

MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - SEPTEMBER 11, 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.

Moment of silence was held to remember those who lost their lives on 9-11-2001.

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 6:42 p.m.*); Roadmaster Howard Shaddock; Josh Hoagland and Mark Altrogge of Crossroads Group; Attorney John A. Mihalik; Kevin Strunk of Richard C. Parsons Associates; Ralpho Fire Company members DJ Spotts and Clint Herr; Pat Mack, Northumberland County Planning Commission; Debra Eliassen, Shamokin News-Item; and approximately 14 interested citizens.

Conditional Use Hearing for Danson Enterprises LLC began at 6:32 p.m. with court stenographer Faith Culp of Ervin Blank Associates, Inc. swearing those in that chose to speak at the hearing, Solicitor Kerstetter explained how the hearing would go forward and asked all those wanting to speak to stand and state their name, after much explanation and discussion Daubert/Major motioned to allow the conditional use for Danson Enterprises LLC for multi-family and single family attached dwellings as a conditional use in the Residential Zone. Motion carried. The hearing then adjourned at 7:06 p.m. with a Williams/Madara motion. Motion carried.

Jamie Shrawder, SEDA-COG, was in attendance to explain the letter requested by the county to address blighted properties with CGBD funds. Madara/Major motioned to have Chairman Wetzel sign requested letter for the county. Motion carried.

Pine Brook Stormwater Basin Repair bids were opened. All bids were rejected. Supervisors asked Engineer to speak with Dave Gutelius about project. Property owner Tom Dubulis was in attendance and just wanted to make sure that when the work is done that the site will be brought back to original condition.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – Jack Lakitus was present and again asked for a street light to be placed at Pearle and 487. He also questioned when Hemlock Lane would be repaved. Supervisors told him Hemlock would be looked at in the near future for paving.

Minutes of August 14, 2012 regular meeting and September 5 special meeting were accepted as presented on Daubert/Williams motion and carried.

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

Bills were approved as presented (with a correction of Service Electric invoice for \$496.17 being changed to \$159.43) for payment, including those bills paid between meetings on a Madara/Daubert motion, motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Thank you was received from Katie Springer for the gift given to her for organizing the map room.
- Northumberland County Association of Township Officers Annual Banquet letter was received. The banquet is Thursday, October 25 at 5:45 p.m. at the Sunbury Social Club. Need to RSVP to them by early October if attending.
- PennDot letter was received to give Township notice of a proposed project to mill and resurface the pavement on S.R. 487 starting at Carpenter Rd and ending at Roaring Creek. Secretary will send a letter from Township with no concerns for the project at this time.
- AYSO Thank You letter was received for our contribution with help at the Elysburg Weis Fields.

Letter was received from Ralpho Fire Company No. 1 requesting a \$20,000 donation from the Township toward their purchase of a 2002 ALF Quint that they would replace their existing engine with. Clint Herr, Ralpho Fire Company Chief explained the piece of equipment and how the company would use it. The board gave a nod to go forward but wait until after Secretary calls DGK Insurance to find out cost impact of insuring the new vehicle, a decision on budget amount available as a donation will be decided during budget meeting in October.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING – Vice Chairman Mark Lyash

- Wetzel/Daubert motioned to follow the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve the Special Minor Subdivision for the Estate of Paul A. and Margaret L. McDermott, motion carried.
- Supervisors asked Code Officer Lyash, who is also a Planning Commission member, to go back to the Planning Commission and ask them to look into the curbing requirements in subdivisions with the Supervisors recommendations.

STREET DEPARTMENT – Daubert

- Report was submitted.
- It was discussed as to if we should keep or sell the grader. At this point we may wait until spring, but have Roadmaster give information on it to Bradco in case they are aware of anyone looking for one.
- Madara/Williams motioned to purchase cinder spreader for Ford 450 from Bradco for \$3,652, to be paid out of the equipment fund. Motion carried.

BUILDINGS – Madara

- Library Lighting was discussed and tabled until the next meeting.
- Mr. Kowalchick alerted Mr. Madara of the steps at the back of the building deteriorating. Supervisors will look at this at the close of tonight’s meeting.

ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT – Madara

- 7 permits were issued and \$1,273.75 in fees were collected during August. Addressed 15 complaints: junk, burning, pool, code violations; forwarded 2 variance applications and one appeal to the Zoning Hearing Board; erected notification signs for Danson “Conditional Use” request. Issued occupancy and use permits.
- Madara/Daubert motioned to have secretary draft a letter to the Zoning Hearing Board on behalf of the Board of Supervisors in support of giving the (2) constituents in the Reeder’s Grove area variances to re-build in the same foot print due to hardship. Motion carried.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Major

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

RECREATION - Wetzel

- Supervisor Wetzel will bring more information to the next meeting in regard to adding a swing set in the place of the sand and digging equipment.

RECYCLING – Williams

- Waiting to hear on 904 Grant application.
- The agreement with Jeff’s Recycling was discussed. Supervisors are okay with just going forward with this as is, with no new agreement required.

MANAGER’S REPORT.

- FEMA update. Mr. Springer has had e-mail contact with FEMA rep and hopes we get funds soon and also hear on mitigation for Craze and Drumheller Rd.
- GHP renewal is due. Manager Springer stated that we could have a \$15,000 to \$18,000 savings in premiums if we would change the plan to a have a higher office co-pay from \$10 to \$20 and a \$1,000 deductible for each participant. The Township could reimburse for the deductible and still possibly save thousands. It would be a risk each year to see if the participants use the \$1,000 deductible. Daubert/Wetzel motioned to go ahead with the change and for Manager Springer to send a letter to each employee alerting them of the changes. Motion carried.
- Columbia County Tax Committee had a meeting on Wednesday, August 15 and after much discussion and presentations by two collecting companies the committee chose to go with Berkheimer as the collector. Central Tax has since been dissolved. As of August 31 the Township was behind approximately \$70,000 in collections in comparison to 2011. Money has already started to come in from H.A. Berkheimer.
- Madara/Major motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2012-07 Delinquent Cost Resolution with H.A. Berkheimer. Motion carried.
- Madara/Major motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2012-08 Confidential Contact Resolution with H.A. Berkheimer. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

- Solicitor has been in contact with Knoebels Grove and Masser’s Catering, Inc. to see if they are still interested in the exemption from the Liquor Control Board noise regulations, Knoebels Grove is in favor and Masser’s has not been in contact as of yet. Major/Madara motioned to adopt resolution 2012-09 Petition for Exemption from Liquor Control Board Regulations Regarding Amplified Music. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Shamokin-Coal Township Wastewater Treatment Facilities Improvements Project had a site visit on 8-21-12, site was in good order. Justin prepared a construction memorandum for this project and future developers to be given when they establish construction observation escrow accounts.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Secretary has been in contact with AFSCME Representative Corey Lockhard, he stated that as soon as he talks to the Union Member he will be in contact with Mr. Springer.
- Letter was received from PennDot stating that the Township's Liquid Fuels Tax Fund had been reviewed. The Township has taken the necessary steps to be in compliance.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 2013 MMO's – Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans. Motion to approve MMO's as follows: Police Pension Plan = \$51,520 and Non-Uniformed Pension Plan = \$3,500 was made by Madara/Williams and motion carried.
- Trick or Treating will take place in Ralpho Township on Monday, October 29 from 5 to 8 p.m.
- Madara/Williams motioned to make a \$25 donation to the Ralpho Township Library in memory of Mark Lyash's mother-in-law, Jean Laskoski. Motion carried.
- Madara/Major motioned to have Chairman Wetzel sign contract with North Central Highway Safety Network with the only change being made is that payment for reimbursement of wages will be sent directly to the municipality instead of the police department. Motion carried.
- Northumberland County Adult Probation would like to use the gym for 3 days from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Madara/Williams motioned to charge them \$100 per day. Motion carried.

CITIZEN INPUT – none

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m. on Daubert/Major motion and carried.

There was an executive session held after the regular meeting for personnel issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary