

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2007 – 6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- Chairman Howard Shaddock called meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

Responding to roll call were: Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie, Howard Shaddock, Joe Shirvinski and William Wetzel. Also attending were Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Engineer Michele Aukerman from Uni-Tec Consulting Engineers, Police Chief Stu Appel, Code Officer Howard Howal, Township Manager Joe Springer, Roadmaster Bill Hoy, Township Secretary/Treasurer Joan Baskin and approximately a dozen citizens.

Chairman stated that an executive session was held immediately prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel problems.

A certificate was presented in memory of the late Loyd G. Horne acknowledging his long-time service as township supervisor and employee as well as volunteer fireman. A memorial contribution was also accepted by Mrs. Pat Schultz, President of the Ralpho Township Library Board.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Dick Knoebel and Dave Gonzales of Larsen Design Group explained the planned 2-lane bridge and roadway in the floodplain. Wetzel/Madara motioned to authorize issuing a Consistency Letter stating that the plan as presented meets and is consistent with all our ordinance requirements. Approval carried 4-0 with Payeskie abstaining because of his employment with Mr. Knoebel.

Pension Consultant Ron Bittner from Trollinger Consultants, Inc. gave a brief recap of the pensions' performances for calendar year 2006; both plans continued to grow and remain financially sound.

CONSIDER MINUTES of July 10, 2007 Vacancy Board Meeting and Regular Meeting were accepted on Madara/Shirvinski motion and carried.

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

BILLS were approved for payment as Payeskie/Shirvinski motion and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- **Howard Howal and Joseph Springer were designated as Ralpho Township's contacts for the Northumberland County Planning Commission SALDO Revision Project.**
- **Financial statements** for year ended December 31, 2006 were received for both pension plans. Both plans continued to grow during the period. Reports for the 2nd quarter of 2007 show continued signs of growth.
- **PaDOT** acknowledged our request for speed study on SR 2018; they anticipate conducting the study in the next 45 days.
-

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

STREET DEPARTMENT –WETZEL

- Line painting – to be scheduled with contractor.
- Payeskie/Madara motioned to purchase radio for new truck. On the question: Springer and Roadmaster to handle. Motion unanimously approved.
- Happy Valley Road pipe replacement is complete. Sugar Hollow Road pipe replacement will be done next year.
- Disposal of the old traffic signals and control box will be looked into.
- Madara/Shirvinski motioned to advertise old spreader for sale on the PSATS web site. On the question: deadline for bids the end of September. Further on the question: “Best Offer” will be accepted. Motion approved unanimously.
- Old truck will be kept; Payeskie went on the record as wanting to sell it.
- Payeskie/Shirvinski motioned to ask PaDOT to do the following additional traffic studies: (1) consider traffic signal at Market & Center Streets; (2) consider traffic signal at Route 487 and Knoebel Boulevard; (3) marking a “Right Turn Only” at present signal for traffic traveling South and turning Right off SR 487 onto SR 54 traveling West to Danville, and (4) adding additional left turn lane from Route 54 onto Route 487 traveling South toward Paxinos. Motion carried unanimously.

BUILDINGS – SHIRVINSKI & MADARA

- New Office doors were received by the lumber company; will be installed soon.
- Hallway floor retiling project – contractor given until October 15 to complete projects.
- Student Community Service - Shirvinski to look into getting students to help the township in various capacities.

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

- Properties – Sight problems being handled by Police Chief.
- Payeskie/Wetzel motioned to enact a ban against outdoor burning “until further notice” due to dry weather conditions. Motion carried unanimously.
- Roadmaster was asked to get prices for fencing to make an outdoor impound lot approximately 25’ x 25’.
- Chief working on drawing up a Ride Along Program.

ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT – SHADDUCK reported that 12 permits were issued and \$2340.80 collected in permit fees. In addition, several occupancy permits were issued along with a citation for burning violation.

RECREATION – MADARA

- Street Department personnel will look into removing the dead tree from playground.
- Manager Joe Springer was asked to draw up and maintain a log covering maintenance of all playground equipment.
- Payeskie/Wetzel motioned enacting a policy for gym use and a form letter with a copy of the policy for distribution to all persons who are being issued gym access cards. Motion carried.

RECYCLING – SHADDUCK reported that a third dumpster has been delivered and we will soon be able to accept green glass.

MANAGER’S REPORT - SPRINGER reported as follows:

- Cards must be distributed for the gym access control system.
- Sample map from Rich Parsons being reviewed; awaiting cost estimate for map copies.
- Working on recreation grant – DCNR advises filing deadline would be April 2008.
- Gym exterior refinishing – local contractor advised against vinyl siding. Roadmaster told the Board that he has learned that SCI-CT prisoners do projects such as this.
- Working on 904 Recycling Performance Grant – filing deadline is October 1st.
- Madara/Wetzel motioned to authorize a ten (10) year extension of our current non-exclusive agreement with Service Electric Cablevision. Approval was unanimous.

PLANNING COMMISSION

- Vacancy remains to be filled
- Burning Ordinance – lengthy discussion on pros and cons of allowing burning. Speaking on behalf of the Planning Commission, *Charles Schultz* said it remains the recommendation of the Planning Commission that burning be banned entirely or severely curtailed so it will eventually go away on its own. *Dennis Wydra of Circle View Drive* is in favor of keeping the current Township ordinance. *Frank Berger of North Market Street* said there is absolutely no benefit in burning. Permits could be issued for special exceptions.
- Payeskie/Shadduck motioned to authorize the solicitor to draw up a zero tolerance burn ban for consideration. Motion carried 4-1 with Madara opposed.
- Signing the Sewage Facilities Planning Module Application Mailer in the name of Shane Gemberling was authorized on Wetzel/Madara motion and carried.
- As recommended by the Planning Commission, the minor subdivision of Arthur J. and Mary Jane Klemick was approved on Wetzel/Shirvinski motion and carried.
- Minor subdivision and Component 1 Sewage Planning Module with Residual Tract Building Waiver for Richard R. and Margaret N. Thomas was approved as recommended by the Planning Commission on Madara/Payeskie motion and carried.
- Minor subdivision and Component 1 Sewage Planning Module with Residual Tract Building Waiver for Joseph G. and Linda L. Hager was approved on Wetzel/Payeskie motion and carried. On the question: Planning Commission recommended approval.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

- Kase Street – “One Way” Ordinance will be ready for September meeting.
- Ordinance establishing speed limit on Bear Hollow Road will be ready for September meeting.

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

- Fine Line Homes completed the Deerfield Development rip-rap restoration project.

- Detention Basin – additional stormwater could be routed to the detention basin through a 70-foot section of 12-inch pipe installed at a 2.5% slope, with a small berm. Secretary was asked to make Fine Line Homes aware of the need to do this work.
- During the course of the Happy Valley Road culvert replacement, engineer consulted with DEP and determined that the apron did in fact need to be constructed with R-5 rip-rap.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Payroll Direct Deposit – in progress
- Meadow Brook Manor residents Cheryl Mazeikas and Jack Clauser again explained their request for cleaning out the ditch along North Scenic Drive. Supervisors will visit the site to determine what can be done.
- Vacancy needs to be filled on MART
- William Henry, owner of the used car lot on Bottle Drive, was cited for paving too great an area; legal proceedings were begun before the Magistrate.
- Madara/Payeskie motioned to have Flemings Nursery trim the shrubs around the Municipal Building.
- Secretary was directed to set up a meeting between County Commissioners and Communications Dispatch Center and Supervisors, Ralpho Fire Chiefs and EMA Coordinator.

NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor Joe Shirvinski agreed to head a committee to commemorate Ralpho's 125th anniversary which falls on February 5, 2008.

An Executive Session will be held immediately following this meeting to discuss personnel issues.

CITIZEN INPUT

Nothing further.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be transacted, meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM on Payeskie's motion.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joan E. Baskin
Ralpho Township Secretary**