

**MINUTES- RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS REGULAR
MONTHLY MEETING - AUGUST 12, 2008 - 6:30 P.M.**

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

Vice Chairman Ed Payeskie called meeting to order at 6:30 PM and led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Responding to roll call were: Supervisors Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie and Howard Shaddock. Supervisors Joseph Shirvinski and William Wetzel were absent. Also attending were Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Township Manager Joseph Springer, Code Enforcement Officer Howard Howal, Engineer Michele Aukerman from Uni-Tec Consulting Group, Police Chief Stu Appel, Roadmaster Bill Hoy, Steve Major from Ralpho Planning Commission, Township Secretary/Treasurer Joan Baskin, reporter from Shamokin News Item and approximately 20 interested citizens.

CITIZEN'S INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS –

Mick Witkoski, 10 Horne Drive, acted as spokesperson for contingent of approximately 15 persons who are concerned with the large number of wild cats “overrunning” their area. Several others also spoke, including Lou Odorizzi (15 Horne Drive), Jane Pensyl (4 Horne Drive) and John Spandra (12 Horne Drive). Various means of dealing with the problem cats were discussed until 7:05 PM. Using addresses supplied by the residents in attendance, Supervisors agreed to mail a letter to make residents aware of the problem and ask that everyone refrain from feeding any animals outside. Also, if residents trap cats and take them to the SPCA, Supervisors will reimburse them for SPCA’s fees for turning them in. Dated receipts will need to be submitted to the Township Secretary for reimbursement. Supervisors ***will not*** reimburse deposits that are paid to borrow traps from SPCA; deposits are returned by SPCA when traps are returned in good condition.

John Spandra also questioned the ownership and responsibility for the detention basin in the development. Township had mowed it in the past; now he’s been told they’d have to cross private property to get to it. Matter will be looked into.

Joe Pechulis of 324 Penn Avenue said the August 2nd fireworks were still going off at 12:20 AM. Asked Supervisors to consider placing a time limit on future fireworks permits.

MINUTES of July 8, 2008 Regular meeting were approved on Shaddock/Madara motion and carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT was approved as presented on Madara/Shaddock motion and carried.

BILLS were approved for payment, including new Police Cruiser that is ready for pickup at Warnock’s on Madara/Shaddock motion. On the question: price of cruiser is \$23,333.00. Approval was unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- ❖ **Letters were received from Charles Shultz, Dean LaCrosse and Deb Houseknecht** resigning from Planning Commission effective immediately. Madara/Payeskie motioned to accept their letters with regrets and thanks for their service; motion carried.
- ❖ Proposals from **Signing and Signal System Installers, LLC** increasing their charges for service maintenance and yearly service maintenance on our traffic signal were approved on Shaddock/Madara motion. On the question: Township manager was asked to obtain quotes from other firms.

The following correspondence was received into the record and noted:

- ❖ Cy PennDot Letter to DEP regarding plans and permit to do bridge deck repairs to bridge on SR 487 over Shamokin Creek.
- ❖ Final Draft of North'd Co. Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance available for public review and comment on county website <http://www.norrycopa.net>.
- ❖ US Department of Homeland Security wrote advising that the revisions we made to our Flood Plain Management Ordinance on June 10, 2008 are in compliance with current National Flood Insurance Program.
- ❖ 2ND Quarter investment reports were received for both pensions. While it was impossible to completely avoid the downward trend of the current markets, the plans sustained a fraction of the substantial losses of both the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average.
- ❖ Rob Ensinger e-mailed complaint about the lateness of the noisy fireworks display at the Gun Club on Aug 2nd.
- ❖ Notification that MART has applied for a DEP GP-5 Utility Line Stream Crossing Permit.
- ❖ Request for financial support from Sun Home Health and Hospice.
- ❖ Annual Convention of North'd Co. Assoc of Township Officials is set for Thursday, Oct 23. Event will be held in the Sunbury Social Club beginning at 5:45 PM.

- ❖ Gail R. Shutt Minor Subdivision – request for Township to sign and submit to DEP a Sewage Facilities Planning Module Application Mailer for public sewage will be considered w/the subdivision plans.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

STREET DEPARTMENT –Payeskie for Wetzel

- ❖ **Riding Mower** purchased - Sealed bids for sale of old mower will be accepted until Monday, September 8th. Sign will note that it needs a clutch; sale is “As Is”.
- ❖ **Ditch – Monastery Road** work was finished.
- ❖ **Bear Hollow Culvert** Project is completed.

BUILDINGS –Shirvinski

Digital Sign information (from Payeskie) – Township manager was asked to review info and report back.

Manager was requested to get prices for refinishing outside gym walls sometime between now and the Spring 2009.

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

- ❖ Supervisors agreed to allow an offender who needs to do 20 hours community service to work with Ed Blair after appropriate insurance and liability waivers are received.
- ❖ With regard to the Legislative grant received to purchase weapons, quotes were received for six (6) S&W; one quote from Witmer Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$3429.94; another from Atlantic Tactical in the amount of \$4933.13. In compliance with State regulations, a third quote is being sought. Madara/Shadduck motioned to accept lowest quote. On the question: Officers will be given the option of buying back their own weapons at the highest trade-in value offered. Motion carried.
- ❖ Payeskie/Madara motioned to approve amending Legislative Initiative Grant to request purchase of a taser gun in lieu of video equipment. On the question: plans are to purchase two (2) tasers, one with grant the other with Ralpho funds. Further on the question: approximate cost is \$1400 each which includes training. Motion carried.

ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT – Shadduck reported that 11 permits were issued; fees collected = \$921.00.

RECREATION – Madara

- ❖ Resurfacing tennis court will be held off until Spring.
- ❖ Madara/Shadduck motioned to accept proposal of John Brown Tree Service in the amount of \$850 to remove white maple tree from recreation area; approval was unanimous.
- ❖ Madara/Shadduck motioned to have street department personnel pick up one load of wood carpet for playground from Zeager Bros., Inc., Middletown; approval was unanimous.

125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – In Shirvinski’s absence Payeskie reported that the banners and brackets as well as the T-shirts have been ordered.

Payeskie/Shadduck motioned to adopt Resolution 2008-05 to formally sanction and approve erecting banners along specified state highways within the Township; motion carried.

RECYCLING – Shadduck reported that the -performance grant for calendar year 2006 has been received. Recycling continues to be very popular. .

MANAGER'S REPORT –

- ❖ Storage Building - Pioneer Pole Building paperwork is in order; preliminary work underway.
- ❖ Shaddock/Madara motioned to approve paying Angle Electric (Wade Hampton) \$485 for repairing and reprogramming basketball/tennis court timers. Motion carried.
- ❖ Wade Hampton quoted \$500 labor to install replacement playground lighting on ash shed to replace the pole that was run over, with the township purchasing materials at approximately another \$500.00; had previously received a quote from Mariano Construction for \$2750.00. Shaddock/Payeskie motioned to accept quote from Wade Hampton as stated above; approval was unanimous.
- ❖ Heating oil price for deliveries we accept during July through September is locked in at \$4.1903/gallon.

PLANNING COMMISSION –Steve Major

- ❖ Camp Ground Ordinance being reviewed.
- ❖ Shutt/Sabo - Minor subdivision – County has no comments on this subdivision plan. Payeskie/Shaddock motioned to grant contingent approval of the subdivision and sewage mailer, provided plans are amended to include the following statements and also obtain all necessary sewage approvals: “Lot #2 will provide to Lot #3 and Lot #4 a 30 foot wide easement for the repair and maintenance of the proposed sewer laterals and proposed waterline.” Further, note that, “As per the Ralpho Township zoning ordinance Chapter 27, Part 5, section 501.5, the unopened lane serving Lot #3 and Lot #4 will comply with the following: (a) the road or street will not be maintained by the Township; (b) the road or street will not be accepted for dedication by the Township; (c) the road or street will be of sufficient width and in a condition satisfactory for the ingress and egress of emergency vehicles. This determination will be made by the Code Enforcement Officer; (d) the applicant for the building permit for a structure will comply with all other requirements of Chapter 27; (e) every transferor of Lots #3 and #4 must place a statement in the deed advising the transferee of the condition set forth in Chapter 27, Part 5, Section 501.5.” Motion carried.
- ❖ Lynn & Carol Hoagland Prelim Plans for Major Subdivision – “Whitetail Run” Awaiting reply to Engineer’s comments.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- ❖ William D. Henry – matter is in Magistrate’s office; a late September hearing is expected.
- ❖ Resolution 2008-06 adopting engineer’s new fee schedule was approved on Madara/Shaddock motion and carried. .

ENGINEER'S REPORT - previously discussed culvert project; Hoagland major subdivision.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ❖ Computer financial software – Manager to check with MART about possibly sharing a new financial program; a sample Quick-Books program is on order; Freedom Systems demonstrated their upgrade to our current program. Gathering more information.

- ❖ Joan Baskin's letter resigning as Public Information Officer in conjunction with Ralpho's Emergency Operations Procedure was accepted on Payeskie/Madara motion that carried unanimously.
- ❖ Payeskie/Madara motioned to appoint Township Manager Joseph J. Springer as Ralpho Township Public Information Officer; .motion unanimously approved.
- ❖ No action was taken at July's meeting on PennDot's letter requesting input on proposed projects to micro-surface portions of SR 61 and also SR 487. Contract(s) for the work is tentatively scheduled to be let in Spring 2009. Letter will be sent acknowledging receipt their information.
- ❖ Contract negotiations have begun for both the Police and Street Departments.

NEW BUSINESS: - Nothing offered.

CITIZEN INPUT - Nothing further.

ADJOURNMENT –Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM on motion by Madara, followed immediately by executive session for personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joan E. Baskin
Ralpho Township Secretary**