

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS REORGANIZATION
AND REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - JANUARY 3, 2011
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St, Elysburg, PA.**

Chairman Blaine Madara called meeting to order 6:32 p.m. and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Madara stated that, as mandated by State law and as advertised this meeting is for Reorganization purposes and the regular January meeting.

Madara also stated that an executive session was held prior to tonight's meeting for personnel issues.

Attending were: Supervisors Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie, William Wetzel, Stephen Major and Vincent Daubert. Also attending were: Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Township Manager Joe Springer, Code Officer Howard Howal, Police Chief Stu Appel, Roadmaster Howard Shadduck, Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Debra Eliason from the Shamokin *News Item*; and 4 interested citizens.

Changing Chairman is merely following past practice of rotating the position every year so each board member has an opportunity to fill that capacity.

Chairman relinquished the meeting to the Vice Chairman for nominations for Chairman.

Vice Chairman Wetzel requested nominations for the Chairman's position. Wetzel motioned to elect Supervisor Payeskie as chairman. Wetzel moved that nominations cease with approval of Payeskie as Chairman unanimous.

Chairman Payeskie nominated Supervisor Wetzel as Vice Chairman. Payeskie motioned to close nominations with approval of Wetzel as Vice Chairman unanimous.

Madara motioned to appoint Joseph Springer, Township Manager; Debra Olson, Township Secretary/Treasurer; Schelsinger & Kerstetter, Solicitor; Forgett & Kerstetter, certified public accountants for auditing services; and designate township depositories PLGIT and M&T Bank; Charlene Zeigler as Real Estate Tax Certifier, Act 511 tax collector and Delinquent Tax Collector per ordinance; Berkheimer Associates Tax Collector for Earned Income and LST taxes; Statewide Tax Recovery for delinquent taxes; Howard Howal as Code Enforcement Officer, Uniform Construction Code Officer and Building Code Officer; Howard Shadduck as Roadmaster; Bill Brior as Primary Sewage Enforcement Officer and Bruce Dobash Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer. Motion carried unanimously. The Engineer appointment was tabled at this meeting.

The following re-appointments were made on Madara/Wetzel motion and carried unanimously: John Yost to a one year term on Township Vacancy Board; Donald J. Spotts, one year term as EMA Coordinator; David Manney, ZHB 3 year term; Robert L. Dluge, Jr., Esq. one year term as solicitor to Zoning Hearing Board; Blaine P. Madara, 5 year term to Municipal Authority of Sunnyside/Overlook (MASO), Scott Damgaard, 5 year term to Municipal Authority of Ralpho Township; Dana Carroll-Lucas, 4 year term on Planning Commission, which expires December 2015.

The following positions remain to be filled:

1 vacancy on Municipal Authority of Sunnyside/Overlook, 5 year term, term would expire January 2012.

Chairman Payeskie named Supervisors to head up departments as follows:

Street Department – Payeskie

Buildings - Daubert

Police Department/Public Safety – Madara

Zoning – Daubert
Recreation – Wetzel
Recycling – Major

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS –

Mrs. Karen Blackway questioned the water drainage problems in Vista West. She was informed that the Roadmaster would be meeting with the Engineer later this week and she would be made aware of the findings.

Minutes of December 14, 2010 meeting were accepted as presented on Daubert/Major motion and carried.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- A letter from the Northumberland County Planning Department was received in regard to the Watershed Plan Advisory Committee. Mr. Payeskie will try to find a volunteer for this committee.
- A letter from PennDot was received explaining a detour that will be in place during a bridge replacement on SR 2013 with project to be let in May with a 3 month window to complete the project.
- A letter was received from Urban Research and Development Corporation addressing whether our zoning ordinance properly addresses solar power and wind power. Supervisors mentioned that we do have an ordinance in place.
- DEP sent a Dam and Encroachment Inspection Report in regard to the 2 foot culvert being placed on property by Dr. Thomas Szczepkowski on airport Road which is resulting in discharged stream flow onto Township Right of Way and onto the roadway creating unsafe conditions for vehicular traffic. It was recommended that the culvert pipe be removed by the land owner and the affected area be restored to its pre-existing conditions no later than February 1, 2011 to prevent fines or penalties being assessed to the land owner.
- Ralpho Youth Sports sent a letter requesting approval to make improvements to the girls' softball field next to the municipal building. They would like to install a new concrete pad for the bleachers located on the right side of the field; install a 10'x16' storage shed on the existing concrete slab; install a 12'x55' portable batting cage along the right side fence; and remove every other pine tree located between the field and the Dollar General Store to allow light from the store to reach the dugout and field area in order to discourage kids from hanging out in the dug outs after dark. All improvements would be funded by Ralpho Youth Sports. Secretary will do a letter with Supervisor Wetzel reviewing prior to mailing. The Supervisors agree with all improvements but do not want the trees removed. They would recommend motion sensor lights on the building to help to keep the kids out of the area after dark.
- 3 more letters were received from AES on behalf of Shamokin Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority in regard to remediation of the proposed sites.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

STREET DEPARTMENT – Payeskie

- Computer and Internet connection are in process.
- Tires for F-450 have been ordered from Bastian Tire. Steve Shannon could not get tires with correct ply for the truck. The truck will go in this Thursday for the tires.
- Backhoe trade-in was discussed. At this time the supervisors are not going to go ahead with this. Roadmaster Shadduck will check on tires for the current backhoe. He will see if the price can be locked in. Madara/Major, motion carried.

- Discussion on Corson Quarry and stone availability. Solicitor Kerstetter will call the Quarry.
- Mill Street road deterioration near Results Gym was discussed. Supervisors think they should meet with Gym owner. Township Manager and Roadmaster will meet with him to discuss this situation. They will update Supervisor Payeskie on the meeting.
- Mr. Honaberger homeowner on 281 Hillside Ave made corrections to stop water from flowing on to Township Road and Roadmaster will monitor this situation.
- Supervisor Wetzel noted that it shows that improvements are being made in the shop and street department. He thanked Roadmaster Shadduck.
- Wetzel/Major motioned to purchase not more than 3 new lights in the shop. Motion carried.

BUILDINGS – Madara

- Gymnasium door was repaired by Doyle Horne, part-time street employee. Mr. Madara will give the weather stripping he has for the door to Roadmaster Shadduck to replace.
- Heating system updates from Miller Gas & Oil and LTS Plumbing and Heating were discussed. At this time we will not make major repairs and in the spring have the system checked.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Wetzel

- Discussion on the repairing the unmarked police car. Payeskie/Daubert motioned to repair it for between \$800 and \$1,000, motion carried unanimously. Mr. Payeskie also asked that it be kept in the pole barn to keep it out of the elements when it is not being used.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT – Madara

- 7 permits were issued and \$3,818.50 in fees were collected during December. Several occupancy permits were issued and officer is proceeding with criminal investigation.
- Code Officer Howal reported on November 17, 2010 he inspected 185 South Market and found it in violation of Ordinance #174 prohibiting conditions constituting a nuisance. A certified letter was sent to Mrs. Gloria Kramer at that address as well as hand delivered Mr. David Kramer. Photos were presented to the board by Code Officer Howal at the December meeting. Mr. David Kramer, homeowner, was present and stated that he would remove his personal property as soon as the court ordered PFA would allow him to do that. The Board of Supervisors will continue Mr. Kramer's hearing until April 12, 2011 after the PFA against has expired. The Board of Supervisors Authorized the Code Enforcement officer to take action filing a citation with the Magistrate against Mrs. Kramer because the said property was not cleaned up within the 10 days given at the December 2010 meeting.

Supervisor Wetzel excused himself from the meeting at 8:06 p.m. for a family event.

RECREATION - Madara

- None at this time.

RECYCLING – Major

- Supervisor Major reported on Rain Barrel Workshop details for the spring. Transportation of the barrels and also space to do the workshop. There will be little to no cost to the Township. March 26 is the tentative date. Madara/Daubert motioned to allow the use of the Township location. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Mr. Springer reported on the findings when Secretary called around to other townships for Supervisor Pay rates. Ralpho Township is currently paying \$50 per advertised meeting to each elected supervisor. That was found to be the lowest in the surrounding area. Most townships were at \$125 on average per meeting.
- Madara/Daubert motioned to have solicitor go ahead with the ordinance advertising process to raise the per meeting stipend for newly elected supervisors to \$125 per meeting. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION

- There was no report from Planning because the meeting will be held the night after the Township Meeting on Tuesday, January 4.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- Madara/Major motioned to pay \$350 appraisal contribution toward the Estate Assessment appeal of Mt. View Associates. Motion carried. This is a prorated contribution in comparison to amount of taxes collected by all involved.
- Solicitor updated the board that he has sent a letter to Chief Appel to get the ordinance for Killed in Action changed. There will be an update on this in the near future.
- Madara/Daubert motioned to deny a request by taxpayer RS for 2003 to 2008 Occupational Tax and Per Capita Tax to be reimbursed. Motion was unanimous.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Engineer was absent from meeting for personal reasons.
- Supervisor Madara read Engineers Report.
- Cancer Care Center is still in the process with them reviewing.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

- Madara/Major made a motion to pay any regular bills that come in after meeting date because of early meeting for the month of January. Motion carried.
- Madara/Major made a motion to adopt Resolution 2011-01 Consider that waives employee contributions to the Police Pension Fund for the calendar year 2011. Motion carried.
- Secretary was asked to give information to Klebon Insurance, Gannon and one other company to quote us for our renewal on March 5, 2011. Solicitor will give secretary info from Locust Township vendor. These proposals will be reviewed at the February meeting.

CITIZEN INPUT – none

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 8:33 p.m. on Major/Daubert motion and carried.

An executive session was held after the meeting for personnel issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary