

MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING - SEPTEMBER 13, 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 asked that all present stand and have a moment of silence in honor of those that lost their lives on 9/11/01 and since that date defending our freedom and country.

Attending were: Supervisors Blaine Madara(*arrived at 6:45 p.m.*), Ed Payeskie, William Wetzel, Stephen Major and Vincent Daubert. Also attending were: Township Manager Joseph Springer(*arrived at 6:55 p.m.*), Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Code Office Howard Howal; Township Engineer Justin Keister (*arrived at 6:45 p.m.*), Planning Commissioner Chairman Harvey Boyer, Roadmaster Howard Shaddock, Debra Eliassen from the Shamokin News Item; and 5 interested citizens.

Bids for 2006 Ford Crown Victoria Police Cruiser were opened. Wetzel/Daubert motioned to accept the apparent high bid of Grace Quality Used Cars, Inc. of \$2,186. Motion carried.

Chairman Payeskie took a moment to thank all those including the street department, police department and fire departments that have helped out in the past days with the flooding crisis in our township and community.

Presentation by Ron Bittner from Trollinger on Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plan was postponed until October 11 meeting.

Minutes of August 9, 2011 regular monthly meeting were accepted as presented on Wetzel/Major motion and carried.

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

Chairman Payeskie stated with the boards agreement he is going to cancel purchasing holiday flags at this time because of the expenses to be incurred with the recent flood crisis. The board was in agreement.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- 2011 Annual Banquet of the Northumberland County Association of Township Officers will be held on Thursday, October 27 at 5:45 p.m. Secretary must report to them by beginning of October how many Supervisors will attend. Supervisors will inform Secretary if they are planning to attend.
- Letter was received from SEDA COG regarding Community Development Block Grant Entitlement. Manager is looking into this with DCED.
- Thank you letter was received from Southern Columbia AYSO.
- Board chose to issue an Employer Statement of Support for Guard and Reserve as PSATS had arranged.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING –

- Wetzel/Madara motioned to give an extension to Danson Subdivision until October 12, 2011.
- Roseview Estates subdivision was tabled until more items can be ironed out between attorneys. This will be brought to the October meeting.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS –

- Jerry Strausser, 280 Hemlock Lane, not present at meeting, but Mr. Payeskie visited with him prior to the meeting, the creek has undermined his property.
- Harry Slotterback, 155 Happy Valley Rd, attended the meeting because of water damage with a stream on his property. He was instructed to contact County Conservation District and they may lead him to DEP for any permitting necessary for clean up or repair.
- Diane Sokol, Airport Road, was present at the meeting to ask for help with flies and smell from the goat farm down the road from her residence in the agricultural zone. The Township has no authority over this issue and she was told she should contact DEP. Code Officer Howard Howal did visit the site.

STREET DEPARTMENT – Payeskie

- Payeskie/Madara motioned to purchase a Poly “V” spreader for the 350 Ford Pickup with Manager Springer calculating where best to pull the funds from. Motion carried with Supervisor Major and Supervisor Wetzel voting against.
- Wetzel/Major motioned to advertise the Huber Maintainer for sale for bid with bids to be opened at October 11, 2011 meeting. Motion carried.
- Flood affected road update:
 - Hickory Street at Roosevelt and East Center is one lane only.
 - Bear Hollow Rd reopened.
 - Sugar Hollow Rd open to emergency vehicles if necessary.
 - Happy Valley Rd reopened.
 - Craze Rd (impassable).
 - Drumheller Rd (impassable).
 - Hower Rd (impassable).
 - Marly Rd at Reading Turnpike is open one lane only.

Mr. Shadduck was dismissed from the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

BUILDINGS – Daubert

- none

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Madara

- Chief Appel wanted to make sure everyone knows what a great job the EMA Director DJ Spotts, Fire Companies and the Street Department have been doing throughout the flooding crisis.

ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT – Daubert

- 6 permits were issued and \$895.00 in fees were collected during August. Several occupancy permits were issued and 2 properties with junk and debris were given warnings, also checked a complaint on MACK farm.

RECREATION - Wetzel

- Vandalism in the playground has decreased since installation of timed lights in back areas.

RECYCLING – Major

- none

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Geisinger Health Plan Renewal was discussed. There is an approximate increase of 8% for the upcoming year. Mr. Springer is going to look into other insurance policies prior to renewal and bring that information to the October meeting.
- Line of credit with M&T Bank is in the process.
- PSATS 457 plan for employees will not move forward at this point because of the administrative fees required.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- none

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Covered earlier in meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- none

NEW BUSINESS:

- Payeskie/Major motioned to give Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson a \$1.50 per hour increase effective September 13, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2012 MMO's – Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans. Motion to approve MMO's as follows: Police Pension Plan = \$37,822 and Non-Uniformed Pension Plan = \$7,273 was made by Madara/Major and motion carried.
- Trick or Treating will take place in Ralpho Township on Monday, October 31 from 6 to 9 p.m.

CITIZEN INPUT – none

There will be an executive session following the meeting for personnel issues.

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 8:55p.m. on Daubert/Major motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary