

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - November 12, 2013**  
**Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St, Elysburg, PA**

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

**Moment of silence for our veterans.**

Attending were: Supervisors William Wetzel, Blaine Madara, Stephen Major, Vincent Daubert and Daniel Williams. Also attending were: Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson, Township Manager Joseph Springer, Code Officer Mark Lyash, Police Chief Stu Appel, Roadmaster Howard Shaddock; Dave Nowroski, from the *Shamokin News-Item*, Brian Slavinski Medico Industries, Rory Kania Five Star; and Richard Waldron of Sterling Financial.

Richard S. Waldron, Sterling Financial Advisors LLC gave a presentation and answered questions after his review of the pension plans in place for the Township.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

Minutes of October 8, 2013 regular monthly meeting were accepted as presented on Williams/Daubert motion and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT was accepted as presented on Daubert/Wetzel motion and carried.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Department of Auditor General compliance audit reports of Ralpho Township Non-Uniformed and Police Pension Plans for the period of January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012 were received with no findings.
- Investment Summary Reports for period ending September 30, 2013 are in the Supervisor's office for review.
- Trustees Insurance Fund Dental Insurance changes were discussed. It appears the rate for dental insurance for employees and dependents will go down with the change to Aetna.
- Northumberland County Conservation District General Completeness Notification Letter and Permit Authorization Cover letter were received for Shamokin Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority Expansion Project.

**COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**PLANNING –**

- Madara/Wetzel motioned to accept the resignation of Wendy Shirvinski from the Planning Commission effective December 31, 2013. Wendy has been on the Planning Commission since August of 2011. The board thanks her for her services to the Township.

**STREET DEPARTMENT – Williams**

- Report was received
- Backhoe replacement was discussed with quotes received for a Case and a John Deere, both salesmen were present at the meeting. Board will try to make a decision next meeting. Both companies are to have final numbers to secretary by December 4th.
- Letter was sent to the PennDot in regard to an ongoing safety issue at 167 S. Market Street. The Township was made aware of subsidence by the homeowner.

- Mrs. Vought sent another letter asking the Township to rethink posting a school bus stop sign near her property. No further action was taken.

#### **BUILDINGS – Major**

- Reported that one year after the lighting updates in the library and police station with e-power through PPL we are saving approximately \$100-\$125 per month.
- Supervisor Wetzel brought up the possibility of solar on the roof to save on electrical costs. Chairman Major said he would do some checking on this.
- Chairman Major will check with local companies prior to next months meeting to contract with them to do our spring and fall maintenance of our boiler system in the Municipal Building, as well as being the company we call if a problem arises throughout the heating season. He will meet with Manager Springer and compile info for December.

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

- Report was read

#### **ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT – Wetzel**

- 10 permits were issued and \$1,363.97 in fees were collected during October and addressed 3 complaints for vehicle, trash, grass; responded to (2) zoning information requests, issued (5) temporary burning permits.
- Permit fees were discussed. Supervisor Wetzel and Code Office Lyash will come back to the next meeting with recommendations.

#### **RECREATION - Wetzel**

- Madara/Daubert motioned to charge CYO and Tiger Youth Basketball \$500 per team rent for gym. CYO has 2 teams this year and Tiger Youth Basketball has 11 teams, Supervisor Wetzel will advise secretary if the number of teams changes. Motion carried.
- Roadmaster will check with Keister to have door knob to coach’s office repaired and keyed to same keys already in place. He will update Supervisor Wetzel with cost prior to repair.

#### **RECYCLING – Madara**

- Grant update. 3 containers are being built right now. Manager Springer will be in contact with them again next week.

#### **MANAGER’S REPORT**

- Wetzel/Daubert motioned to stay with current energy provider at a rate of \$.06796 for one year. Motion carried.

#### **SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

- Campground Ordinance was discussed and one minor change was requested. Solicitor will forward copy to Northumberland County Planning Commission for review and possibly plan to motion to advertise at December meeting.
- Madara/Wetzel motioned to have Solicitor send e-mail to Fleetwood entity requesting a return on the transfer tax they paid to the Township. Solicitor Kerstetter is working with Rich Roberts, solicitor for Southern Columbia Area school District on this matter. Motion carried.

#### **ENGINEER’S REPORT**

- Madara/Daubert motioned to release remaining balance to the contractor Robert C. Young for work completed on Craze and Drumheller road, pending Justin’s final close-out paperwork provided the figures agree with amounts already paid. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Chairman Major informed the board that MART has decided to not have a sewer connection agreement in place at this time. He thanked the two members of the board who were on the committee.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Proposed Budget - Authorize advertising and posting proposed 2014 budget as printed on the agenda was approved on a Williams/Daubert motion. Motion carried. Real estate taxes 5½ mills; i.e. general purposes 4¼ mills; fire protection ½ mill; equipment ½ mill and library ¼ mill; street lighting per assessment formula. General Fund anticipated receipts plus carry over from 2013 = \$1,384,422; budgeted expenditures = \$1,379,053 leaving a projected surplus of \$5,369. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts plus carry over from 2013 = \$246,249, budgeted expenditures of \$211,900 leaving a projected surplus of \$34,349. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Budget – Authorize advertising current Act 511 taxes as follows

Per Capita	\$5
Occupation	100%
Real Estate Transfer	1%
Earned Income	1%
LST	\$52 on earnings exceeding \$12,000
TV Franchise	2%
Mechanical Amusement	\$50 per machine

- Wetzel/Williams motioned to purchase turkeys for Thanksgiving and hams for the full-time Township Employees for Christmas. Motion carried.
- Wetzel/Madara motioned to allow the All Home Days Association to use the meeting room on the first Thursday in Jan, Feb, March, April, October and November. Secretary will give the association a key to the facility. Motion carried.
- Madara/Williams motioned to allow Meadowview Christian School to use the gym on (1/10, 1/24, 2/7, 2/21, 3/7, 3/21) from 2:00 to 2:45 p.m. Motion carried.
- Madara/Major motioned to advertise rescheduling December meeting to Wednesday, December 11 and include along with annual reorganization meeting and regular meeting schedule advertisement. Motion carried.
- Pension discussion took place after Sterling Financial review earlier in the meeting. Board wants a letter sent to Ron Bittner, Univest, with copy of letter and documentation we received from Sterling Financial to ask for a rebuttal and also have them attend the December meeting for further explanation. Motion carried.

**CITIZEN INPUT – none**

Chairman Major announced that there would be an executive session for personnel issues at 8:35 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 8:41 p.m.

- Daubert/Madara motioned to accept with regret the resignation of Doyle Horne from his part-time street position with the Township. The board wishes him well. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 8:41 p.m. on Major/Daubert motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson  
Ralpho Township Secretary