

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS REORGANIZATION
AND REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - FEBRUARY 10, 2015
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St., Elysburg, PA**

Chairman Madara called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Attending were: Supervisors Blaine Madara, William Wetzel, Stephen Major, Vincent Daubert and Daniel Williams. Also attending were: Township Manager Joseph Springer, Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Code Officer Mark Lyash; Township Engineer Justin Keister (*arrived at 6:48 p.m.*), Police Chief Stu Appel, Roadmaster Howard Shaddock, Harvey Boyer Planning Commission Chairman; Jeff Kyle DGK Insurance; Mark Gilger, *Shamokin News-Item* and 1 interested citizen.

Code Enforcement Hearing "Notice of Nuisance" for Mark and Donna Slagle's property at 7 Aspen St, was held. Williams/Madara motioned to uphold all the code enforcement action with the exception of extending the deadline until May 1, 2015 to come into compliance with notice of nuisance mailed January 5, 2015. Motion carried.

In the absence of Fred Hummel a Code Enforcement Hearing "Notice of Nuisance" was held for his properties at 201 N Market St, 203 N Market St, 151 Spruce St and 153 Spruce St. Major/Wetzel motioned to uphold all the code enforcement action with the exception of extending the deadline until April 1, 2015 to come into compliance with notice of nuisance mailed January 5, 2015. Motion carried.

In the absence of Tom and Cathy Oshman a Code Enforcement Hearing "Notice of Nuisance" was held for property at 259 Birchwyn Dr. Madara/Major motioned to uphold all the code enforcement action with the exception of extending the deadline until May 1, 2015 to come into compliance with notice of nuisance mailed January 5, 2015. Motion carried. Code Enforcement Officer also reported that Mr. Oshman recently passed away.

In a similar matter, the attorney for Ed & Deanna Ciocco wrote a letter requesting an extension. Wetzel/Major motioned to allow Ed & Deanna Ciocco, 169 Butternut Lane, until April 1st or 1st thaw to remove debris remaining in the detention basin adjacent to their property. Motion carried.

Jeff Kyle, DGK Insurance, was present to give insurance renewal presentation.

Daubert motioned to accept the insurance proposal from DGK Insurance for \$32,198 package and \$26,626 worker's comp with EMC and \$12,195 worker's comp plan with State Worker's Insurance Fund for volunteer firefighters. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN APPOINTED COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT HEADS:

STREET DEPARTMENT – Steve Major

BUILDINGS – Blaine Madara

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Chip Wetzel

ZONING – Dan Williams

RECREATION – Blaine Madara

RECYCLING – Vince Daubert

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – Scott Kerstetter from Ralpho Youth Sports was at meeting to update the Supervisors on use of monies donated and thanked the board for the past monetary support. Madara/Daubert motioned to release \$2,500 budgeted for 2015 to Ralpho Youth Sports. Motion carried.

Minutes of January 5 regular monthly meeting were accepted as presented on Wetzel/Daubert motion and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT was accepted as presented on Major/Madara motion and carried.

Bills were approved as presented for payment, including those bills paid between meetings on a Wetzel/Madara motion, motion carried unanimously.

Major/Wetzel motioned to approve bills submitted for payment from Larson Design and Shamokin News-Item for payment through CDBG funds for the Stormwater Channel Project to be forwarded to SEDA-COG. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Ralpho Township Business Association thank you was received.
- Shepard Pond Estates NPDES permit renewal was received.
- 2014 Annual Investment Reports for the Ralpho Township Police and Non-uniformed Pension Plans are available for review in the Township Office.
- Pat Bidding thank you was received.
- Notice of 3rd Annual Conservation District Forum March 3, 2015 was received.
- Service Electric notice of Encryption of the Basic Service Tier on or about February 24, 2015 was received.
- Service Electric option to renew Cable Television Franchise Agreement was received.
- Notice of request for water obstruction permit from Larson Design Group for bridge project on Happy Valley Road was received. Columbia County is the applicant for the permit.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING – Harvey Boyer, Chairman

- Major/Madara motioned to follow the Planning Commission recommendation to approve the Catawissa Wood Components final add-on subdivision. Motion carried.

STREET DEPARTMENT – Major

- Report was received.
- Major/Madara motioned to ratify phone vote to repair Ford 450. Motion carried.
- Major/Madara to hire Mark Lyash to snow plow part-time at rate of \$12.00 per hour retroactively to January 31, 2015. Motion carried.
- Anti-skid will be looked into for 2015-16 stone bids next month.
- Repairs on trucks have been extensive this winter, Supervisor Major thanks the board for getting back to him quickly in regard to going ahead with the repairs and also to the street crew for getting the trucks back up and going.
- Driveway Permits/Concrete Driveways were discussed. Madara/Major motioned to authorize engineer, roadmaster and solicitor to get something together and bring to the board next month. Motion carried.
- Thank you will be sent to CJ Steily Towing & Transport and Tire Ranch Inc. for helping out the Township on weekend during business off hours.

BUILDINGS – Wetzel

- LTS was called twice get burners back up after lack of heat in the municipal building.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT – Williams

- 4 permits were issued and \$997.50 in fees were collected during January. 12 letters of correspondence were sent, 8 complaints were received for vehicles, trash and noise; 2 permits were closed and 3 burning permits were issued.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Daubert

- Report was read.
- Ambulance update was given by Harvey Boyer.
 - 170 calls responded to, representing 1,700 volunteer hours
 - Gave review of ambulance finances per report
 - Radio requirement was discussed informing the board that a grant is planned to cover this project
 - Fire cadet weekend will be June 20th and 21st
 - Received safety grant for \$3,500 to offset the cost of Fire Cadet Weekend
 - Forming an Elysburg Fire Department Community Auxiliary
 - Hosting a "Firehouse Open House Day" on April 12th
 - Company is looking for permission to move forward the hopes of a new fire/rescue apparatus vehicle. Board said they would support them looking into the future purchase with no guarantee of funding

RECREATION - Wetzel

- Wetzel/Madara motioned to allow Bear Gap vault organization to use the gym for \$100 on April 11th. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Wetzel is going to look into a cabinet for AED in the gym and ask the road department to install in the gymnasium.

RECYCLING – Madara

- none

MANAGER’S REPORT

- Wetzel/Daubert motioned to stay with current energy provider at a rate of \$.0616 for two years. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

- Major/Daubert motioned to return \$1,000 storm water escrow on completed lot in Roseview Estates, Lot #7 owned by Joseph Bernathy Motion carried.
- Shamokin Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority request for extension on permit was tabled until March meeting. Permit expires February 22, 2015.
- Progress Road application with County was discussed. Madara/Wetzel motioned to authorize the chairman to sign the indemnity agreement with the county; authorized Chairman to sign application the Solicitor has once the indemnity agreement is received signed by the county. Motioned carried. Solicitor will scan and send for review to engineer.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

- Report received.
- First phase of channel is out for bid with construction pre-meeting on February 24th at 10 a.m. at the municipal meeting with bids being let on March 10, 2015.

OLD BUSINESS:

- none

NEW BUSINESS:

- Major/Wetzel motioned to do a \$25 memorial to the Ralpho Township Public Library in memory of Charles Kowalchick’s mother-in-law, Helen Hynoski. Motion carried.
- Daubert/Wetzel motioned to adopt Resolution 2015-02, the Order of Succession Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.
- Decided to allow Sunbury Hospital to use Municipal Building meeting room at no charge in the future for free physician lead community forums, approximately 20-30 attendees, secretary will call him and be contact for dates the room is available.

CITIZEN INPUT – none

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 8:22p.m. on Daubert/Madara motion and carried.

Executive session was held for personnel issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary