

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS SPECIAL MEETING AND
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - APRIL 12, 2011
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St, Elysburg, PA.**

Chairman Edward Payeskie called special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

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 Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Donald Spotts Jr. EMA Coordinator; Elysburg Fire Company Chief Denny Kroh; Elysburg Fire Company Assistant Chief Harvey Boyer; Ralpho Fire Company Assistant Chief Al Knerr, 3 other members of the Elysburg Fire and Ralpho Fire Company.

Special Meeting was held with Elysburg Fire Company, Ralpho Fire Company and EMA Coordinator. Chairman Payeskie asked that they attend prior to our regular meeting to just talk about the fire company's future plans and discuss how things are going. He asked that if they are in the thinking stages of purchasing any equipment in the future to please come to the supervisors and make them aware in the very early stages. Chairman Payeskie thanked them all for coming to the meeting.

911 Center follow-up was discussed at this point instead of later under Old Business on the agenda. Chief Kroh said they have not received any updates and he will stay on top of the issue. He plans to attend the next commissioners meeting.

Regular meeting started at 6:38 p.m.

Other regular meeting attendees Code Officer Howard Howal, Township Engineer Justin Keister (*arrived at 6:50 p.m.*), Police Chief Stu Appel, Roadmaster Howard Shaddock, Planning Commission Chairman Harvey Boyer; Debra Eliason from the Shamokin *News Item*; Ryan Rhode and Scott Keefer of Great Valley Consultants; and 5 interested citizens.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

Stone bids were opened, tabulated and considered (see tabulation sheet). Madara/Daubert motioned to give the bid to the most qualified bidder. Township Manager and Township Solicitor will review and make a decision on the most qualified bidder. On the question: award is contingent upon bid meeting all legal, bonding and insurance requirements. Motion unanimously approved.

Bids for 1996 Ford F-350 truck were opened. Madara/Wetzel motioned to accept the apparent high bid of Jim Swank of \$4,555.50. Motion carried.

Minutes of March 8, 2011 regular monthly meeting were accepted as presented on Daubert/Wetzel motion and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT was accepted as presented on Major/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 was received from the residents of West Mill Street requesting help from the Township Supervisors and Roadmaster with the deteriorating parking lot at fitness center located on West Mill Street. Township Manager Springer and Roadmaster Shaddock were asked to meet with Gym Owner and Solicitor Kerstetter will follow up on code that will help with this matter.
- \$140,220.40 liquid fuels tax fund payment and \$18,960 road turnback annual maintenance payments were received on April 1, 2011.
- Sandy Tharp thank you to maintenance department for a job well done on Emworth Avenue was read.
- Major motioned and Daubert seconded to release \$2,500 budgeted to Ralpho Township Youth Sports. Motion carried.
- 2010 Annual Investment Reports for the Police and Non-Uniformed pension plans are available for review in the Supervisor's Office.
- PennDot letter informing us of debris removal on SR 0061/0250/0000 was received.
- Karen Appel thank you was received and read.
- A follow-up letter was received from Uni-Tec. Thanking the township for allowing them to be the township engineer from 1992 through 2010. They would be happy to have Michele Auckerman follow through on any projects that she is already involved in and they ask that we think of them in the future for our engineering needs.
- 2010 Census Summary Profile was received.
- Madara/Wetzel motioned to adopt resolution 2011-03 noting that Local Government Week April 11-15, 2011. Motion carried.
- Letter was received from DEP in regard to reimbursement for SEO fees. Secretary was asked to follow up with Township SEO Bill Brior.

Chairman Payeskie filled in the board on his visit with Representative Kurt Masser in regard to the Pennsylvania State Sportsmen's Association lawsuit against Valley Gun and Country Club. At this point the township is not involved, but should watch it closely because we do not want this to leave our community. He will update further in the future.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING – Chairman Harvey Boyer

- Madara/Daubert motioned to give conditional approval to the Shamokin Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvement Final Project at the recommendation of the Planning Commission pending a letter from the Solicitor of the Authority providing his legal opinion that fee simple title has been acquired for all real property within the project. Motion carried. Secretary will send them a letter stating they will also be required to set up a \$5,000 construction review escrow account with the Township as well as have appropriate financial security and pay the appropriate building permit fees.

Harvey Boyer, Assistant Fire Chief, updated the board on Fire Cadet Weekend that the Elysburg Fire Company is sponsoring on June 25 and 26th. There will be professionals from many different organizations in attendance. They are hoping for 30 cadets to attend, right now there are 17 participants signed up.

STREET DEPARTMENT – Payeskie

- Discussion of purchasing a truck at this point for the street department is on hold.
- Roadmaster Shaddock informed the board about the water main replacement on Hemlock Lane.
- Prison trash detail was discussed and Roadmaster Shaddock will look into getting us on the list to have them come to help out in the township.

- Roadmaster discussed purchasing a multi-use trailer 5'x8' for pickup for \$996. Payeskie/Madara motioned and motion carried.
- What streets/roads that will be paved and or chip and sealed will be discussed further at the May meeting after receiving further estimates from our regional PenDot representative.

BUILDINGS – Daubert

- Supervisor Daubert explained to the board that the ORKIN quote received for pest control in the municipal building was higher than our current vendor for pest control.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Madara

- Solicitor Kerstetter discussed the Bath Salts Ordinance the board had before them. Wetzel/Daubert motioned to advertise the ordinance contingent upon the Solicitor's decision after talking with our local Representative Masser on if the state has moved forward on this. Motion carried.
- Chief Appel discussed the PennDot required traffic signal maintenance with the supervisors. Our current vendor is no longer able to do our service. This service is to be done annually. Madara/Wetzel motion to use TRA Electric to service our street light. Motion carried. Chief Appel will contact TRA Electric.
- A collective bargaining request from the Police Officers Association was received. Chairman Payeskie appointed a committee of Township Manager Springer, Supervisor Madara and Supervisor Major to start this process. He would also like them to work on a contract with Chief Appel.
- Chief Appel will give language to the Solicitor to add two stop signs to the ordinance. It will be brought forward at the next meeting by the solicitor.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT – Daubert

- 13 permits were issued and \$1,073.0 in fees were collected during March. Several occupancy permits were issued.

RECREATION - Wetzel

- Wetzel/Madara motioned to ratify the gymnasium being used for the Derek Crawl Memorial Basketball Tournament on April 2 and April 3. Motion carried unanimously.
- The playground bathrooms will be opened Thursday, April 14 at 9 a.m.
- Township Resident Chris Fox passed away recently and his family asked that donations be sent to the Ralpho Township Gymnasium. To this point of \$790 have been received. He really enjoyed playing basketball at the gym and they would like the funds to go toward the gym. At next meeting Supervisor Wetzel will update the board on what the money can be used for. They would also like to purchase a plaque in his honor.
- The playground carpet mulch will be delivered 4/14 and Northwest will help to spread it Saturday, April 16th starting at 7:30 a.m. with a rain date of Saturday, April 23. Wheel barrows will be needed along with any volunteers who are able to help out.
- Wetzel/Major motioned to allow Family Fun Day held by Christian Missionary Alliance Church June 16th in Municipal Parking Lot. Motion carried. Church will need to provide certificate of insurance along with a signed release.

RECYCLING – Major

- Central Susquehanna Soccer Club will have a clothing drop off on Saturday, May 21st after the Ralpho Township Business Association Spring Garage Sale Day at the Recycling Center. They will also hand out flyers the week prior. Major/Madara motioned to allow them to use the area. Motion carried.

- Two of our 3 dumpsters that the Township owns are in disrepair. Jeff's Recycling will be trying to repair the glass dumpster in the near future. It is possible that the dumpster will need to be replaced in the next 4 or 5 months. Manager Springer noted that the dumpster was purchased with grant funds from DEP so we would need their permission if we choose to dispose of it.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Worker's Comp for volunteer firefighters was discussed. Wetzel/Madara motioned to have Solicitor Kerstetter work up a resolution to help to make sure we have correct coverage in the future for our volunteers. Motion carried.
- Manager discussed the requirements DCNR would like us to follow along with the requirements to get the grant. Engineer stated that it could cost up to \$6,000 in engineer and architecture fees to get all things they are requesting just to apply for the grant with no assurance of getting a grant. The board decided to go ahead and apply by the deadline as we have in the past and look into possible ways of raising funds to update the floor and bleachers in the gymnasium if the grant is not awarded to Ralpho Township.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- Police officers snow plowing was discussed. It was decided that in the interests of the Township it is best to not have them help out.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Justin had an opportunity to review drainage in Vista West and met with Roadmaster at the site. He thinks the Roadmasters' plan will lead to the least disturbance of the properties.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The exotic animal ordinance will be discussed again next month after Chairman Payeskie does some more research.
- 911 Center follow up was discussed earlier in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- PSATS Trustees Insurance Fund is pleased to inform us that there will be a 5% DECREASE in premiums for our Group Dental Insurance coverage from May 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011.

CITIZEN INPUT – none

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 9:18 p.m. on Madara motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary