

**MINUTES- RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS REGULAR
MONTHLY MEETING - SEPTEMBER 9, 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 group is reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL- :Responding to roll call were: Supervisors Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie, Howard Shadduck, Joseph Shirvinski and William Wetzel Also attending were Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Engineer Michele Aukerman, Code Officer Howard Howal, and Township Manager Joseph Springer.

CITIZEN'S INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS –

Lengthy discussion about double-wide house trailer that was placed on Shamokin Avenue by Mr. Wagner. Mr. & Mrs. Rauch asked why the front of the trailer doesn't need to face the street. Mr. Christian was told that trailers are permitted so long as they meet setbacks and all standards of the ordinance. In conclusion, while the trailer placement might not be ideal aesthetically, it meets the ordinance guidelines.

Bid for sale of old mower. Offers to buy were received per attached tally sheet. Payeskie/Shadduck motion to sell mower to Keith Woodruff for \$530.00 carried unanimously.

MINUTES of August 12, 2008 Regular meeting were accepted on Payeskie/Shirvinski motion and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT approved as presented on Shadduck/Madara motion and carried.

BILLS were approved on motion by Shadduck/Shirvinski and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- ❖ Rec'd letter from The Crossroads Group advising that Lynn L. and Carol C. Hoagland are applying for a General NPDES Permit from DEP for Stormwater Discharges associated with construction activities and their Whitetail Run development. Ralpho's comments and/or objections are due on or before Sept 19th. Ralpho has no comments as this point.
- ❖ State Representative Robert E. Belfanti, Jr. wrote to inform us of two transportation capitol budget project bills; SB 1503 for highway bridges or highway-railroad bridges and SB 1504 for state highway projects. Noted.
- ❖ Congressman Chris Carney replied to our letter listing our concerns about rising energy costs. The congressman shares our concerns about rising energy costs and our National dependency on foreign oil. Noted.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

STREET DEPARTMENT –Wetzel

Once again, Cargill Salt has the contract for our 2008-2009 road deicing salt supplies. Price per ton = \$60.45 (up \$17.27 per ton over last year) with possible price adjustments

during months of November 2008 thru April 2009 to cover diesel fuel costs. In an effort to avoid paying additional diesel fuels costs, Roadmaster will be directed to order as much salt now as our building will hold.

Shadduck/Shirvinski motioned to sell the old 3 point hitch snow blower. On the question: it will be displayed on the lawn by warehouse and sealed bids will be accepted. Motion carried unanimously.

BUILDINGS –Shirvinski

The Digital Sign information was discussed; Manager to obtain additional information and figures.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Payeskie reported that the new police cruiser is lettered and is here (new No. 6 car); radio and equipment needs to be transferred over. Eventually old No. 6 will be offered for sale. August police activity report was read.

- Elysburg Fire Company will now be used as an EMA emergency shelter (not Ralpho Municipal Building as originally planned). Fire Co. obtained a state grant of approximately \$26,000 to cover generator costs. The Fire Company was responsible for a 5% match in the amount of \$1327 for the generator. Payeskie/Shadduck motioned to pay the \$1327 to Kreco Electric. On the question: funds will be taken from EMA budget line item. Motion unanimously approved.
- Payeskie/Madara motioned to release \$35,000 LST distribution to ambulance association; approval was unanimous.
- Dates for Haunted House re Oct 17 and 18; Oct 24 and 25 and Oct 31 and Nov 1.
- Wetzel appointed Payeskie to serve as *temporary acting EMA director*, the appointment will last for the duration of Ron Balchunas' recovery from current illness

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT – Shadduck reported that 11 permits were issued; fees collected were \$1891.30.

RECREATION – Madara said: 1) playground has been spruced up a bit, shrubs trimmed and mulched; 2) restroom name tags keep disappearing; Madara told workers to purchase stencils and paint the names on doors; 3) gym floor is scheduled to be stripped then coated and sealed.

125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – Shirvinski

Banners were in place for All Home Days Celebration over Labor Day weekend. Secretary was directed to send thank-you letter to Mr. Knoebel for use of their bucket truck. Board agreed to purchase the two (2) banners that were made as "overruns". These will cost \$80 each.

T-shirts are here; Supervisors were asked to submit a list to Supervisors Shirvinski of employees and volunteers who should receive them; any remaining will be sold for \$7 each.

RECYCLING – Shadduck said the program continues to do well for the most part; there are problems with items being left beside the dumpsters after Saturday’s closing; area will be chained off to discourage this practice.

Letter from Coal Township with proposed Inter-Municipal Recycling Agreement. Payeskie/Shadduck motion to enter into said agreement carried.

MANAGER’S REPORT

- 1) Pole building will be constructed during the week of Sept 15;
- 2) Repair kit for playground benches will be given to Ed Blair and/or Wayne Horne.
- 3) Materials for ash shed lighting were received; installation should be week of Sept 8th.
- 4) Continue work with Mr. Wetzel on ambulance review;
- 5) Tree was removed from playground
- 6) Contract negotiations continued with both Street and Police Departments;
- 7) Evaluation version of QuickBooks was received; will install soon.
- 8) Working on specs for gym exterior;
- 9) Awaiting response on Recreation Grant.

Payeskie urged Springer to follow-up on joint Comprehensive Plan.

PLANNING COMMISSION –

- ❖ Camp Ground Ordinance being reviewed.
- ❖ Lynn & Carol Hoagland Prelim Plans for Major Subdivision – “Whitetail Run” (refer to Engineer’s comments following her review). Received letter stating that County Planning Department has no comments on this preliminary major subdivision plan.
- ❖ Payeskie/Wetzel motioned to appoint Dana Lucas and Harvey Boyer, Jr. to seats on the Planning Commission. Approval was unanimous.
- ❖ Two vacancies remain to be filled on Planning Commission.
- ❖ North’d Co. Airport Authority was awarded grant for runway work; Howal was asked to be certain they comply with necessary permits, etc.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

- ❖ William D. Henry – matter is in Magistrate’s office.
- ❖ Payeskie/Shirvinski motioned to authorize solicitor to draw up an agreement between the township and Fitzpatrick concerning installation of drop boxes. On the question: this is being done in an attempt to eliminate water runoff problem. Motion carried unanimously.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

Items already covered.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ❖ Contract negotiations with Police and Street Departments are ongoing.

- ❖ 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ❖ **2009 MMO's** – Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans. Motion **to approve** MMO's as follows: Police Pension Plan = \$23,093 and Non-Uniformed Pension Plan = \$19,262. was made by Payeskie/Shirvinski and carried.
- ❖ **Contract with GHP renews November 1, 2008.** New rates that amount to an approximate 23% increase were issued. **Requests for changes due no later than Tuesday Sept 16.** Manager was directed to obtain other rates for comparison at October's meeting.

CITIZEN INPUT -

Joe Shirvinski, member of Elysburg Alliance Church reminded members of the upcoming Appreciation Dinner the church is holding on Sunday Sept 14 for emergency responders, police and community leaders. Event begins at 11 AM at All Home Days Park.

Chairman convened an Executive Session for personnel matters.
Meeting reconvened at 9:59 PM.

ADJOURNMENT –at 10:00 PM on Madara/Shirvinski motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan E. Baskin
Ralpho Township Secretary