also stated Houser had a few small issues to be taken care of but our 'problem child' is the bridge on Clemens. Colin asked what was wrong with it. Julie tried to give a quick explanation. She stated that she requested the engineer send the report for Clemens Road bridge to our engineer Mike Brinkash for review. Mike has the file and is reviewing it. Julie said she will make an appointment with Mike to take the crew and look over it, get his suggestions on repair and then put it on the work list for future repairs. She said they are going to inspect it annually and may lower the posting if the corrective measures are not taken. Colin showed the Board and Atty. Greco (and the audience) damage done to Swank Road by a tractor immediately after it was tar and chipped. He asked Ed what we could do about it. There was some discussion and one thing Atty. Greco suggested is that we post the roads after and limit the size/weight vehicle that can travel it until it cures. Colin is concerned that the damage will start to cause the new top to erode.

Zoning Investigations – The issue with the Sinsel property was not resolved. Ed met with the complainant on Thursday night and sent it to the Magistrate's office. The entire board received an update from Ed Wenger on the zoning issues and permits issued.

Comprehensive Plan Update – Julie spoke to Mike Brinkash. He was free on Monday night, October 16th or Tuesday night, October 17th. Atty. Greco stated he would look at his schedule and let Julie know if the 16th worked as that was the date the Board decided on. Julie will call and confirm with the church (for rental) as well as Mike once she hears from Atty. Greco.

Government Funds – The Board paid out $8,400. Of the Government funds for a deposit on a new furnace for the township. Colin said that they are not finished with it but have done a great job so far. There is no update on the SEC TV work regarding the internet. Julie will reach out to Sam Hallman for an update.

Tyler Karycki/Bill Yost – Property Issue – Nothing more.

Stormwater Management Ordinance -Colin is reviewing the information Atty. Greco gave to him.

Replace the Furnace – Take Off

Hazen Road Turn around – Nothing more at this time.

Solar Farm – Julie has not heard from the individuals representing the Solar Farm. It seems to be in limbo at the moment. Atty. Greco stated he had received a letter from them but had not opened it yet as he had been in court all that day.

Atty. Karpowich – Atty. Karpowich sent the Board an email which Colin asked Julie to read aloud. There was some discussion. The Board agreed that Julie should reach out to the attorney and set up a meeting with him at the township to further discuss this issue.

Road Bonding – Atty. Greco gave the Board a copy to review from Cascade Township in Lycoming County; they are reviewing it.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of and authorization to pay the Solicitor's bill – Julie made a motion to pay the Solicitor. Colin seconded the motion. Paula abstained. Motion passed without opposition.
Review of and authorization to pay all bills – Paula made a motion to pay all the other bills. Julie seconded the motion. Motion passed without opposition.

Other New Business – Colin stated that the County Convention for Township Supervisors will be held on October 26th at Masser's in Paxinos. He told Julie she may be asked to create a centerpiece again. Julie said she had not received any information from them regarding this. She will try to reach out to the secretary this week.

Julie stated that she was nearly finished preparing the budget for the State and General Funds for 2024 and would like to have a budget meeting with the Board. The Board agreed to September 26th at 4:30 to go over it together. (Julie will advertise the meeting in the Daily Item as a work session).

Residents Comments – Resident Ron Bingaman stated that there is an area on Comfort to Shipman, to Foye that needs addressed; he stated that the road has a large hole that needs attention because stone from underneath it is showing through. He also said that this same road needs mowing. Julie stated that the crew needs to rent a boom mower and that they are on the list for the rental. She said they were told they should have it by late October. Mr. Bingaman also asked why the lowboy trailer is parked behind the building with weeds growing around it. He asked, 'do you use it anymore?' Colin said he thought we did but perhaps not as often since we have one, we jointly own with Upper Augusta and Shamokin Township. Mr. Bingaman stated that if we are not using it perhaps, we should sell it. Julie said she would talk with the crew about its uses and let the Board know. George Herrold asked why the Equipment fund amount has increased? Julie stated that the Board had sold the 2012 F550 and those funds went back into the State Fund (i.e., Equipment Fund). She explained that the equipment fund is within

the state fund amounts. Colin further explained that the equipment fund is not a separate physical account, just one on paper. We can use those funds for anything regarding the roads, not only for equipment.

Motion to Adjourn- Paula made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m. Julie seconded the motion. Motion passed without opposition.

FIRST NATIONAL -General	$ 235,771.95*
FIRST NATIONAL Gen. Savings	$ 19,821.62*
FIRST NATIONAL- State	$ 66,713.55 *
FIRST NATIONAL-State Savings	$179,118.08*
EQUIPMENT FUND	$ 39,691.62*
Grant Income Account	$ 223,566.53*

Respectfully Submitted~

Julie A. Powell,
Administrator & Supervisor