

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

**Chairman Wetzel 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; Police Chief Stu Appel; Township Engineer Justin Keister (*arrived at 6:53 p.m.*); Roadmaster Howard Shadduck; Harvey Boyer, Planning Commission Chairman; Debra Eliassen, Shamokin News-Item; Josh and Jeremy Hoagland of Crossroads Group; and 5 interested citizens.

Ron Bittner from Univest Pension attended the meeting with a review of both of the Township pension plans.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

Minutes of July 10, 2012 regular meeting were accepted as presented on Daubert/Madara motion and carried.

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

General Fund bills were approved as presented for payment, including those bills paid between meetings on a Major/Daubert motion, motion carried unanimously. Williams/Madara motioned to approve State Aid Fund bills, motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Madara motioned and Daubert seconded to adopt resolution 2012-06 County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion carried.
- Jacob E. Leisenring Lumber Inc. voluntary dissolution was read.
- Tunnel to Towers 5K Run/Walk 9-8-2012 letter was discussed. Secretary will forward letter to organizer with Township support.
- Letters from Northumberland County Conservation District re: Gas Main Extension along SR 61 and Bridge Road were received.
- Investment Summary Reports for period ending June 30, 2012 are in the Supervisor's office for review.
- Shamokin Terminal Annual Notification was received. Secretary will forward to both fire companies.
- All Home Days request for sponsoring a prize for Basket Bingo was read. The Supervisors are interested in donating \$10 each personally for a basket donation.
- Housing Authority of Northumberland County Blight Task Force final draft was received.
- Notice was received again from PennDot in regard to detour set up for the replacement of bridge on Turkey Hill Road set to be started March of 2013.
- Thank you was received from Dolores Herring Family for donation to library.

**COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**PLANNING – Chairman Harvey Boyer**

- Paul A. McDermott Final Add-on Subdivision was tabled until next month because of required deed update.
- Curbing variance for Whitetail Run Subdivision was denied after much discussion. Josh and Jeremy Hoagland were in attendance to address questions of the board. Daubert/Madara motioned to grant variance. Supervisor Madara-yes, Wetzel-no, Major-no, Daubert-yes, Williams-no. Motion failed to pass.
- Danson Subdivision conditional use was discussed. It will be advertised with a hearing being held at the September 11, 2012 meeting. The Planning Commission recommends approval.

**STREET DEPARTMENT – Daubert**

- Report was submitted.
- Penn Dot Signage requirements for Overlook Boulevard railroad crossing were discussed. It will be over \$500 to meet new Penn Dot regulations. Board asked Secretary to forward a letter to Representative Gordner's office to have PennDot review a similar crossing on Bottle Drive as well.
- Madara/Daubert motioned to accept the low bid of \$1,228.60 for line painting of Overlook Boulevard and West Center from Alpha Space Control Co., Inc. Motion carried.
- Roadmaster Shadduck said he was contacted by All Home Days about tree removal. The Street Department will not take the trees down, but if they have 2 or 3 taken down we would be willing to cut them up and dispose of them. Mr. Shadduck will be in contact with All Home Days.

**BUILDINGS – Madara**

- Library Lighting was discussed and tabled until the next meeting because Supervisor Daubert Lenape Solar coming in on August 27<sup>th</sup> to give a quote for the whole building with a PPL program possibly paying up to 75% of costs.

**ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT – Madara**

- 12 permits were issued and \$3,185.00 in fees were collected during July. 4 junk complaints, 12 burning permit, 1 unpermitted demolition and one grass complaint were addressed.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Major**

- Report was read.
- Traffic signal repair has not taken place as of yet.

**RECREATION - Wetzel**

- Bees in the playground were discussed. At this point they sand area is covered and it is recommended that it be removed. Supervisor Wetzel will bring more information to the next meeting.

**RECYCLING – Williams**

- A class from SCA had 9 kids do community service at the recycling center on Thursday, August 9. It went well and the people were very receptive to the kids helping them out.
- Waiting to hear on 904 Grant application.

**MANAGER'S REPORT.**

- FEMA update. Mr. Springer has had e-mail contact with FEMA rep and hopes we get funds soon and also here on mitigation for Craze and Drumheller Rd.
- Kathryn Springer worked for 25 hours over the last month to organize the map room upstairs and also provided us with a spreadsheet to cross reference all documents. It is greatly appreciated and the secretary will send her a thank you for her time and effort.
- Columbia County Tax Committee will have a meeting on Wednesday, August 15. Mr. Springer will attend the meeting. It is possible that the committee will vote to discontinue with Central Tax and choose a new tax collector because of all of the trouble with Central Tax. The Board asked that he take with him their wishes to return to using H.A. Berkheimer as the tax collector for the Township.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

- Hearing to update Solid Waste Management Ordinance was held.
- Williams/Major motioned to adopt Ordinance #178 to amend the solid waste ordinance. Motion carried.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- Justin has been contacted by Great Valley Consultants on the Shamokin Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority project. They have an issue with clay in the drainage basin per approved plans. The Board of Supervisors requested that Justin go to the site and come back with recommendations at the September meeting so the Supervisors can make an informed decision.
- Madara/Daubert motion to advertise for bids for the Pine Brook Stormwater Basin Contract to be opened at the September 11, 2012 meeting. Motion carried.
- DEP permit process for culverts on 2 closed roads are in process.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Mr. Springer has not been contacted by AFSCME representative as of yet to begin negotiations.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- PA Department of Transportation Audit was performed by John Mazur, Financial Consultant, on August 8, for the year 2011. He had very positive report on the organization of our records and letter will be sent to the Township with his final report.
- Madara/Williams motioned to make a \$25 donation to the Ralpho Township Library in honor of Roberta Klock. Motion carried.

**CITIZEN INPUT** – Carol Phillips of Sunnyside was in questioning a blighted property in her neighborhood. The Township is in the process of working to have this property removed with CBDG funds.

Gary Woodruff and John Saseen were at meeting questioning Oak Street being a paper street and public using what they call their farm access road. They were told to get the deed from their property and see what the road is recorded as and then the Township could possibly answer more of their questions. Mr. Woodruff also brought up a continual drug problem in Ralpho Township and wanted to know what was going to be done about it.

Jeremy Hoagland, Crossroads Group, asked that the board consider looking into updating the ordinance in regard to curbing for future plans brought before them.

Pat Hoy, Meadowbrook Manor Homeowners Association, questioned pipe replacement in their development. She was guided to an engineer to possibly help the Homeowners Association with their repair.

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 9:08 p.m. on Daubert/Major motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson  
Ralpho Township Secretary