

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS REORGANIZATION
AND REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - JANUARY 7, 2008
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market Street, Elysburg, PA.**

Chairman Howard Shadduck called meeting to order at 6:40 and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Shadduck stated that, as mandated by State law and as advertised, this meeting is for Reorganization purposes and the regular January meeting.

Blaine P. Madara and Joseph C. Shirvinski, Jr. presented their Certificates of Election for verification. Notary Public Patricia Janovich administered the Oath of Office to Messrs. Madara and Shirvinski and they took their seats with the Board.

Attending were: Supervisors Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie, Howard Shadduck, Joe Shirvinski and William Wetzel. Also attending were: Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Engineer Michele Aukerman, Township Manager Joe Springer, Code Officer Howard Howal, Police Chief Stu Appel, Roadmaster Bill Hoy, Township Secretary/Treasurer Joan Baskin and Rob Wheary from the *Shamokin News Item*. No citizens attended.

Payeskie led the Board in commending Shadduck for a job well done this past year as Chairman, stating that changing Chairman is merely following past practice of rotating the position every year so each board member has an opportunity to fill that capacity.

Payeskie requested nominations for the Chairman's position. Madara/Shadduck motioned to elect William Wetzel as Chairman; approval was unanimous.

Wetzel entertained motions for Vice Chairman. Shadduck/Madara motioned to nominate Shirvinski as Vice Chairman; Shirvinski declined the nomination.

Shadduck/Madara motioned to elect Payeskie Vice Chairman; approval was unanimous.

Payeskie/Shirvinski motioned to re-appoint the following: Joseph Springer, Township manager, Joan Baskin, Township Secretary/Treasurer; Schelsinger & Kerstetter, Solicitor; Uni-Tec Consulting Engineering Consultants, Inc. as engineers, Forgett & Kerstetter, certified public accountants for auditing services, township depositories, PLGIT and M&T Bank; Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer (any 2 or the 3) as authorized signers for all bank transactions; Charlene Zeigler as Real Estate Tax Certifier and Act 511 tax collector; Berkheimer Associates Tax Collector for Earned Income and LST taxes; Statewide Tax Recovery for delinquent taxes; Howard Howal as Code Enforcement Officer and Uniform Construction Code Officer; Bill Brior as Primary Sewage Enforcement Officer and Bruce Dobash Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer. Motion carried unanimously.

The following re-appointments were made on Payeskie/Marada motion and carried unanimously:

John Yost, one year term on Township Vacancy Board; Ron Balchunas, one year term as EMA Coordinator; Robert L. Dluge, Jr., Esq. one year term as solicitor to Zoning Hearing Board; Mark Lyash, 5 year term to Municipal Authority of Sunnyside/Overlook (MASO), Ted Yeager, 5 year term to Municipal Authority of Ralpho Township; Dave Manney, 3 year term on Zoning Hearing Board; and Howard Howal, 4 year term on Planning Commission.

The following positions remain to be filled:

5 year term on Municipal Authority of Ralpho Township – would expire January 2012;

3 vacant auditor positions (various terms);

4 year term on Planning Commission (to replace Clint Herr – would expire January 2012);

There are existing vacancies on Municipal Authority of Sunnyside/Overlook and Planning Commission.

Chairman Wetzel will announce Committee/Department appointments at February meeting; we'll maintain status quo till then.

Payeskie/Madara motioned to advertise regular monthly meetings for 2008 as the 2nd Tuesday, beginning at 6:30 prevailing time, with the exception of February. February's meeting will be held the first Tuesday (Feb 5) to coincide with Ralpho Township's 125th Anniversary on that date. On the question: Planning Commission's regular meeting at 6:30 the 1st Wednesday and work session at 6:30 on the 2nd Wednesday will be included in the ad. Motion unanimously approved.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – no one in attendance.

MINUTES of December 11, 2007 regular meeting were approved on Payeskie/Shadduck motion and carried.

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

BILLS were approved for payment on Shadduck/Wetzel motion and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ralpho Township Business Association wrote thanking Supervisors for use of meeting room for their monthly meetings.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

STREET DEPARTMENT – **Wetzel** commended Street Department employees for excellent snow plowing - streets are always well maintained.

Deerfield Maintenance Bond expires March 28, 2008.

Hillcrest Drive water runoff will be discussed during Exec Session for possible litigation.

BUILDINGS – Shirvinski and Madara – currently, no major problems.

Madara replaced a support bracket that had come down from gym ceiling this past weekend.

Madara asked either street department personnel or building custodian/groundskeeper to cover the signs that are in the playground to protect them from winter weather.

Citing the need for additional handicapped parking, the police parking spot nearest the handicap ramp will be designated for Handicapped Parking and the police cars can be moved down one slot.

Howal was asked to gather the particulars and report back at February's meeting concerning installation of an automatic door opener for lobby entrance.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY report was read by Payeskie.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT- Shadduck reported that 1 permit was issued and \$540 fee collected during December.

RECREATION – MADARA reported that winter activities are in full swing.

125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – SHIRVINSKI updated group on plans for Feb 5th event. Dave Dwyer has agreed to speak; dignitaries and residents will be encouraged to attend. Time will be from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

After hearing of the extensive plans for the anniversary, Payeskie and Madara rescinded their earlier motion concerning February meeting date.

Payeskie/Madara motioned to advertise the regular monthly meetings for 2008 as the 2nd Tuesday of every month; approval was unanimous.

In the event of inclement weather, February 12th will be alternate date for anniversary celebration and regular meeting will follow the anniversary celebration.

RECYCLING – SHADDUCK noted the continued and growing popularity of the recycling program. Beginning Monday January 14th, plastics and cardboard will be accepted the same hours as other items; Monday through Friday 7 to 3; Saturday 7 to 11, closed Sunday.

Shadduck noted primarily due to initial start-up costs, the program operated at a deficit of \$1418.25 during 2007; however this will be more than offset by the anticipated DEP Performance Grant of approximately \$8500.00. Program was deemed a huge success.

Insurance broker will be asked to confirm that volunteers would be covered under our liability policy.

MANAGER'S REPORT from Springer listed: Recreation grant in process; cable franchise agreement (Ordinance 166) complete; website now has meeting minutes and link to Code of Ordinances as well as links to local non-profit organizations; bid package being assembled for storage building; annual commercial recycling reports will be mailed

to Ralpho Township businesses shortly; computer and printer for Code office has been ordered; a week's gym access records was distributed to Supervisors and inaugural edition of *Ralpho Township News* was prepared for inclusion with Fire Company mailing.

PLANNING COMMISSION Chairman Howal had one presentation. Based on recommendation of the Planning Commission, Supervisors voted to approve the minor subdivision of the Frances Y. Leisenring Estate; approval was unanimous. Howal also advised Board of an anticipated submission of 40 units entitled "Creek Side" from Daniel Honaberger that is being prepared by Bryce James.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - for Exec Session.

ENGINEER'S REPORT - When a Stormwater Management Plan has been formally submitted for the William D. Henry site, Uni-Tec will review it. Secretary received the \$2500.00 escrow for review fee tonight. Township will need to do a final review of Deerfield Development in February before the March 28, 2008 expiration of the maintenance bond.

OLD BUSINESS: - nothing for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Shaddock/Shirvinski motioned to adopt Resolution 2008-01 that waives employee contributions to the Police Pension Fund for calendar year 2008; approval was unanimous.
- Shirvinski/Shaddock motioned to authorize releasing \$1,000 from both the Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans to pay actuarial/consulting fees to Trollinger Consulting Group. Motion unanimously carried.

CITIZEN INPUT – No one in attendance.

An executive session for personnel matters and possible litigation will be held immediately following this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT - There being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 on Shaddock/Madara motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan E. Baskin
Ralpho Township Secretary

