

AGENDA - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING
February 20, 2007 @ 6:30 PM
Rescheduled from February 13, 2007 because of severe winter storm

Chairman Howard Shaddock called meeting to order at 6:30 PM and led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Responding to roll call were: Supervisors Loyd Horne, Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie, Shaddock and William Wetzel. Also attending were Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Engineer Michele Aukerman, Police Chief Stu Appel, Roadmaster Bill Hoy, Manager Joe Springer and Secretary/Treasurer Joan Baskin. Jim McDeavitt of Col. County Sanitary Inspection Office, several residents and interested parties and a reporter from the Shamokin News Item were present. Code Officer Howard Howal did not attend because of illness.

Shaddock stated that an Executive Session was held on February 6 to discuss personnel matters.

Kim Potter of Gannon Associates gave a presentation on insurance renewals. Total premium to retain the same coverage as last year is \$67,140. An increase in the Work Comp mod because of two significant losses generated an approximately \$4300 increase for that coverage; otherwise costs remained the same or decreased slightly. After briefly discussing the Inland Marine coverage and possible self-insurance Madara/Payeskie motioned to accept the insurance renewal package as presented. Approval was unanimous.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Rick Knoebel, appeared as a member and representative of the Ralpho Township Library Board. Payeskie/Madara motioned to grant the Library permission to join in the DSL internet connection that is already in place in the municipal building. Motion unanimously approved.

Payeskie/Madara motioned to purchase the necessary equipment to install security and firewalls in an attempt to prevent hacking; approval was unanimous.

Wetzel/Madara motioned to grant the library permission to install additional electrical outlets to meet their needs. On the question: this is provided the current wiring will handle more outlets. Further on the question: work will be at no expense to the Township. Approval was unanimous.

MINUTES of January 9, 2007 Regular meeting were approved on Payeskie/Horne motion and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT was approved as presented on Payeskie/Madara motion and carried.

Ralpho has received a grant totaling \$16,977.56 as reimbursement for June 2006 flood damage and expenses. FEMA's share was \$13,010.62; PEMA paid the balance of \$3,966.94.

BILLS LIST –

Purchase of a used stainless steel spreader from Daugherty Township was ratified on Payeskie/Wetzel motion. On the question: the spreader cost \$3,000. Approval was unanimous.

Bills were approved for payment on Horne/Madara motion and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 2006 Annual Investment Reports for both pensions were received. Both pensions continued to show strong growth for the period.
- We have been asked to participate in the 22nd Annual Statewide Weather Exercise on March 15. PEMA is conducting the exercise in conjunction with the National Weather Service and Weather Emergency Preparedness Week.
- Earl Fraley, Sewage Planning Specialist with DEP's Sunbury office sent reminder concerning annual SEO notification.
- Northumberland County Planning Director Ron Marshall forwarded a copy of the County's revised Subdivision or Land Development Application. Note: a section is now included with regard to Sewage Planning. No action required, per Solicitor.
- Ray Latorre, 121 Hemlock Lane, Elysburg wrote commending township employees for the great job in keeping streets open during the recent snowstorm. Mr. Latorre asked Supervisors to consider a ban on outdoor burning. He acknowledged the recycling program but suggested additional publicity is needed.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

STREET DEPARTMENT –WETZEL echoed praises for the great job the Street Department during the recent snowstorm.

- Truck Chassis was ordered January 11, 2007.
- Madara/Payeskie motioned to accept the low proposal of Uni-Tec Consulting Engineers to prepare a GP-11 permit application to submit to DEP for the Happy Valley Road Culvert project. On the question: application is to be prepared for installing two pipes at two crossings. Further on the question: Amount of the proposal is \$2600.00. Motion carried unanimously.
- Street Names/Signs will be considered next month.
- Wetzel/Payeskie motioned to authorize the Solicitor to prepare a resolution to amend our codification to reflect changes in the PSATS CDL Program Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy (Codification Chap 1, Part 10, Section 1008). Motion unanimously approved.
- Secretary was directed to send a letter (including photos) to a property owner along West Center Street advising him of the Township ordinance prohibiting depositing snow from his driveway or property back onto Township streets. Motion made by Wetzel, seconded by Payeskie. Motion unanimously approved.

- Board is also not pleased with how the driveways in Deerfield Development were plowed and snow deposited back onto the streets. Manager was directed to get in touch with their contractor.

BUILDINGS – HORNE

- Flagpole – Horne asked for input from other Supervisors.
- Building Security – Prices will be gotten for three window doors with locking electronic mechanisms for the Township, MART and Tax Collector’s offices.
- Referencing the diminishing cinder pile, Payeskie reminded Board of plans to pave that area and have it marked for parking.
- Horne requested that a sign be posted in the Boiler Room stating who (Supervisor and/or contractor) should be called in the event of a problem with the heating unit.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY –PAYESKIE read the monthly activity report for the department.

Note was made of the County Engineer letter to Ambulance Company re: the weight limit and clearance for Richards Covered Bridge.

ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT – SHADDUCK

SEO – DEP January 19 letter reminding of the need to annually report name of our SEO to DEP.

RECREATION – MADARA – continue to experience problems with playground coin boxes.

RECYCLING – SHADDUCK – drop-off program is underway; publicity will be stepped up when weather improves. Experiencing problems with people co-mingling the various items as well as dropping off material that is not part of the recycling program.

PLANNING COMMISSION

- Revised Heartland Village Prints were not received.
- Vacancy on Planning Commission remains to be filled.
- Proposed revision to the Sign Ordinance will be sent to Zoning Hearing Board members and its solicitor. Their comments, if any, are requested prior to Supervisor’s March 13 meeting.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT: - Nothing to report

ENGINEER’S REPORT: Happy Valley Culvert Permit previously discussed.

MANAGER’S REPORT: The Recycling Report was submitted to the county this week. Madara indicated he would like the Manager to pursue a grant for replacing the gym floor and bleachers when grant funds become available.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Vacancy remains to be filled on MASO
- Annual Statewide Convention will be held in April.
- Wetzel/Madara motioned to hire William Brior from Brior Environmental Services to serve as Ralpho Township's Sewage Enforcement Officer. On the question: alternate SEO will be Bruce J. Dobash from Brior Environmental Services. Further on the question: appointment will take effect immediately. Motion unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ralpho Tax Collector Charlene Zeigler was exonerated from all further collections on the 2006 tax duplicate on Payeskie/Wetzel motion and carried.

CITIZEN INPUT - Nothing

Chairman indicated that an Executive Session will be held immediately following adjournment to consider personnel matters.

ADJOURNMENT – meeting adjourned at 8 pm on motion by Payeskie.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan E. Baskin
Ralpho Township Secretary