

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2007 – 6:30 PM**

Held in Municipal Building Gymnasium, 206 S. Market Street, Elysburg, PA 17824

Chairman Howard Shadduck called meeting to order at 6:30 PM and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Responding to roll call were Supervisors Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie, Howard Shadduck, Joseph Shirvinski and William Wetzel. Also attending were Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Engineer Michele Aukerman, Police Chief Stu Appel, Roadmaster Bill Hoy, Township Manager Joseph Springer, Code Officer Howard Howal and Secretary/Treasurer Joan Baskin along with approximately 40 residents.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Burning issue discussed at length until approximately 8 PM.

Attorney Robert Dluge presented packet of petitions urging Supervisors to not affect a total burn ban.

Charles Shultz, Circle View Drive, spoke against burning. Current ordinance is difficult to enforce; why not try banning burning altogether.

John Miller has nine (9) acres and told of problems disposing of tree limbs if he can't burn them.

Bob Weaver, Overlook asked why are residents of Sunnyside and Overlook included with Elysburg? "One size doesn't fit all".

Allen Madara believes that as a realtor, Mr. Shultz has a conflict of interest in this matter.

Mark Talarovich, 4 Horne Drive, said the ordinance is good – the problem is enforcing it.

Supervisor Ed Payeskie clarified an issue by pointing out that the Supervisors had requested the Planning Commission (of which Mr. Shultz is a member) for input on the issue of burning.

Linda Madara, Reading Turnpike, agrees the ordinance needs to be enforced.

Attorney Dluge said the latest petitions bring the total number of signers against total burn ban to approximately 600 of the 800 plus registered voters.

Mark Madara, Reading Turnpike said residents need to be able to get rid of limbs and yard waste.

Janet Labusky, Sunnyside, said that if people have to get a trash hauler, those costs would be a burden. She was reminded that everyone should have a hauler since garbage is not to be burned – only specific items can be burned.

Frank Berger, Market Street asked the board to skip to Solicitor's report so the audience will know what action the Supervisors take on the matter.

Solicitor said he is looking for direction from the Board.

After lengthy deliberations, Payeskie/Shirvinski motioned to authorize the solicitor to draft an ordinance for consideration that would make burning a conditional permitted activity. Among the conditions: Burning would not be permitted within 150' from any permanent structure; hours would be limited to Tues, Thurs and Saturdays between 7 AM and 12 Noon.

Additional comments accepted from:

Dennis Wydra, 39 Circle View Drive is in favor of current ordinance.

Ray Walnock, Jeremiah Avenue, asked why penalize everybody; wants to see something that is fair to all citizens of Ralpho Township.

Mickey Reiprish, Overlook said that 150' would eliminate burning in Sunnyside/Overlook.

Dave Hopta, Airport Road doesn't understand why the permit process would make the ordinance more enforceable.

MINUTES of September 11 , 2007 Regular Meeting were approved on Wetzel/Madara motion and carried.

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

BILLS were approved for payment on Payeskie/Wetzel motion, including Randy James. On the question: The \$795 overage for tiles to be withheld from Randy James' check. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE - None:

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

STREET DEPARTMENT –WETZEL

- Line painting project is completed.
- Replacement radio for F450 is installed.
- Old traffic signals and control box – finished business. Secretary will send quarry a thank you letter for their stone donations to Youth Sports and Haunted House.
- Old spreader – received 2 bids from Dan Shingara Enterprises and Mark Bassett both for \$300. Wetzel/Madara motioned to reject both bids and sell the spreader at Jeff's Recycling.
- Job applications – part time helper will be discussed during Executive Session.
- Sight problems – Based on inspection by and information from PennDot, Township will take no action concerning SouthView Drive and Route 54
- Leaf collection schedule – Wetzel/Madara motioned to advertise the schedule. Collections will begin Mon October 15 and run through December 7, weather permitting.

BUILDINGS – SHIRVINSKI & MADARA

- New Office doors will be installed after hallway project is complete. Payeskie/Wetzel authorized Contractor Randy James to do the additional work of staining/hanging doors, installing intercoms, etc. at time and materials.
- Hallway floor retiling and sanding project is completed.
- Student Community Service – three students will be reporting to assist Mr. Howal with the map project.

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

- PennDot replied to our request for additional traffic studies for possibly two additional traffic signals. Estimated installation and engineering costs per signal is \$125,000. No further action at this time.
- Annual allocation for Firemen’s Relief Fund was received. This year’s \$27,575.37 is a \$1645.59 increase over last year. Each Fire Department will receive \$13,787.69.
- Fire Prevention Week Observance is this week; residents are reminded to change the batteries in their smoke detectors and have an escape plan.
- Haunted House (which benefits both Elysburg and Ralpho #1 Fire Companies) will beheld October 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27. Activities begin at 7 PM.
- Status of impound lot - quote for fencing was \$3200.00.

ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT – SHADDUCK – 10 permits were issued and \$1042.68 collected in fees.

RECREATION – MADARA - when the weather dictates, the restrooms will be winterized, signs will be covered, tables and benches stored under cover. Gym activities will be increasing.

125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – SHIRVINSKI – Payeskie/Madara motioned to establish \$5,000 budget for the occasion; motion unanimously approved.

RECYCLING – SHADDUCK reported on the continued growth of the recycling program. Coal Township has agreed to loan us two dumpsters for #1 and #2 plastics and cardboard; they would pay for hauling provided our participation makes it financially prudent for them to do so. In return, Coal Township would retain whatever revenue is generated from these items. Madara/Shirvinski motioned to accept two dumpsters from Coal Township under those conditions; motion approved.

- Dumpster Day – discussion about possibly having two dumpsters in the spring to accept white applicances and limbs, etc. Madara/Wetzel motioned to approve Dumpster Day. Motion carried 4-1 w/Payeskie opposed.

MANAGER’S REPORT - SPRINGER

- Recreation grant – in process.
- Act 904 Recycling Performance Grant was timely submitted to DEP; we should receive \$8478 for material recycled within Ralpho Township during calendar year 2006. .
- Cable Franchise Agreement – to Solicitor for finalizing and advertising.
- Work on website continues.

PLANNING COMMISSION

- Vacancy remains to be filled
- Daniel E. and Antoinette M. Sejut subdivision and Component 1 Sewage Planning Module approved as recommended by Planning Commission on Madara/Shirvinski motion and carried.
- Charles E. and Eleanor M. Leisenring subdivision and Component 1 Sewage Planning Module approved on recommendation from Planning Commission by Wetzel/Madara motion and carried.
- Frances Y. Leisenring subdivision rejected as recommended by Planning Commission on Payeskie/Wetzel motion and carried. On the question: Application was not in compliance with Chapter 22, Section 403.1 (C) of the Ralpho Township Code that states “Where feasible, lot lines shall follow municipal boundaries rather than cross them, in order to avoid jurisdictional problems.”.
- Raymond M. and Mary Ann Snarski subdivision and non-building waiver was approved on Madara/Wetzel motion and carried.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

- Burn Ordinance – discussed previously.
- Cable Franchise Agreement – Payeskie/Madara motioned to authorize advertising amendment to existing ordinance. On the question: to be considered for adoption at November 13 meeting. Motion carried.
- Signing the Conditional Deed of Gift/Army tank at All Home Days grounds was approved on Payeskie/Shirvinski motion and carried.
- Status – William D. Henry – nothing for discussion.

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

- Creekside Development – No formal application has been received by township.
- Maintenance bond for Deerfield Development will expire on March 28, 2008; recommends township crew and supervisors review streets, stormwater inlets, curbing in the near future to ensure no maintenance is needed on these facilities prior to expiration of the bond.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Deerfield – Detention Basin – nothing further at this time.
- Payroll Direct Deposit – in use
- Meadow Brook Manor – awaiting their response.
- Vacancy needs to be filled on MART

NEW BUSINESS:

- Advertising Budget Work session for Tuesday, October 23 beginning at 6:30 PM. was approved on Payeskie/Shirvinski motion and carried.
- Trick or Treat will be October 31 from 6 to 9 PM.
- It was noted that North’d Co. Planning Commission will hold hearings beginning 10 AM on 12/13/07 and 1/10/08 re: 2008 Community Development Block Grant Program.

CITIZEN INPUT

Nothing further.

Board entered into Exec Session at 9:30 PM for personnel matters.

Meeting reconvened at 9:37 PM.

Wetzel/Shirvinski motioned to:

- a) Hire Anthony Stabinski as part-time Street Department worker at hourly rate of \$10.00;
- b) Hire Clinton Herr as part-time, flex Street Department worker at hourly rate of \$10.00 and
- c) Increase hourly rate for current part-time Street Department worker Earl Fetterman from \$9.50 to \$10.50.

On the question: Stabinski's and Herr's appointments are subject to their successfully passing pre-employment drug tests and receiving good driving records back from PaDOT. Motion unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT – there being no further business for discussion, meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM on Shirvinski motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan E. Baskin, Secretary