

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 13, 2007 – 6:30 PM**  
**Held in Meeting Room, 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, 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 and Code Officer Howard Howal along with approximately 30 residents.*

*Chairman Shadduck acknowledged Veterans Day and recognized veterans attending the meeting, both in the audience and on the Board.*

**CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Chairman Shadduck asked Solicitor Kerstetter to review the changes proposed in the Burning Ordinance presented this evening for authorization to advertise.

**Public input on the proposed burning ordinance continued until approximately 7:30 PM.**

**Tom Zarko, Rt. 487**, asked if the proposed ordinance was agreed to by the residents.

**Dave Phillips, Sunnyside**, felt the 150ft limitation was too high and asked if the permitted days could be reduced rather than the limitation increased.

**Russ Carpenter, Leiby Rd.**, asked why there has been such a drastic increase in the distance requirement from 15ft to 150ft.

**Bob Leffler, Leiby Rd.**, noted that the distance requirement would push his burning closer to the neighbor's property than it is to his own.

**Carol Phillips, Sunnyside**, stated that she and her neighbors think that 150ft is too much and would prefer 50-75ft.

Tom Zarko, Rt. 487, stated he felt the addition of recycling was a good move.

**Pat Shultz, Circle View Dr.**, felt the Supervisors were moving in the right direction and asked how the permitting process would work for burning. She also felt the person tending the burning should be within 20ft of the fire.

**Bob Weaver, Overlook**, asked why he should be required to be 150ft from his residence as he has 5 acres and if he burned his house down that would be his problem.

**Andy Slodysko, Overlook**, stated 150ft from his house would put him into the woods. Supervisor Madara pointed out that residents could obtain a one-time permit for burning inside the 150ft limitation.

**Janet Labusky, Overlook**, stated that all the residents in Sunnyside and Overlook want to burn.

**Pete Wasilewski, Reading Turnpike**, asked how far he would need to be from a barn or chicken coop. Chairman Shadduck replied the limitation from unoccupied structure would be 15ft.

**Attorney Robert Dluge, Elysburg**, pointed out that ordinances in other areas worked cooperatively with their residents in developing the burning ordinance. He recommended a distance limitation of 75ft or one based on lot size.

**Charlie Shultz, Circle View Dr.**, asked if the ordinance could include a limitation on burning other people's trash.

**Allen Madara, Penn Ave.**, asked if he needed a permit every time he needed to burn fallen limbs. Supervisor Madara responded that only the initial permit would be required.

**Ann Marie Slodysko, Mountain Rd.**, asked if the Township could have a "shredding day" where equipment would be provided to shred important papers.

**Tom Zarko, Rt. 487**, asked if the Township will be accepting plastic bottles for recycling rather than burning them.

**Ray Walnock, Jeremiah Ave.**, asked how the 150ft limitation was arrived at and pointed out that the Game Commission allows hunting 100ft of from barns and other buildings.

**Carol Phillips, Sunnyside**, asked where the recycled materials are sent.

**Dave Phillips, Sunnyside**, asked if the #1 & #2 plastics need to be separated.

**Scott Kramer, Adams Ave.**, asked how the proposed ordinance would be easier to enforce than the current one.

**Janet Labusky, Sunnyside**, asked why the ordinance had to apply to Sunnyside and Overlook when the complaints seem to come from Elysburg.

**Tom Zarko** stated he thought the burning ordinance would be on the ballot last week and was surprised when it wasn't there.

**Janet Labusky** mentioned that in some areas, they are reducing the Board of Supervisors from five to three.

**Chester Cook, Elysburg**, asked when the ordinance would be voted on. Chairman Shadduck explained the process of adopting an ordinance.

**Scott Kramer** asked if campfires were permitted under the ordinance.

Ann Marie Slodisko asked if fire pits were permissible.

**Robert Katalenas, Ralpho Township**, suggested that Elysburg separate from the rest of Ralpho Township to resolve the conflict.

**Frank Berger, Market St.**, asked about the level of state aid to the pension fund and the change in the future contributions required of the Township.

**Chester Cook, Market St.**, asked how much land is required to build a home. Code Officer Howal recommended attendance at a Planning Commission meeting

**MINUTES** of October 9, 2007 Regular Meeting and October 23, 2007 Budget Work Session were approved on Madara/Shirvinski motion and carried.

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

Supervisor Madara noted that the Township is fiscally sound and Chairman Shadduck echoed his comments noting that the Township has not increased real estate taxes since 1987 while adding 24 hour police protection, beginning a recycling program, providing curbside leaf pickup, revamping street department equipment top to bottom, adding recreation facilities, improving gymnasium facilities and maintaining the Municipal Building.

**BILLS** were approved for payment on Wetzel/Madara motion. On the question: Supervisor Madara clarified that the \$2020.00 to Randy James included \$795 overage for tile previously withheld. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE :**

- Letter of Appreciation from Donald F. Pease family regarding Ralpho Police Department was read.
- Unsigned, undated letter asking to have the recycling hours extended. Also cited problems with mail delivery. Chairman Shadduck noted that he is looking into expanding the Saturday recycling drop-off hours to 1pm. He also noted that the Supervisors have no control over mail delivery.
- Invitation to PennDot Winter Outreach Meeting tomorrow from 1 to 3 PM in Sunbury. Madara/Wetzel motioned to authorized attendance of street department employees and the Township Manager, if available. Motion carried.
- Request for EMS tax advance was read. Madara/Wetzel motioned to advance \$25,000 to the Elysburg Fire Department EMS Unit in accordance with the request. Motion carried.
- Berkheimer wrote advising of impact of Act 7 its changes on the EMST tax. Madara/Wetzel motioned to have the Solicitor prepare an updated Local Services Tax ordinance and advertise a summary. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**STREET DEPARTMENT –WETZEL**

- Deerfield Development – Roadmaster Hoy confirmed that streets, storm water inlets, curbing, etc. were inspected.
- “Children at Play” signs will be put up on Fairview, Madison and Pine.
- A complaint was received from a resident of Kase St concerning the new one-way access and cars moving too fast. The Supervisors discussed putting a stop sign at the intersection of Kase St and Adams Ave (a paper street) but decided to continue to monitor the situation for now.
- Supervisor Wetzel requested an Executive Session before adjournment to discuss a personnel matter.

**BUILDINGS – SHIRVINSKI & MADARA**

- New office doors are installed and stained.
- Student Community Service – students were taken on a tour of what needed to be done and were to get back to Mr. Howal with a schedule. Supervisor Shirvinski will ask at the school to find out when they will be coming.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY –Chairman Shadduck read monthly activity report.**

- Madara/Shirvinski motioned to employ Christopher Grow as a part-time police officer upon his return to the area in December. Compensation will be at the current part-time rate. Motion carried.

**ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT – SHADDUCK** – 18 permits were issued and \$3,858.24 collected in fees. Also, several occupancy permits were issued and Mr. Howal attended a ZHB hearing regarding Knoebel's.

**RECREATION – MADARA** - restrooms were winterized, new tennis nets need to be purchased in the spring. Also, reflective tape will be put on the base of the light standard in the new paved parking area so drivers can avoid hitting it.

**125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – SHIRVINSKI**

- A banner catalog was obtained and Knoebel's offered to make the frames at a lower cost than they can be purchased.
- Shirvinski/Madara motioned to move the February 2008 regular meeting to February 5<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ralpho Township's creation. Motion carried.
- Memorabilia of early Ralpho Township history will be sought from area residents and a special cake will be prepared for the evening before the meeting.

**RECYCLING – SHADDUCK**

- Dumpster Day – will take place either the last Saturday in April or the first Saturday in May. There will be two separate dumpsters – one for metal and white goods, the other for other types of refuse.
- The two containers for plastics and cardboard will be on line very soon.
- Recent recycling receipts include \$55.80 for aluminum and tin cans plus \$162.90 for newspapers and magazines.

**MANAGER'S REPORT - SPRINGER**

- Recreation grant – in process.
- Cable Franchise Agreement – complete pending Board action.
- Work on website continues.
- The keys to the three exterior gym doors have been changed, the old keys will now only open the concession area.
- Township Storage Building – received estimate for \$37,618.95 from Horne Construction for a 36x36 building with two overhead doors. Specifications will be prepared for bid.

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

- Frances Leisenring Minor Subdivision and Sewage Planning Module approved as recommended by Planning Commission on Shirvinski/Wetzel motion and carried.
- Younkin-Seksinsky Minor Subdivision and Sewage Planning Module approved as recommended by Planning Commission on Madara/Wetzel motion and carried.
- Vacancy remains to be filled

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

- Cable Franchise Agreement – The ordinance changes as advertised were reviewed and the public hearing period was opened. **Robert Katalenas** asked about the possibility of collecting the franchise fee from satellite customers. The Solicitor

responded that satellite providers were not covered under the agreement as they do not use the Township right-of-way for their services. Madara/Shirvinsk motioned to adopt the ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

- Status – William D. Henry – would like to cooperate with the Township and will be told he can use the Township Engineer for review of his proposed resolution.
- DEP Litigation – decision will likely come February 2008. The Township is named as a party to the litigation but is not actively involved in it.
- Burn Ordinance – Wetzel/Shirvinski motioned to advertise, in full, the revised Burning Ordinance discussed previously with the following changes:
  - The person maintaining the fire must be within 30 feet of the fire.
  - Burning shall not take place within 20ft of any combustible material or structure.
  - Commercial businesses cannot burn construction materials or anything else in accordance with current DEP regulations.
  - Existing burn barrels that will not be utilized under the revised ordinance must be removed by June 1, 2008.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

- Supervisor Madara asked that the engineer and both authorities receive a copy of the grant notice from Representative Belfanti.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Meadow Brook Manor - complete.
- Vacancy needs to be filled on MART

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Madara/Wetzel motion to authorize advertising and posting proposed 2008 budget. Real estate taxes will remain the same at 4-1/2 mills; i.e. general purposes 3-1/4 mills; fire protection 1/2 mill; equipment 1/2 mill and library 1/4 mill; street lighting depending on location .145; .19; .22 or \$4.48. General Fund anticipated receipts plus carry over from 2007 = \$1,363,243; budgeted expenditures = \$1,359,213 leaving a projected surplus of \$4,030.00. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts plus carry over from 2007 = \$252,593, budgeted expenditures of \$195,445 leaving a projected surplus of \$57,148.00.

Proposed Budget – Authorize advertising re-acting current Act 511 taxes as follows

Per Capita	\$5
Occupation	50%
Real Estate Transfer	1%
Earned Income	1%
LST (formerly EMST)	\$52 on earnings exceeding \$12,000
TV Franchise	2%
Mechanical Amusement	\$50 per machine

Motion carried.

### **CITIZEN INPUT**

**Frank Berger** asked if the part-time police officer approved this evening will be used for controlling speeding in the Township. Chief Appel responded that the addition will allow scheduling the extra officer to enforce all traffic laws including speed limits.

**Robert Katalenas** asked who to contact regarding trespassers on private property. Chief Appel advised to call 911 to dispatch the on-duty police officer. Mr. Katalenas also asked about zoning requirements for a day-care center.

**Pat Shultz** asked, as President of the Ralpho Township Library Board, about key access to the library.

Madara/Wetzel motioned to purchase a Christmas tree for the lobby. Motion carried.

Board entered into Exec Session at 9:05 PM for personnel matters.

Meeting reconvened at 9:20 PM.

Wetzel/Madara motioned to approve a resolution modifying the anti-nepotism resolution to reflect that it applies only to full-time employees. Motion carried.

Shirvinski/Shadduck motioned to employ Doyle Horne as a part-time street worker at a rate of \$10 per hour pending completion of employment requirements.

**ADJOURNMENT** – there being no further business for discussion, meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM on Shirvinski motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Springer, Township Manager