

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - FEBRUARY 14, 2012**  
*Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St, Elysburg, PA*

*Vice Chairman Wetzel called the meeting to order at 6:32 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 Office Howard Howal; Township Engineer Justin Keister (*arrived at 6:50 p.m.*), Police Chief Stu Appel, Roadmaster Howard Shadduck, Debra and Wayne Eliassen from the *Shamokin News Item*; Rick Dandes and Liz Rohde from the *Dailey Item* and M.J. Mahon from the *Press Enterprise*; Jeff Kyle and Heather Percival of DGK Insurance.

Chairman Wetzel named Supervisors to head up departments as follows:

Street Department – Daubert

Buildings - Madara

Police Department/Public Safety – Major

Zoning – Madara

Recreation – Wetzel

Recycling – Williams

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

At this time Super Bowl Champion Henry Hynoski of the New York Giants arrived at the meeting. Supervisor Blaine Madara, who coached Henry in midget football, read a note of honor and the Board of Supervisors presented Henry with a plaque and also showed him a street sign that will be placed in his honor from Highway 487 down to the Municipal Building named Henry Hynoski Boulevard.

Insurance renewal presentation was given by Jeff Kyle of DGK Insurance.

Madara/Major motioned to renew insurance policy with DGK Insurance. Motion carried unanimously. The Secretary will get with Mr. Kyle in regard to a couple of items that the Supervisors would like a quote on adding to our current policy. One item would be additional coverage on equipment in police cruisers, a blanket bond on the supervisors who are able to sign checks for the Township and possibly insuring wire transfers made for the Township.

Minutes of January 3, 2012 regular and reorganizational meeting were accepted as presented on Major/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 Williams/Major motion, motion carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Email from Pat Mack, Northumberland County Planning regarding Thrush Lane was discussed. This is a personal matter between neighbors. Board requested that the secretary send a letter to

Mr. Mack to inform him that this is a neighbor dispute and the Township will not get involved. The Solicitor will review the letter prior to mailing.

- Received Liquid Fuels Tax Fund Examination report for 2 years ended December 31, 2010. Report is available in the office.
- Northumberland County Conservation District Memorandum of Understanding was discussed
- Northumberland County Conservation District Timber Harvest operations letter in regard to Robert & Beverly Katalenas property Paxinos was read. This was a follow up to prior month letter.
- Deerfield Residents Thank You to the street department was read.
- Alakananda Chakrabarty letter in regard to Zoning Hearing Board decision was read.
- Tax Collector Charlene Zeigler was exonerated from further collections on the 2011 tax duplicate on Madara/Daubert motioned and carried.
- 2011 Annual Investment Reports for the Ralpho Township Police and Non-uniformed Pension Plans are available for review in the Township Office.

#### **COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

##### **PLANNING –**

- None

##### **STREET DEPARTMENT – Daubert**

- Report was read
- PennDot had a driver hit one of our sheds and they asked for an estimate to repair. Mr. Shadduck got a quote of \$90 and will turn that over to PennDot.
- Stone quantities were discussed for the upcoming year. Current contract expires April 12, 2012 with Eastern Industries, Inc. It was decided that Roadmaster Shadduck will call around for lowest prices being we will not likely not reach the \$18,500 bidding requirement. Roadmaster will report back at next meeting.
- Pipe at the Laner residence was discussed. This is a private property matter. Supervisors requested that secretary write resident stating this happened from flooding rain this past September and the Township does not repair private properties. It is recommended that this resident also contact PEMA or FEMA if he has not already done so.

##### **BUILDINGS – Madara**

- None

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

- 3 permits were issued and \$75.00 in fees were collected during January and issued several occupancy permits.
- Discussion took place on PPL placement of new poles in township right of way on Roadarmel Lane. Madara/Williams motioned to have Chairman sign easement for this with Solicitor's review. Motion carried.

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

- Report was read.
- TRA Electric Incorporated gave Chief Appel an estimate on different options to repair the loop that has an electrical short. Engineer Justin Keister also looked into the repairs. Much discussion took place. Standard for traffic lights is now cameras. The Supervisors will need to look into this further. The Supervisors asked that Toby from TRA attend the March meeting. Chief Appel will ask him to attend.

- Howard Howal brought up an incident from December where his wife got into an accident on Highway 54 and he was dissatisfied with how the investigation was handled. He went to the investigating officer and then to the Chief, then to the Supervisor in charge of the Police and was still dissatisfied so he brought it to the board. He is asking the Supervisors for accountability. On the advice of the solicitor the board will discuss further in executive session following the meeting.

#### **RECREATION - Wetzel**

- Supervisor Wetzel asked the street department to place a cap on a gazebo in the playground.
- Supervisor Wetzel authorized Mr. Shadduck to purchase a camera prior to the meeting for the playground to help cut down on vandalism.
- Tree removal in playground was discussed. Two Female Sunburst Locust trees will be removed by the street department as soon as possible. Supervisors would like to discuss planting additional trees as replacement at the April or May meeting.
- Lights in the locker rooms at the gym were discussed. Chairman Wetzel will have street department help with new recessed lighting in one locker room to see how it will work out.

#### **RECYCLING – Williams**

- Supervisor Williams thanked Mr. Major, Charles Kowalchick and Howard Shadduck for helping the program along and making it the program that it is.
- He will have more information for the next meeting to see about replacing the one damaged dumpster. Supervisor Williams hopes to meet with Jeff's Recycling prior to the next meeting.

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- \$1,060.13 came in from FEMA for emergency response items that we claimed.
- \$30,000 was transferred from the Equipment Fund to the General Fund on January 22 to cover expenses. This will be paid back as soon as the taxes start coming being paid in March. Mr. Springer reviewed cash on hand right now and stated that we may be okay through February. We will see how it goes and how quickly the tax collector gets payments in and in turn gets them to the Township.
- After speaking with Beverly Hudsill, state contact, for the CGBD program Mr. Springer said that she recommended that we should go through the county with this project because of the huge quantity of paperwork and grant preparation involved. Mr. Springer will be in contact with the County to start this in motion. Madara/Major motioned to have Mr. Springer sign any paperwork needed. Motion carried.

#### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

- none

#### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- Justin spoke earlier in the meeting on his findings for the Traffic Signal at Intersection of 54 and 487 and gave his recommendations.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Major/Daubert motioned to make a \$25 donation to the Ralpho Township Library in memory of Richard E. Martini, Township Manager Joe Springer's Father-in-law. Motion carried.
- JPC Fuel Bid or local fuel bid was discussed. It was decided to bid with JPC for a fixed rate with the deadline being March 6<sup>th</sup>. Madara/Daubert motioned to go ahead with the JPC bid fixed rate. Motion carried.
- Williams/Madara motioned to adopt Resolution 2012-03, the Order of Succession Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.
- Madara/Wetzel motioned to authorize releasing \$1,000 from both the Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans to pay actuarial/consulting fees to Trollinger Consulting Group. Motion carried unanimously.

**CITIZEN INPUT** – none

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 8:12 p.m. on Daubert/Williams motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson  
Ralpho Township Secretary