

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS REGULAR
MONTHLY MEETING - APRIL 8, 2008 - 6:30 P.M.**

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

Chairman William Wetzel called meeting to order at 6:30 PM and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Responding to roll call were: Supervisors Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie, Howard Shadduck and William Wetzel. Supervisor Joe Shirvinski was absent. Also attending were: Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Code Officer Howard Howal, Engineer Michele Aukerman, Police Chief Stu Appel and Secretary/Treasurer Joan Baskin. Manager Joe Springer arrived at 8 PM. Several interested parties and media also attended.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – nothing offered.

Bidding process for 2008 paving project was closed. Bids were opened, reviewed and awarded. (Refer to bid tabulation). Apparent low bid of Meckley's Limestone Products, Inc. in the amount of \$82,053.80 was accepted on Payeskie/Shadduck motion. On the question: contract award is contingent upon meeting all legal and insurance requirements. Motion unanimously approved.

MINUTES of March 11, 2008 Regular meeting were approved on Payeskie/Shadduck motion and carried.

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

BILLS were approved for payment on Payeskie/Madara motion. On the question: the entry for PSATS UC contribution to be corrected and payments to 3 B Cleaners for February and March gym floor burnishing to be withheld at this time. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance wrote re: the coal refuse pile between Shamokin Creek and Bottle Road. Payeskie/Madara motioned to authorize solicitor to compose a letter in support of the project, provided we are given proof of the property owner's consent for the work to be done. Approval unanimous.

Kevin Krushinski "Discovery Letter" regarding information about the MASO sewer project. Payeskie/Madara motioned to authorize solicitor to respond only to the extent mandated by the judge; motion carried.

John A. Kerschner of Fine Line Homes wrote to advise that the pavement joints on Deerfield Drive have been resealed. The 18-month maintenance period expired on March 28th; Fine Line Homes is, accordingly, requesting return of their Letter of Credit. Madara/Shadduck motioned to authorize return of the Letter of Credit as requested; approval was unanimous.

Mt. Carmel Area School District wrote requesting letter in support of a regional recreational center. This would be a joint project with Mt. Carmel Borough. Matter referred to township manager to ascertain that our support of the Mt. Carmel project would not jeopardize grant funds for Ralpho Township's recreational projects.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

STREET DEPARTMENT –Wetzel

- Weight Limit - Yuchas Road - Payeskie/Shaddock motioned to authorize solicitor to draft ordinance to ban truck traffic on Yuchas Road; approval unanimous.
- Shaddock suggested and Wetzel agreed to purchase attachment for power washer to clean the undercarriages of the trucks; price is nominal.
- Bargaining agreement/contract with street department personnel will expire December 31, 2008. AFSCME has asked for names of township negotiators. Manager Springer will serve as contact person and serve on negotiating committee along with Supervisors Wetzel and Shirvinski.

BUILDINGS –in Shirvinski's absence, Wetzel led discussion:

- Automatic door opener - Madara/Wetzel motioned to purchase automatic door openers for two doors and any signage needed. Motion carried. Madara and Payeskie will see to the necessary electrical wiring.
- Payeskie reported it was necessary to replace the water heater in the police department area; it had sprung a leak over the weekend.
- Oil/heat conservation memos were distributed "in house"; awaiting receipt of contact information for gym users so memos can be distributed to them also.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Payeskie read the monthly activity report.

- Payeskie/Madara motion authorized purchasing police cruiser on state contract with modified prisoner cage and full curtain airbags. On the question: bid comes to \$23,508; \$24,000 was budgeted for a cruiser. Approval was unanimous.
- Elysburg Fire Department has requested permission to once again use the Municipal Building to conduct refresher fire fighting course. The library area outside fire escape and the inside stairwell to 2nd floor would be used. Madara/Shaddock motioned to grant permission as requested; motion carried. Date would be April 16th.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT – Shaddock stated that 8 permits were issued and \$1413.40 in fees collected.

- Howal explained several situations he has encountered in enforcing the new burning ordinance and asked for guidance in interpreting "residence only". Several groups have requested variance; i.e. PSSA, Pine Hill Cemetery, All Home Days, Gun Club, Masonic Lodge. Supervisors told Howal that burning is allowed for private residences only.

- In response to Howal's concern about not having an ordinance dealing with windmills, Solicitor was asked to check with other municipalities and obtain sample ordinances.
- Howal told Supervisors that our supply of zoning maps needs to be replenished. With this in mind, it is now possible to update the zoning maps utilizing GIS information. Planning Commission was asked to draft proposed zoning map changes for Board's consideration. Payeskie is hopeful that work on the Comprehensive Plan will soon resume.

RECREATION – Madara

- Gym /wrestling match - Release form and revised Certificate of Insurance are needed for June 7 event.
- Resurfacing tennis court – referred to manager.
- Basketball rim/net and tennis court net purchases – referred to Supervisor Wetzel.
- Heritage Trail – Municipal planning meetings – being handled by manager.
- Derek Cowl Memorial Basketball Tournament/Release forms are available for distribution to participants.
- Playground restrooms will be re- opened shortly.
- Secretary was requested to contact Whistle Stop Fence about the two broken latches on two gates. Also, have them change the 4' piece of fence w/pipe across the top to a gate.

125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – Shirvinski

Historical Commission - Dave Dyer will be presenting a letter to Board about forming commission; he has names of five proposed members.

RECYCLING – Shadduck said that recycling program continues to grow; additional dumpster is coming for plastics.

- Much interest is being expressed in Dumpster Day on April 26. In anticipation of large turnout and high volume of trash expected, another dumpster will be brought in if available. That would bring total number of dumpsters to four (4).
- Shadduck asked that when paving project is being done, that the workers pave a small area when the dumpsters sit.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Madara/Shadduck motioned to adopt Resolution 2008-03 which authorizes the person in the position of Township Manager to sign grant application for "Gymnasium Improvements" recreation funds through DCNR. Motion unanimously approved.

PLANNING COMMISSION - **Howal** reported that no plans were acted upon by Planning Commission last week.

Citing problems in neighboring municipalities with proposed half-way houses, Howal offered to have Planning Commission look into the matter; Supervisors accepted the offer and want other "unsavory" uses included.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Tabled from February meeting:

- 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. Solicitor will be working with FEMA to meet the deadline.
- Mutual Aide Agreement/Catawissa Borough/Ralpho Township – no action for township to take at this time.
- Wetzel/Madara motioned to direct Solicitor to send letter to State Ethics Commission requesting a determination as to whether or not members of the Planning Commission need to complete and file financial disclosure statement. On the question: letter is to be mailed not later than April 14th. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT - Michele is awaiting stormwater plans for William D. Henry site for review.

Review of plans and stormwater management for Creekside Development will begin upon confirmation from the Township that the escrow fee has been paid.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Wetzel/Payeskie motion to appoint Harvey Boyer, Jr. of 2 Grande Avenue to the open auditor's position carried.
- Madara/Wetzel motion to appoint Ed Payeskie, Jr. to the Municipal Authority of Ralpho Township carried.
- MASO has an open position.
- Wetzel/Madara motioned to refund \$750 zoning hearing fee to Daniel Honaberger; approval was unanimous. Honaberger inquired as to status of the Creekside development plans. "Creekside" development was discussed at length. It was explained that Mr. Honaberger received concept approval for "Conditional Use" for single family semi-detached homes; his sketch plans and subdivision application show a cluster development. He must either (a) resubmit plans for single family semi-detached homes or (b) re-apply for a "Conditional Use" for a cluster development. Further, responsive to his query, Mr. Honaberger was told that he would need to establish a \$2500 escrow account with the Supervisors before the engineer can begin reviewing his development plans.

NEW BUSINESS:

Senate Bill 596 which would establish Statewide Police Pension - Trollinger Consulting has requested Ralpho to submit a municipal letter opposing the Bill. We also have memos from Senators John Gordner and Jane Orie, two of the several co-sponsors of the legislation. The Bill has been referred back to the Finance Committee; no action to be taken at this time.

CITIZEN INPUT – nothing offered.

Chairman convened an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 9 PM.

Meeting reconvened at 9:45 PM.

ADJOURNMENT – meeting adjourned at 9:46 PM on motion by Madara.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan E. Baskin, Secretary