

MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - DECEMBER 8, 2015
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St., Elysburg, PA

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

A moment of silence was held in memory of Pearl Harbor Day.

Attending were: Supervisors Blaine Madara, Stephen Major, Daniel Williams, Vincent Daubert and William Wetzel. Also attending were: Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Code Officer Mark Lyash; Police Chief Stu Appel; Roadmaster Howard Shaddock; Township Engineer Justin Keister; Bill Smith Quality Control Manager from HRI, Inc.; Eric Haines from Don E. Bower, Inc.; Timothy Sullivan Construction Manager from PennDot; Duane Daniels Construction Manager from Larson Design Group; Kathy Jeremiah from Northumberland County Planning Commission; and 6 interested citizens.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

Minutes of November 10, 2015 regular monthly meeting were accepted as presented on Major/Wetzel motion and carried.

STREET DEPARTMENT – Major

- Report was received.
- Major/Williams motioned to ratify phone vote to perform winter maintain to Progress Road until road is accepted by Township. Motion carried.
- Major/Williams motioned to accept reimbursement of \$62,728.30 and to pay Construction Invoice No. 1 in that amount to Don E. Bower, Inc. for Progress Road project. Motion carried.

Discussion took place on Progress Road. Duane Daniels of Larson Design; Timothy Sullivan of PennDot; Kathy Jeremiah Director Northumberland County Planning Commission; Eric Haines of Don E. Bower; and Bill Smith QC Manager HRI all gave input. Contractor will return information to the Township the week between holidays with warranty and bond offers.

Supervisor Wetzel left the meeting at 7:02 p.m. and returned at 7:09 p.m.

TREASURER’S REPORT was accepted as presented on Major/Daubert motion and carried.

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

Wetzel/Madara motioned to approve bill submitted for payment from Larson Design for payment through CDBG funds for the Stormwater Channel Project to be forwarded to SEDA-COG. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- PSATS Unemployment Group Trust letter was received with dividend check for \$507.24.
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture letter received on behalf of Governor Tom Wolf inviting members to Fairs and Public Officials Day on Wednesday, January 13.
- PennDot letter received regarding further clarification on Bituminous Concrete modified with asbestos.
- Compliance Audit for Elysburg Firemens Relief Association from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2014 was received with no findings.
- Northumberland County Conservation District permit authorization cover letter for general NPDES permit for stormwater discharges associated with construction activities at Stadium Dirt Design was received.

- Letter received from PA Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau of Historical Preservation, was received regarding Channel Improvements for Ralpho Township, Northumberland County.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING – Harvey Boyer, Chairman

- Madara/Wetzel motioned to extend a 120 day extension for Cathy Scherer Land Development Plan. Motion carried.
- Madara/Major motioned to follow the Planning Commission recommendation for approval for Ryan Yorwarth Final Minor Subdivison. Motion carried.

BUILDINGS – Madara

- Street Department took care of a leak on gym room where roofs connect. Will wait for next rain to see if successfully repaired.

RECREATION - Madara

- None

ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT – Williams

- 4 permits were issued and \$509.60 in fees were collected during November. 7 letters of correspondence were sent, 2 burn permits were issued, 14 complaints were received for vehicles, trash, noise, grass clippings and etc.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Wetzel

- Report was read.
- Wetzel/Daubert motioned to purchase server/network upgrade and components from Computation for a total of \$4,353.89 and additional \$49 each month for maintenance. Motion carried with Supervisor Madara voting against.
- Supervisor Wetzel is working on a retirement gift for Sergeant Kreisher.

RECYCLING – Daubert

- none

MANAGER’S REPORT

- none

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

- Shamokin Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority Pilot will be discussed at a later date.
- Public hearing was held. Madara/Major motioned to adopt Ordinance 186 amending chapter 10 height of vegetation, motion carried.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

- Report received.
- Easement procedure for Stormwater Channel Improvements Project was brought forward.
- Larson Design Group new rate schedule will be approved by resolution at January meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Resolution 2015-07 re-enacting current Act 511 taxes as advertised:
 - Per Capita \$5
 - Occupation 100%
 - Real Estate Transfer 1%
 - Earned Income 1%
 - LST (formerly EMST) \$52 on earnings exceeding \$12,000
 - TV Franchise 2%

- Mechanical Amusement \$50 per machine

Was adopted on a Major/Daubert motion and carried unanimously.

- Proposed 2016 Budget was posted for public inspection on November 12, 2015. Resolution 2015-08 establishing Real estate taxes for 2016 as follows: general purposes 4-1/4 mills; fire protection 1/2 mill; equipment 1/2 mill and library 1/4 mill; street lighting depending on location .20, .22, .32 or \$6.33. Major motioned and Madara seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Resolution 2015-09 adopting the 2016 Budget was approved on Major/Daubert motion and carried unanimously. General Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2015 = \$1,440,850; budgeted expenditures = \$1,432,242 leaving a projected surplus of \$8,608. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2015 = \$276,083, budgeted expenditures of \$206,593 leaving a projected surplus of \$69,490.
- Wetzel/Major motioned to transfer \$37,045 from General Fund to State Aid from monies received from PEMA/FEMA for Tropical Storm Lee (2011) to cover funds used from State Aid Fund. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Wetzel/Madara motioned to approved advertising for meeting dates of Ralpho Township Supervisors meeting to be the 2nd Tuesday of month beginning at 6:30 p.m. and for Planning Commission meetings to be 1st Tuesday of month beginning at 6:30 p.m.; and also to authorize advertising January's reorganizational and regular monthly meeting for Monday, January 4, 2016 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Approval was unanimous.
- Vacancies for 2016 appointments were discussed; only opening for 2016 is one 2 year auditor to be appointed.
- Wetzel/Williams motioned to make a \$25 memorial at Ralpho Township Public Library in memory of Carole Masser, Chief Appel's mother-in-law. Motion carried.

At 7:51 p.m. the board went into executive session for personnel issues. The board reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

- Wetzel/Major motioned to accept agreement with Chief Appel effective January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.
- Wetzel/Major motioned to increase the stipend for meeting attendance for the Municipal Authority of Sunnyside/Overlook and the Ralpho Township Planning Commission to \$125 effective January 1, 2016. Motion carried with Supervisor Madara and Daubert abstaining from the vote. Motion carried.
- Madara/Daubert motioned to increase the stipend for meeting attendance for the Municipal Authority of Ralpho Township to \$125 effective January 1, 2016. Motion carried with Supervisor Major abstaining from the vote.
- Wetzel/Major motioned effective January 1, 2016 to give Debra Olson, Secretary \$.65/hr raise; Howard Shadduck and Wayne Horne, Street Department, \$.65/hr raise per contract; Charles Kowalchick, Buildings and Grounds, \$.65/hr raise; Officers Stephen Spade and Christian Dailey \$.75/hr raise per contract; Corporal Bryson Chowka \$.75/hr raise per contract; and Mark Lyash, Code Officer, \$1.00/hr raise. Motion carried.
- Wetzel/Major motioned effective January 1, 2016 to pay Joe Springer, Township Manager \$10,500 annually, to be paid out quarterly; and Marian Williams, Tax Assistant \$1,300 annually. Motion carried.

CITIZEN INPUT – none

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 8:42 p.m. on Madara/Major motion and carried.

Executive session was held for personnel reasons.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary