

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 11, 2007 – 6:30 PM**

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

***Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Vice Chairman William Wetzel who led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Responding to roll call were: Supervisors Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie, Joseph Shirvinski and William Wetzel. Supervisor Howard Shadduck was unable to attend because of a family commitment.*** Also attending were Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Engineer Michele Aukerman, Township Manager Joseph Springer, Police Chief Stu Appel, Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer Howard Howal, Roadmaster Bill Hoy, Township Secretary/Treasurer Joan Baskin, along with approximately fifteen (15) residents.

**Payeskie read a statement into the record noting that real estate taxes in Ralpho Township have not been increased since 1987 and they will not be increased for 2008.**

Solicitor Kerstetter convened the hearing on the proposed Burn Ordinance, Ordinance 166. The following offered comments:

**Craig Richards** pointed out that the township's ordinance would be more restrictive than DEP's regulations pertaining to agricultural waste.

**David Kramer** noted that with the 150' limitation, nobody in town would be able to burn.

**Janet Labusky**, of Sunnyside does not feel the 150' requirement is fair.

**Ray Walnock** feels the 150' requirement would cause a fire/safety hazard.

Payeskie/Shirvinski motioned to adopt Ordinance 166, with changes that would permit burning of agricultural waste. Approval was unanimous.

**CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

**Frank Berger** asked about projected deficit in state aid for 2008-2009 pensions.

**MINUTES** of November 13, 2007 Regular meeting were approved as presented on Madara/Shirvinski motion. Because he was absent from November meeting, Payeskie abstained from voting. Motion carried 3-0.

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

**BILLS** were approved for payment as listed, including \$1369.02 additional for Randy James for labor and material for office doors on Madara/Payeskie motion and carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** - None

## **COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

### **STREET DEPARTMENT –WETZEL**

Deerfield Development - Maintenance Bond expires March 28, 2008.

Residents were reminded of the ordinance prohibiting putting snow back on township roads and on or near fire hydrants. Ordinance will be enforced.

Only bagged leaves will be picked up now.

Sue Hoffman and Gary Fitzpatrick told of water runoff problem at their property at 1 Hillcrest Drive. Claims problem was caused during Hillcrest Drive repaving when curbing was installed. Solicitor and Roadmaster agreed to check out the situation.

### **BUILDINGS – SHIRVINSKI & MADARA**

- New Office doors – installation is completed.
- Student Community Service – work with subdivision maps is ongoing; students are working out very well.
- Payeskie/Shirvinski motioned to accept the proposal from Randy James to paint the basement area of the Police Department. On the question: Total for materials and labor is \$900.00. Motion carried.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY –PAYESKIE** read monthly activity report. Payeskie/Madara motioned to authorize replacing the faded decals on driver's side of the Expedition. Approval was unanimous.

**ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT – by Wetzel in Shadduck's absence.** 6 permits were issued; fees collected = \$1485.00. Madara/Shirvinski authorized Township Manager to purchase replacement computer equipment for zoning office at a total price not to exceed \$1000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

**RECREATION – MADARA** – gym floor will soon be redone; roadmaster was asked to check on the men's restroom toilet.

### **125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – SHIRVINSKI**

February meeting will be held on Feb 5<sup>th</sup> ( which is the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month and Ralpho's anniversary) instead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday.

Consideration being given to purchasing banners; running logo contest; having shirts made, etc.

### **RECYCLING – SHADDUCK**

- Dumpster Day – is scheduled for Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Two additional dumpsters – for plastics and cardboard are in use.
- Recycling continues to be very popular, especially for newspapers, magazines and plastics.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT - SPRINGER**

- Recreation grant is in process.
- Awaiting return of Cable Franchise Agreement from SECTV

- Ralpho web site is [www.ralphotownship.org](http://www.ralphotownship.org) and has been updated w/current information.
- Bid package for storage building is being assembled.
- Ownership of the three initial recycling containers has been transferred from Centre County Solid Waste Management to Ralpho Township.
- Annual commercial recycling reporting forms will be mailed to Ralpho businesses in January.
- Payeskie/Madara motioned to have General Code link the Township Code to our website at subscription cost of \$895.00. On the question: Annual costs after the first year will be \$550.00. Motion unanimously approved.

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

- Vacancy remains to be filled
- Grace Independent Chapel - 2 Add-on subdivisions were approved as recommended by Planning Commission on Madara/Shirvinski motion and carried.
- Madara/Payeskie motioned to authorize signing revised sewage planning modules and mailer for Younkin-Sekinski subdivision; motion carried.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT:**

- Status – William D. Henry – Awaiting escrow funding.
- Local Services Tax (formerly Emergency Services Tax) Ordinance No. 167 was adopted on Payeskie/Madara motion. On the question: Ordinance will be amended to specify 75% of the tax will go to ambulance; 25% toward police department. Approval was unanimous.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:** Deerfield and Henry matters already discussed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Vacancy needs to be filled on MART
- Proposed 2008 Budget was posted for public inspection on November 16. Consider adopting 2008 budget as follows: Resolution 2007-07 establishing Real estate taxes for 2008 as follows: general purposes 3-1/4 mills; fire protection ½ mill; equipment ½ mill and library ¼ mill; street lighting depending on location .145; .19; .22 or \$4.48 was adopted on Payeskie/Shirvinski motion and carried.
- Resolution 2007-08 re-enacting current Act 511 taxes as advertised:
 

|                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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                    |

 was adopted on Payeskie/Shirvinski motion and carried.

- Resolution 2007-09 adopting the 2008 Budget was approved on Payeskie/Shirvinski motion. On the question: General Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2007 = \$1,363,243; budgeted expenditures = \$1,359,213 leaving a projected surplus of \$4030.00. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2007 = \$252,593, budgeted expenditures of \$195,445 leaving a projected surplus of \$57,148.00.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Madara/Wetzel motioned to authorize advertising January's Reorganization and regular monthly meeting for Monday, January 7, 2008 beginning at 6:30 PM. Approval was unanimous.

**CITIZEN INPUT - None**

**ADJOURNMENT** – There being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM on Madara/Shirvinski motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan E. Baskin  
Ralpho Township Secretary