

MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - FEBRUARY 8, 2011
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St, Elysburg, PA.

Chairman Edward Payeskie called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Chairman Payeskie 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, Township Engineer Michele Auckerman, Police Chief Stu Appel, Roadmaster Howard Shaddock, Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Debra Eliason from the *Shamokin News Item*; Kim Potter, Gannon & Associates; Jeff Kyle, DGK Insurance and Brad Klebon, Klebon Insurance Group; and 1 interested citizen.

Insurance renewal proposals were presented by Kim Potter of Gannon and Associates; Jeff Kyle of DGK Insurance; and Brad Klebon of Klebon Insurance Group. The board asked that the Township Secretary send each of the Insurance Agents copies of the proposals from all of those agents in attendance and by Friday, February 18, each of them provide a letter to the Township stating why their insurance coverages are best for the township with rules being none of the premiums would be able to change with the exception of additional cost or deduction for a coverage included or not included in the initial proposal. From that the board will be able to decide what coverage is best for the Township. A special meeting will be held on February 22 at 7:30 p.m. to make a decision on the insurance renewal.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

Minutes of January 3, 2011 regular monthly meeting and reorganizational meeting were accepted as presented on Daubert/Madara motion and carried.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- An invitation to the 2011 Township Supervisors Breakfast on February 17, 2011 was received. Supervisors will let secretary know if she is to RSVP for them.
- Letter was received from Contract Crushing/Construction of Cogan Station, PA as required by the 1990 Clean Air Act. They are applying for DEP General Plan approval and General Operating Permit (GP-3, for Portable Nonmetallic Mineral Processing Plant and GP-9, for Diesel or No.2 Fuel-fired Internal Combustion Engines) to construct and operate at Corson Quarries, Bear Gap Stone Division located in Ralpho Township. They are planning to help the quarry crush stone to keep up with their customer's needs.
- DEP letter was received for final report on Swank Site for Shamokin Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority.
- Complimentary letter was received from Roland & Barbara Holvey for the excellent job the street crew does keeping road and streets clean and clear.

- Tax Collector Charlene Zeigler was exonerated from further collections on the 2010 tax duplicate on Madara/Wetzel motioned and carried.
- 2010 Annual Investment Reports for pensions were received from TCG Investment. They are available for review in the Township Office.
- DEP Notification of Possible Re-designation of South Branch Roaring Creek was received.
- DEP water obstruction and encroachment inspection report was received for location 1100 feet north of Somerset Ave from the intersection with W Center Street. Owner is Vince Guarna. It was noted that he failed to obtain a Chapter 105 permit, failed to operate or maintain permitted project, failed to maintain valid permit, failed to implement erosion and sediment control plan. Upon arrival onto the site it was noted that fill has been placed over the bank and deposited into the floodway. Some of the fill is within 20 feet of Pocohantas Creek. This area also contains a detailed floodway from FEMA which will govern the determination of the exact floodway. The drainage area to the site is just under 5 square miles. During conversations with the owner it was mentioned that some of the fill was existing upon purchasing the property several years prior. Currently the site is covered with snow so an accurate determination of the extent of the violation is unknown. Upon spring thaw a determination of the corrective actions will need to be assessed and corrective actions taken to bring the site into compliance.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING – Chairman Harvey Boyer

- Wetzel/Madara motioned to approve Richard & Margaret Thomas Final Add-on Subdivision with the additional note added, motion carried. A note shall appear on the subdivision plan indicating that the add-on-subdivision is “not for development” and shall further indicate to whom the add-on subdivision is to be conveyed. The note shall also include a statement that the residue lot, after subdivision, meets the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 27). Owner may pick up plans and add this to the plans as a sticker or they may reissue new plans with this additional note added. When this is completed the plans will be signed by the Board of Supervisors.
- Shamokin Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority was discussed.
- Campground ordinance was discussed at the last two meetings and will be discussed further.

STREET DEPARTMENT – Payeskie

- Madara/Major motioned to send Roadmaster Shadduck and employee Wayne Horne to a Spring Road Maintenance workshop on March 22 at Point Township Municipal Building. Motion carried.
- There was a discussion on using ashes compared to using screenings/anti-skid. Fly ash is currently \$8.50 per ton and screenings are currently \$5.49 per ton. The logistics for the 2 materials were also discussed. Supervisor Madara/Daubert motioned to go ahead and transition from fly ash to screenings once the fly ash supply is exhausted. Motion carried.
- Major/Madara for the Roadmaster to initiate contact with City of Shamokin for the street sweeper as we had last year. Motion carried.
- Roadmaster Shadduck stated that there are some radio problems within the equipment but he has learned that those radios will need to be replaced by January 2013 per new MHz regulations being brought forward by the Federal Government.

BUILDINGS – Daubert

- None

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Madara

- Madara/Payeskie motioned for Chief Appel to order police cruiser for \$23,170 and to pay for it out of the equipment fund. Motion carried.

ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT – Daubert

- No permits were issued during January. Several occupancy permits were issued and officer is proceeding with criminal investigation.

RECREATION - Wetzel

- What temperature the heat is set on the in the gym was discussed. Mr. Wetzel will look into programming the thermostat to start heating earlier for instance on a full Sunday of games.

RECYCLING – Major

- Recycling of electronics was discussed. Madara/Wetzel motioned to allow Jason Sankowski to set up one day per quarter to collect electronics at the recycling center in the township. Motion carried. Possibly to start in April.
- Clothing recycling was discussed and the supervisors are not in favor of this.
- Supervisor Major reported on how the recycling program has done over the last 6 months.

MANAGER’S REPORT

- Manager Springer reported that since the new boiler has been in the building there has been a 24% savings in gallons of fuel oil purchased.
- Water fountain in the gym is still in disrepair and the parts are on backorder. Mr. Shadduck and Mr. Springer will look into the repairs or look into purchasing a new one.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

- Madara/Wetzel motioned to sign the amendment to the Police Collective Bargaining Contract where Act 51 for the Killed in service benefit to now be funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Motion carried.
- Major/Wetzel motioned to approve solicitor to advertise to change the pension ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.
- Hearing was held for Ordinance #175 to change the stipend for the supervisors to attend advertised meetings to \$125 for any newly elected or appointed supervisors. Ordinance was adopted on a Madara/Major motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- Wetzel/Major motioned to raise Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board, Municipal Authority of Ralpho Township stipend for all board members to a \$75 per advertised meeting. Motion carried. Supervisor Payeskie abstained from voting.
- Wetzel/Major motioned to allow Municipal Authority of Sunnyside Overlook to raise board members stipend to \$75 per advertised meeting. Motion carried. Supervisor Daubert and Supervisor Madara abstained from voting.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

- Continuing to monitor progress at Cancer Care Center site.
- West Ave and Grande Ave drainage problem was discussed
- Hillcrest Drive drainage issue was discussed.
- Mill street gym parking lot and pavement was discussed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Daubert/Madara motioned to appoint Chet Mowery to the Municipal Authority of Sunnyside Overlook for the term that is open through December 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Fire Chief Harvey Boyer stated that along with what Roadmaster Shadduck said the radios of Fire Company and Ambulance Service will also need to be updated to 800 MHz per the new regulations brought forward by the Federal Government prior to January 2013. He also wanted to inform the Township that the department does have a checks and balance system set up so that the negative things are not happening here as they have in other near by companies. He also thanks the street department for the help with the recent fire for help with safety on the scene for the volunteer firemen. He also discussed that the volunteers are becoming less and less with the Company. Mr. Boyer and Blaine Madara, Jr. are looking into designing a Fire Cadet Program for a weekend in the summer and try to spur some interest in the local fire company. Mr. Boyer also discussed a possible project the fire company is actively pursuing. Ambulance Manger Matthew Siko has secured a grant for a special equipment purchase. With great intention they plan to purchase a box utility trailer to be used for a mobile first aid care unit and in many other ways for the company.
- Wetzel/Madara made a motion to release \$1,500 from both the Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plan to pay actuarial/consulting fees to Trollinger Consulting group. Carried Unanimously.
- Wetzel/Major motioned to adopt resolution 2011-02 Order of Succession Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.
- eCode360 and Code Supplements were discussed.
- Exotic Animal Ordinance was brought up again and the supervisors do not choose to re-visit it at this time.

Supervisor Payeskie took this time to thank the Street Department and Police for the good care of the Township over the past month with the weather circumstances.

Supervisor Madara made a motion to appoint Larson Designs as the Township Engineer for 2011 and Supervisor Major seconded the motion. Motion carried with Supervisor Payeskie voting against.

Michele Auckerman, Uni-Tec Engineering, was thanked for her services over the past years. The board wanted to make sure that she knew that her work was appreciated within the Township and Township Manager Springer would be forwarding a letter to her firm to inform them this decision was not based on her work with the township.

CITIZEN INPUT – none

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 9:22 p.m. on Daubert/Wetzel motion and carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary