

MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING - MAY 10, 2011
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St, Elysburg, PA

Chairman Edward Payeskie called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Chairman Payeskie congratulated the Federal Government on the good work that has been done in the past weeks to fight terrorism.

Attending were: Supervisors Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie, William Wetzel, Stephen Major and Vincent Daubert. Also attending were: Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Code Officer Howard Howal, Township Engineer Justin Keister (*arrived at 6:50 p.m.*), Police Chief Stu Appel, Roadmaster Howard Shadduck, Planning Commission Chairman Harvey Boyer; Debra Eliason from the Shamokin *News Item*; and 4 interested citizens.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS –

Charles Pinarowicz of 14 Cameron Dr, Elysburg, was at the meeting with pictures of what is happening with water run-off on his property. His pictures show what took place since a new shed was built in his neighborhood. The board and solicitor informed Mr. Pinarowicz that this is a civil issue between neighbors.

Howard Shadduck needed to be dismissed from the meeting early for a family emergency so at this point the street department report was given.

STREET DEPARTMENT – Payeskie

- We are waiting to hear if prison trash detail will be able to help out in Ralpho Township.
- 2011 Paving Project - Madara/Wetzel motioned to authorize advertising 2011 street paving project which includes – base repair and wearing course of West Center Street from Short Street to Horizon Drive; and Southview Drive; tar & chip Sleepy Hollow Lane from municipal line and Richards Road. As an alternate bid base repair on Montour Road. On the question: bides will be opened during regular meeting of June 14. Motion carried unanimously.
- The board gave the go ahead to place a pipe on Richard's Road for drainage prior to tar and chip. Roadmaster will let Chairman Payeskie who is in charge of the street department know when he gets the pricing on the pipe.
- Berks road has deteriorated because of recent heavy rain. Roadmaster will meet with DEP the morning after the meeting.
- Roadmaster Shadduck gave an update on the Hemlock pipe replacement. He is waiting for the close of school to start this project.
- Roadmaster Shadduck informed the board that the sweeper that attaches to the tractor broke while using it today, it is possible the repairs will be near \$1,000.
- There was a discussion about the water drainage problem at West and Grande.

Roadmaster Shadduck was excused after his report.

Minutes of April 12, 2011 special and regular monthly meeting were accepted as presented on Major/Daubert motion and carried.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- Investment Summary Reports for period ending March 31, 2011 are in the Supervisor's office for review.
- A thank you was received from the Ralpho Youth Sports Association for last month's donation of \$2,500 to the program.
- Letter from PennDot regarding the importance of maintaining safety of the traveling public at railroad crossings and also to educate local municipalities of their responsibilities based on current PA Law was received.
- Receipt of final report – Statewide Health Standard Shamokin-Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority from DEP was received.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING – Chairman Harvey Boyer

- There was a lengthy discussion in regard to Cathy Scherer's land development plan "Schererwood Forest". At this time the supervisors are sending it back to the Planning Commission. Chairman Payeskie asked that Engineer Justin Keister, Solicitor Kerstetter and Code Officer Howard Howal attend the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, June 7th.
- Madara/Payeskie motioned to approve the Ralpho Township add-on subdivision. Motion carried unanimously.
- Madara/Wetzel motioned to accept with regret Ralph Renn's resignation from the Planning Commission. Motion carried. Secretary will send a letter of thanks to him for his service.

BUILDINGS – Daubert

- A system check on the boiler was discussed and it was decided that Supervisor Daubert will get a vendor to check over the system during the summer.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Madara

- Chief Appel publicly commended Officer Christopher Grow for the work he did in the recent drug investigation in Ralpho Township.
- Supervisor Major thanked the Chief and all the officers for the extra help this past weekend for Relay for Life.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT – Daubert

- 9 permits were issued and \$943.77 in fees were collected during April. Amusement licenses were collected in the amount of \$2,950. Several occupancy permits were issued.

RECREATION - Wetzel

- Mulch and carpet were put down in the playground. Supervisor Wetzel thanked all the volunteers as well as the crew from Northwest Academy that helped. A thank you was sent to Northwest Academy.
- Update on Chris Fox memorials. Supervisor Wetzel was directed to purchase items for the gymnasium. He will update further next month.
- Vandalism to a picnic table in the playground was discussed. At this point we are not going to replace the one that was broken because of the quantity of tables still available.

RECYCLING – Major

- Glass recycling was discussed. Our current vendor Reidingers are not able to accept our glass recycling any further. Coal Township Recycling has agreed to take the glass for right now. Jeff's Recycling will haul it over to them at a cost to the township of \$150 approximately per trip. The glass dumpster will need to be replaced within the next few months. Supervisor Madara will look into the repairs on the dumpster.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Manager Springer was absent from tonight's meeting for personal reasons.
- The board would like Mr. Springer to look into bidding local vendors for our fuel since there was no bid for our tank wagon firm price through the JPC bidding process at the CSIU.
- Mr. Springer is looking into a line of credit for the township and will update further at the next meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- Wetzel/Madara motioned to authorize advertising Ordinance #177 to amend the sign ordinance to add two additional stop signs on Montour Road intersecting West Center; and Happy Valley Road intersecting Bear Hollow Road. Motion carried.
- Wetzel/Major motioned to adopt resolution 2011-04 for Worker's Comp for volunteer firefighters with the addition of the word Bingo added to the resolution. Motion carried.
- Solicitor Kerstetter updated the board on the bath salts state legislation going on and to be before the Governor in early June.

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. It was decided that the adjustments should be according to the original plan for the development.
- A memo was received from Michele Auckerman, Uni-tec Consulting Engineers Inc., in regard to the Cancer Care Center the final inspection. Once the final inspection is performed she will summarize our findings in a letter to the Township.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The exotic animal ordinance will be discussed again next month.
- Sewage Enforcement Office Bill Brior forwarded an update on how the board could change SEO fees to make up for monies not reimbursed by the state. Wetzel/Major motioned to accept the new fees as follows, motion carried unanimously:
 1. New permit. The total fee for a new permit will be \$690. The applicant will pay a fee of \$540 to the Township upon application. The Township will pay the Sewage Enforcement Officer a fee of \$150, which may be reimbursable by the Department of Environmental Protection to the Township.
 2. Repair permit. The total fee for a repair permit will be \$450. The applicant will pay a fee of \$355 to the township upon application. The Township will pay the Sewage Enforcement Officer a fee of \$95, which may be reimbursable by the Department of Environmental Protection to the Township.
 3. Subdivision Work. The cost of all subdivision work will be fully paid by the applicant. The fee is \$540 per lot. If the circumstances of the subdivision work do not clearly fall within a per-lot charge, the charge for sewage testing and inspection services to the applicant will be \$45 per hour.
 4. Excavation Expenses. It is specifically understood that the rates set forth in Subsection 1 through 3 above do not include any costs for excavation or digging.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Madara/Daubert motioned to return 2010-11 stone contract cash bond in the amount of \$3,423.05 to Corson Quarries. Motion carried.
- Chairman Payeskie brought up Christmas decorations for discussion. He would like the secretary and himself to look into possibly purchasing “winter theme” banners to exchange with the existing welcome banners we have up now for the winter months.

CITIZEN INPUT –

Aron Carter, 4 N Scenic Dr, and Jason Reed, 8 N Scenic Dr, came to the meeting to discuss a water problem they are having in their neighborhood on their properties. Chairman Payeskie exchanged phone information with them and will meet with them to check into the problem.

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 p.m. on Wetzel/Major motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary