

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - NOVEMBER 13, 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.*

There was a moment of silence to honor our veterans and those who are currently serving our country.

Attending were: Supervisors Blaine Madara(*arrived 6:38 p.m.*), 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 6:43 p.m.*); Roadmaster Howard Shaddock; and 1 interested citizen.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – Gloria Seroskie, 286 E. Center St., was present and asked for guidance with a tree issue on a paper street in her neighborhood. The solicitor explained to her that the Township has no authority in paper street issues.

Minutes of October 9, 2012 regular meeting and October 23 budget meeting were accepted as presented on Major/Daubert motion and carried.

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

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Great Valley Consultants letter informing Township Shamokin-Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority is applying for a Temporary Discharge Request was received.
- Pension Investment Summary Reports for period ending September 30, 2012 are in the Supervisor's office for review.
- E-mail from Ken Schetroma requesting donations to travel to Mexico to play football for Susquehanna University was received. Supervisors asked the secretary to reply to his e-mail wishing him the best in his endeavor and to explain that tax payer money cannot be used for donations.
- FEMA letter in regard to Hazard Mitigation Plan was received.
- Northumberland County Conservation District erosion and sediment control plan letter for Earth Disturbance activities related to Shamokin Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority located at Weigh Scales Mini Storage site was received.

**COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**PLANNING – Chairman Harvey Boyer**

- none

**STREET DEPARTMENT – Daubert**

- Report was submitted.
- Leaf collection was discussed. Leaves will be collected up until the Wednesday after Thanksgiving.

**BUILDINGS – Madara**

- Building lighting was discussed and it was decided that the library and police department are the two locations that we will be replacing at this time.

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

- 5 permits were issued and \$590.95 in fees were collected during October. Addressed 5 complaints: junk, burning, tree, pool, vehicle, code violations. Issued occupancy and use permits.
- Zoning Hearing Board will meet and render their decisions for the applications filed by Mary Ellen Endrizzi, Susan Marino, Sheldon Winnick; and James & Darlene Swank on Thursday, November 15, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the municipal building, in the meeting room.

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

- Report was read.
- Transmission on one of the cruisers was repaired under warranty.

### **RECREATION - Wetzel**

- Madara/Major motioned to charge CYO and Tiger Youth Basketball \$450 per team rent for gym. CYO has 3 teams this year and Tiger Youth Basketball has 11 teams. Motion carried. Mr. Madara asked Chairman Wetzel to let the organizations know that it is likely that the fee will go to \$500 per team next year.
- Playground bathrooms were closed on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the street department for doing that.
- Madara/Daubert to purchase a new water fountain for the gymnasium for under \$500. Motion carried. Supervisor Wetzel will look into purchase.

### **RECYCLING – Williams**

- Closed for Thanksgiving and will be open the Saturday after the holiday.
- Mr. Springer has heard word that the 904 Grant decision should be made sometime in January.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Williams/Madara motioned to have the Municipal Authority coordinate directly with Jamie Shrawder, project coordinator, SEDA-COG, of the funds used from CDBG for sewer laterals. Motion carried.
- Mr. Springer was informed the storm water channel improvements do qualify for CBDG funds as far as low income requirements; we just have to decide how to go about the project. Engineer will do some preliminary figures for the board and report back so the board can decide whether to use grant funds for the engineering of the project. It was discussed that we may have to save the grant money up over years to cover the expense of the entire project.
- Solicitor recommends contacting the owner of the blighted property in Sunnyside before taking action to see how he feels about the Township's plan and then decide where to go from there.
- Central Tax notice of bankruptcy was received. The first priority for the firm that took over is to get the money out of accounts and to the municipalities it is owed.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

- Liquor Control Board Hearing was held on Friday, October 12, 10 a.m., Municipal Building, for Ralpho Township Noise Exemption Application. No word has not heard back from LCB as of yet.
- Notice was received from Northumberland County Assessor that the value of the Polar Tech property on West Valley Avenue was decreased from \$949,050 to \$334,800.

At 7:02 p.m. the board went into executive session for litigation purposes. The board reconvened at 7:08 p.m.

The Board of Supervisors asked Solicitor Kerstetter to contact the county assessor and the solicitor for Southern Columbia Area School District for more information on this approved reduction. If he felt we should go forward with an appeal he is to contact the board members with a recommendation.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- Drumheller and Craze roads. Engineer Keister feels we could have the DEP permits in hand in December and then be able to put it out on bid with construction in the spring.

- Engineer is going to meet with County Conservation District to verify all permitting is complete for Pinebrook Stormwater Basin Repair project in the spring.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- AFSCME representative has not contacted Manager Springer and the contract is due to expire December 31, 2012. Secretary will send a letter to rep.
- Police bargaining unit informed Mr. Springer that they will maintain pension as it is and pay the difference.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Proposed Budget - Authorize advertising and posting proposed 2013 budget as printed on the agenda was approved on a Major/Madara motion. Motion carried. Real estate taxes will increase from 4 ½ mills to 5 ½ mills; i.e. general purposes 4-1/4 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 2012 = \$1,311,620; budgeted expenditures = \$1,302,181 leaving a projected surplus of \$9,439. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts plus carry over from 2012 = \$212,497, budgeted expenditures of \$178,900 leaving a projected surplus of \$33,597.

Proposed Budget – Authorize advertising Act 511 taxes as follows

|                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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                    |

- Williams/Madara motioned to purchase turkeys for Thanksgiving and hams for the Township Employees for Christmas. Motion carried.
- Dempsey mat service was discussed. Contract is set to expire in January.
- Williams/Major motioned to give Elysburg Ambulance Service \$12,000 funding as per request. Motion carried.
- It was noted that the PSATS Unemployment Compensation rate is going from 4% for 2012 to 5% for 2013.

**CITIZEN INPUT** – none

At 7:20 p.m. the board went into executive session for personnel issues. The board reconvened at 7:21 p.m.

Major/Daubert motioned to take Mark Lyash, Code Officer, off of 6 month probation effective November 27, 2012 and give him a \$1.00 per hour increase. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 7:22p.m. on a Daubert/Williams motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson  
Ralpho Township Secretary