

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS REGULAR
MONTHLY MEETING - FEBRUARY 19, 2008 - 6:30 P.M.**
(Rescheduled from February 12, 2008 because of incimate weather)
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market Street, Elysburg, PA 17824

Chairman William Wetzel called meeting to order and led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Responding to roll call were Supervisors Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie, Joe Shirvinski and Wetzel. Supervisor Howard Shaddock was absent because of work commitment. Also attending were Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Township Manager Joe Springer, Township Engineer Michele Aukerman, Police Chief Stu Appel, Roadmaster Bill Hoy and Secretary/Treasurer Joan Baskin.

Chairman went on record thanking Supervisor Shirvinski and staff for making the February 2 anniversary celebration so memorable. Special thanks to Dave Dyer, the evening's main speaker.

Wetzel named Supervisors to head up departments as follows:

Street Department – Wetzel	Recreation - Madara
Buildings – Shirvinski	125 th Anniversary - Shirvinski
Police Department/Public Safety – Payeskie	Recycling - Shaddock
Zoning – Shaddock	

Solicitor not feeling well – items for his input were discussed:

- Kevin Krushinski letter requesting records and compromise. Lengthy discussion w/Joseph Krushinski who was in attendance. Board will respond only to Court Orders for supplying copies of records.
- Awaiting reply from Fitzpatrick relative to drainage issue.
- Mutual Aide Agreement between Borough of Catawissa and Ralpho Township to be researched further.
- Solicitor was excused from remainder of the meeting at approximately 7:15 PM.

CITIZENS INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS - Only Joseph Krushinski spoke regarding concerns relating to sewage to Krushinski property on MASO sewer line.

MINUTES of January 7, 2008 Reorganization and Regular meetings were approved on Payeskie/Shirvinski motion and carried.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- Responding to Stephen A. Major and Deb Houseknecht letters of interest for appointment to Planning Commission, Payeskie/Shirvinski motion to appoint them to fill vacancies on Planning Commission carried. On the question: Major's term will expire December 2011 and Houseknecht's term will run through December 2012.

- Payeskie/Shirvinski motioned to write a letter in support of Brush Valley Preservation Association's efforts to preserve Trout Run portion of Brush Valley for DCNR use as a State Park.
- Northumberland County Conservation District invitation to a breakfast meeting Tuesday February 26 was noted.
- FEMA sent info re updating Flood Insurance Rate Map – Ralpho must adopt Floodplain management regulations in accordance with NFIP regulations prior to July 16, 2008. Tabled until March for input from Solicitor and Code Officer.
- Ralpho Youth Sports Assn thanked Supervisors for support throughout 2007 sports season. Madara/Shirvinski motioned to release the \$2500 budgeted for 2008 season; approval was unanimous.
- February 17 was the expiration date for the comment period on Osman Environmental Solutions' air quality plan approval application to DEP for proposed hot mix asphalt plant at the Bear Gap Quarry
- Project survey for Lower Anthracite Heritage Regional Trail/Greenway Master Plan was referred to Township Manager Springer for completion prior to 2/22 deadline.
- DEP Letter re: refuse bank adjacent to Bottle Drive was tabled until March meeting.
- Tax Collector Charlene Zeigler was exonerated from further collections on the 2007 tax duplicate on Payeskie/Madara motion and carried.
- 2007 Annual Investment Reports for pensions were received from TCG Investment. Both plans generated gains in excess of 8% in spite of the volatile market conditions. Payeskie/Madara motion to authorize signing and submitting Act 205 reports for both Police and Non-Uniformed Pension funds; approval was unanimous.
- North'd Co. Planning Department letter advising of available grant-related services was noted.
- Kevin Krushinski letter requesting records and compromise was discussed previously under Solicitor's report.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

STREET DEPARTMENT – Wetzel

- Deerfield Maintenance Bond expires March 28, 2008 - Payeskie/Madara motioned to direct engineer to advise the developer that additional sealant is needed; motion carried.
- Madara/Shirvinski motioned to purchase spreader drag chain. On the question: quoted price is \$800. Motion unanimously approved.
- Madara/Shirvinski motioned to authorize advertising for oil and stone bids. On the question: bids to be opened at March 11 meeting. Approval was unanimous.
- Payeskie/Madara motioned to authorize roadmaster to have PennDot prepare the 2008 street paving project. On the question: base coat for Kase Street and refinishing Hillside Avenue will comprise the proposed project. Approval was unanimous.

BUILDINGS – Shirvinski

Automatic door opener prices did not include automatic opener for second glass door. Code Officer will be asked to get revised price that will include the second door.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Payeskie read report of monthly activities.

ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT given by Wetzel in Shadduck’s absence.

RECREATION – Madara - Secretary was directed to get prices for: outdoor basketball rims and nets; tennis court net; paint supplies for repainting tennis court.

- Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling Alliance (PCWA) request to use gym for a wrestling show on Saturday, June 7 was considered. Payeskie/Madara motioned to authorize the June 7th show at no charge for the gym, provided PCWA provides a plastic floor covering and meets all legal and insurance requirements of the Township. Approval was unanimous.

125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – Shirvinski is looking into ordering shirts and flags with logo. He’ll also contact All Home Days Association to see if they would make the 125th anniversary the theme for this year’s AHD parade and activities.

RECYCLING - report by Wetzel in Shadduck’s absence. Recycling program continues to grow in popularity. Plans are progressing for the April 26th clean-up day.

MANAGER’S REPORT - by Springer. Work continues on recreation grant and storage building bid package.

Shirvinski/Madara motioned to change lock on library front door and obtain 10 keys for library use. Motion unanimously approved.

Manager was also given permission to have rear gymnasium panic bar/latch mechanism repaired.

Springer was authorized to attend Grant Preparation workshop in Williamsport on May 7. On the question: registration fee for the workshop is \$120; township will reimburse travel expenses if he uses his personal vehicle. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION - nothing for consideration.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – was given at beginning of the meeting.

ENGINEER’S REPORT - William D. Henry has paid escrow fee to township – awaiting formal submission of Stormwater Management Plan for review.

Engineer will give developer written notice that additional sealant is needed on street in Deerfield Development.

Creekside Development - the plans and stormwater management plan that Uni-Tec received will not be reviewed until the engineer review escrow fee has been received by the township.

OLD BUSINESS:

Auditors positions – Payeskie/Shirvinski motioned to appoint David W. Noll of 12 Circle View Drive to fill the vacant 6 year position; Elizabeth Medon of 152 Alpha Avenue to fill vacant 4 year appointment. 2 year position remains to be filled. On the question: County election board advises that since these are appointments to fill vacancies (as opposed to being elected to the positions) both positions will appear on the November 2009 ballot. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Resolution 2008-02, the Order of Succession Resolution, was adopted on Payeskie/Madara motion and carried.

- Mutual Aide Agreement between the Borough of Catawissa and Township of Ralpho to be researched by Solicitor.
- SCI-CT Prison work detail - applications for highway pickup, spreading mulch in playground as well as pulling weeds; painting recycling dumpsters will be submitted.
- Dempsey Uniform Contract for mat service was accepted on Shirvinski/Madara motion and carried. On the question: contract reflects a reduction in prices for all mats and runs for twelve (12) months.
- Possible fire hydrant placement - SR 54 and Bear Gap Drive in conjunction with Aqua PA water main replacement project being planned for SR 54 will be reviewed by Fire Chiefs Herr and Kroh and EMA Coordinator Balchunas and reported back to Supervisors.
- Shirvinski/Payeskie authorized terminating contract with TASC for administering the township employee vision plan. On the question: provided secretary feels comfortable in administering the plan. Motion carried.
- Insurance package for March 5 renewal was received today. Noting sizable increase in Work Comp premium, Broker will be contacted for explanation.

CITIZEN INPUT – nothing.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:20 PM on motion by Payeskie.

Executive Session to discuss personnel matters was held following adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan E. Baskin
Ralpho Township Secretary