

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - DECEMBER 9, 2014**  
**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, Daniel Williams and Vince Daubert. Also attending were: Solicitor Todd Kerstetter; Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Township Engineer Justin Keister, Roadmaster Howard Shaddock, Code Officer Mark Lyash, Police Chief Stu Appel; Jamie Shrawder, SEDA-COG; Pat Mack Northumberland County Planning Commission; and 2 interested citizens.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

Jamie Shrawder attended meeting and gave CDBG update.

Major/Williams motioned to advertise for bids for CDBG Stormwater Project to be opened in February. Bid documents will be available on SEDA-COG website and there will be a set available in the Township Office. Motion carried.

Major/Williams motioned to pay Schlesinger and Kerstetter invoice for condemnation of Cox property at 52 Mountain Road, Shamokin, PA 17872 with CDBG funds. Motion carried.

Minutes of November 11, 2014 regular monthly meeting were accepted as presented on Daubert/Wetzel motion and carried.

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, and an additional bill which was added for Vanessa Kehler \$50, on a Wetzel/Daubert motion, motion carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Northumberland County Conservation District Completeness Notification Letter, Technical Deficiency Letter and Permit Authorization Cover Letter for General NPDES Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities were received for Phase 1 Watermain Replacement by Aqua, Inc.
- Polar Tech Industries, Inc. official notification applying for a DEP facility wide Air Quality State Only Permit letter was received.
- Catawissa Wood and Components official notification applying for a DEP facility wide Air Quality State Only Permit was received.
- DEP letter was received regarding Pennsylvania State Sportsman's Association State Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit and Section 404 Clean Water Act Pennsylvania State Programmatic General Permit was received.

**COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**PLANNING – Harvey Boyer, Chairman**

- none

**STREET DEPARTMENT – Major**

- Report was received
- Major/Madara motioned to hire Zachary Jacobs for part-time snow plow help at \$12.00 per hour. Motion carried.
- 2015 Paving was discussed for Center Street near Horizon Drive down to Bottle Drive.

## **BUILDINGS - Wetzel**

- Madara/Daubert motioned to have PPL replace lights in gymnasium under the E-power Direct Discount Program at a cost of \$6,888.82 with incentives of \$3,684.32 and the remainder of \$3,204.50 being paid for by the Township with an expected savings payback in 1.34 years. Motion carried.

## **ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT – Williams**

- 1 permit was issued and no fees were collected during November. 3 letters of correspondence were sent, 9 complaints were received for vehicles, trash and noise; and 5 permits were closed.
- Wetzel/Williams motioned to release escrowed funds less professional fees to Bellis/Katona for driveway project. It was noted that all improvements required by PennDot Permit #03030066 had been completed and inspected by Tom Parr. Motion carried.
- Madara/Major motioned to take property owner on Butternut Lane to magistrate for code violation. Motion carried.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Daubert**

- Report was read.
- 2011 Crown Vic cruiser was involved in incident with deer, repairs reimbursed by insurance company after deductible will be approximately \$3,800.
- Bids for 2008 Ford Crown Victoria Police Cruiser were opened. Williams/Madara motioned to accept the apparent high bid of Stadium Dirt Designs of \$1,500. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Daubert read Sergeant Chris Kreisher's retirement letter.
- Discussion took place on hiring part-time police officers. Chief, Supervisor Daubert and Mr. Springer will discuss and bring names forward to next meeting.

## **RECREATION - Wetzel**

- AED for the gym was discussed. \$1,525 is the quote that was received. Wetzel/Madara motioned to purchase AED from Southeastern. Motion carried.
- Exhaust fans for the gym were discussed. At this point after meeting with Miller's it was decided that they would not help the moisture problem that occurs.
- Gym banners for sponsors are being placed on both end of the gymnasium.
- Floor waxing will be done over Christmas break.

## **RECYCLING – Madara**

- Holiday Hours – Closed Christmas Day and New Years Day

Pat Mack, Northumberland County Commission, was at the meeting to discuss the grant proposal for Progress Road. He is looking to see if the Township is willing to be the applicant for the grant. Major/Wetzel motioned we are willing to apply for grant for Progress Road with all conditions met. Solicitor will send official notice to Pat Mack. Motion carried.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- none

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

- Public hearing was held for Ordinance #182 amending the Pension Ordinance for the Police and Non-uniformed Pension Plans. Major/Wetzel motioned to adopt Ordinance #182. Motion carried.
- Wetzel/Madara motioned to advertise Intergovernmental Cooperation Ordinance with PSATS for adoption at January meeting. Motion carried.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- Report was received.
- Larson Design Group new rate schedule will be approved by resolution at January meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Resolution 2013-06 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 Wetzel/Daubert motion and carried unanimously.

- Proposed 2015 Budget was posted for public inspection on November 13, 2014. Resolution 2014-07 establishing Real estate taxes for 2015 as follows: general purposes 4-1/4 mills; fire protection ½ mill; equipment ½ mill and library ¼ mill; street lighting depending on location .20, .22, .32 or \$6.19. Wetzel motioned and Madara seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Resolution 2014-08 adopting the 2015 Budget was approved on Wetzel/Williams motion and carried unanimously. General Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2014 = \$1,411,120; budgeted expenditures = \$1,365,916 leaving a projected surplus of \$45,204. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2014 = \$237,960, budgeted expenditures of \$192,981 leaving a projected surplus of \$44,979.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Wetzel/Major motioned to approved advertising for meeting dates of Ralpho Township Supervisors meeting to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month beginning at 6:30 p.m. and for Planning Commission meetings to be 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month beginning at 6:30 p.m.; and also to authorize advertising January's reorganizational and regular monthly meeting for Monday, January 5, 2015 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Approval was unanimous.
- Vacancies for 2015 appointments were discussed; secretary will call to see if all are willing to serve again for the township.
- Bill Griffiths asked Supervisor Madara to look into a cul-de-sac near his property. Supervisor Madara updated the board on what he found out.
- Wetzel/Williams motioned to send Pat Bidding, Librarian, a floral arrangement for \$50. Motion carried.
- Wetzel/Madara motioned to get an honorary plaque for long-time doctor and resident Dr. Edsel Rodriguez as he celebrates his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Motion carried. Supervisor Williams will take care of this.

**CITIZEN INPUT – none**

At 7:53 p.m. the board went into executive session for personnel issues. The board reconvened at 8:42 p.m.

- Wetzel/Major motioned effective January 1, 2015 to give Debra Olson, Secretary \$.50/hr raise; Howard Shadduck and Wayne Horne, Street Department, \$.50/hr raise per contract; Chief Appel \$1.25/hr raise per contract and Mark Lyash, Code Officer, \$.50/hr raise. Motion carried.
- Wetzel/Major motioned effective January 1, 2015 to pay Joe Springer, Township Manager \$10,000 annually, to be paid out quarterly; and Marian Williams, Tax Assistant \$1,200 annually. Motion carried.
- Wetzel/Major motioned to approve advertising for a special meeting prior to years end if one is required. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 8:43 p.m. on a Daubert/Williams motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson  
Ralpho Township Secretary