

MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 12, 2007 – 6:30 PM

Held Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market Street, Elysburg, PA 17824

Chairman Shadduck called for a moment of silence in memory of departed Supervisor Loyd Horne. Mr. Horne had served the township as an elected Supervisor for more than 17 years and an employee with the street department for approximately 30 years.

Meeting was called to order and Shadduck led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Responding to roll call were Supervisors Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie, Howard Shadduck and William Wetzel. Also attending were Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Engineer Michele Aukerman of Uni-Tec Engineering Consultants, Township Manager Joe Springer, Code/Zoning Officer Howard Howal, Police Chief Stu Appel, Roadmaster Bill Hoy and Township Secretary/Treasurer Joan Baskin as well as approximately twenty-five (25) citizens and interested parties.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Frank Berger asked if Supervisors would accept citizens' input during discussion of proposed revision to the burning ordinance.

Mike Johnston posed similar question concerning proposed sign ordinance.

MINUTES of May 8, 2007 Regular Meeting and May 15, 2007 Special Meeting were approved as presented on Payeskie/Wetzel motion and carried.

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

BILLS were unanimously approved for payment on Payeskie/Wetzel motion.

The following correspondence was accepted into the record:

- **Russell T. and Amber L. Leshinski** wrote expressing concerns about traffic on Kase Street. Rick Deitrick of 3 Heartland Blvd. told of his concerns about heavy traffic on Kase Street. Matter was referred to Police Dept for review and recommendations.
- **Service Electric Cablevision** letter listing rate increases effective w/July statements.
- Rec'd copy of Northumberland County Conservation District approval letter to **Gerald D. Strausser** for the erosion control plan for his stream bank stabilization project.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

STREET DEPARTMENT –WETZEL

- SCI-CT personnel highway litter pickup has been completed.
- Meckley Limestone Products has submitted the required bonds and insurance certificate for the paving project; work should begin the week of June 25.
- John Fisher complaint with runoff problem in Overlook was noted; Roadmaster has inspected the area; nothing further to do at this time.

- Report of 2 areas w/sight problems referred to Police Department.
- Payeskie/Madara motioned to authorize obtaining quotes for street line painting. On the question: a diagram showing proposed layout of parking spaces for parking lots is to be included with each quote. Motion carried unanimously.
- Tar & Chip project is completed.
- Truck is finished; delivery is expected within next couple days; waiting for spreader.

BUILDINGS –MADARA

- New Office doors were ordered.
- Madara/Payeskie motioned to accept the low bid of Randy James for retiling foyer in the amount of \$2130.00. Motion unanimously approved.
- Playground furniture was cleaned w/power washer.
- Madara/Wetzel motioned to ratify selecting Farm & Home Oil Company as heating fuel supplier for the 2007-2008 season. On the question: fixed price will be \$2.27, which is down from \$2.487 this season. Approval was unanimous.
- Awaiting status report on our application to SCI-CT for several painting projects. These include three outdoor hand railings and basement entrance door as well as the recycling dumpsters.
- Hallway floor refinishing project is expected to begin the week of June 18 (following receipt of necessary proofs of insurance).
- Township manager was requested to look into purchasing building numbers that would indicate the new street address for the municipal building.
- Madara/Payeskie authorized advertising for bids to refinish the gym exterior. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY –PAYESKIE reported on activity for the month of May.

- To date, Selective Insurance company has reimbursed \$17,517.00 to cover lightning damage and subsequent replacement of traffic signal. One statement in the amount of \$1503 is under review for possible supplement reimbursement.
- A permit application was presented to cover July 7 fireworks display at Gun Club.
- Payeskie/Madara motioned to institute a Ride-Along Program. On the question: to be restricted to persons interested in the criminal justice or related fields. Further on the question: program will be administered by Police Chief. Motion unanimously approved.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT – SHADDUCK reported that 14 permits were issued and permit fees totaled \$3712.02.

Resolution 2007-05 that establishes a refund policy for certain permit fees was adopted on Payeskie/Wetzel motion and carried.

RECREATION – MADARA noted that workers are sprucing up the playground. Katie Dunkelberger served as spokesperson for the group of youth that presented a petition requesting a skatepark in Elysburg. Secretary was directed to contact our insurance broker for information; Manager was requested to check w/ neighboring municipalities for input and guidance. Madara/Payeskie motioned to increase Ed Blair’s hourly rate from \$8 to \$9 per hour, effective immediately. Motion carried.

RECYCLING – SHADDUCK reported that the recycling program has really taken off, particularly with regard to newspapers. We will shortly be receiving a check for \$180 for the papers we took to Pottsville. Waiting for SCI-CT to schedule dumpster painting project.

MANAGER’S REPORT - SPRINGER

- Gym Access Control System has been installed and is operational. Still needs computer to program and monitor the system; cards need to be distributed.
- Power Washer was purchased
- Rich Parsons is working on township map updates as his schedule permits.
- Preliminary work continues on recreation grant application for new gym floor and bleachers.
- Applications for the DEP 904 Recycling Performance Grants are now available. Utilizing information gathered from recycling reports for 2006, our application will be prepared and filed to meet the October 1 deadline.

PLANNING COMMISSION did not meet in June - lack of quorum.

- Vacancy remains to be filled

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

- Sign Ordinance - Solicitor convened public hearing on proposed Ordinance 163 that would amend the sign regulation section of the zoning ordinance. Code Officer Howal offered brief comparison between existing sign ordinance and the proposed changes.

The following persons addressed the matter:

Doyle Horne was told that the current signs at Crystal Ann’s Creations would be grandfathered so long as they are in good condition. When they are replaced, the new sign must conform to the 32 square feet standard.

Howal explained to **Larry Wehry** why Spectrum Technologies is allowed to have two signs.

Marty Early, Mike Johnston, Sr., Larry Wehry and the Pastor of St. Marks’ Church all asked the Supervisors to reconsider the total sign area allowed for their church sign to enable them to erect their new, already-purchased sign.

Following the above lengthy discussion and deliberation by Board members, Wetzel/Shadduck motioned to adopt Ordinance 163 as advertised. Approval was unanimous.

- Burning Ordinance – Solicitor had been requested to review current burning ordinance and make a recommendation that would be less stringent than what had been proposed by Planning Commission. Solicitor suggested that burning be permitted on two days only, rather than the present three day limit. Following lengthy discussion, Payeskie/Wetzel motioned to refer the matter back to the Planning Commission with a request to: (a) review footage; (b) name developments; (c) list days. Motion carried 3-1, with Madara abstaining.
- Resolution 2007-06 that lists Changes to Street Names to Implement the Enhanced 9-1-1 Public Safety Program was adopted on Payeskie/Madara motion and carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

- Deerfield Development Stormwater detention basin design was reviewed. Engineer's report explained the work needed that would permit the basis to accept an additional 6 cubic feet per second.
- Sunoco – McDowell - Requested guidance from DEP concerning obtaining parcel.
- Happy Valley /Sugar Hollow DEP permit received

OLD BUSINESS:

- Deerfield – Cardell – developer is waiting for an estimate from second contractor; work is expected to be completed in June; they will let us know when work is scheduled.
- Payroll Direct Deposit – Wetzel/Shadduck motioned to offer direct deposit for payroll checks to all interested employees. On the question: payroll account will be switched to PLGIT who offers this service free of charge. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The recent death of Loyd Horne has created a vacancy on the Board of Supervisors. Remaining Supervisors have thirty (30) days to appoint a replacement; failing that, the Vacancy Board has an additional fifteen (15) days to fill the slot. Letters of interest will be accepted until Monday, June 25th to fill the vacancy on the Supervisors' Board.

CITIZEN INPUT – Nothing offered.

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM on a motion by Payeskie

Respectfully submitted,

Joan E. Baskin, Secretary