

MINUTES- RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - October 14, 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 reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. A moment of silence was held in memory of Ron Balchunas, Ralpho Township EMA Director, who passed away last week. Responding to roll call were: Supervisors William Wetzel, Joseph Shirvinski, Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie and Howard Shaddock. Also attending were Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Township Manager Joseph Springer, Code Enforcement Officer Howard Howal, Police Chief Stu Appel, Roadmaster Bill Hoy, a reporter from Shamokin News Item and one interested citizen.

CITIZEN'S INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – None

MINUTES of the September 9, 2008 Regular meeting were corrected to reflect a \$7 price for 125th Anniversary t-shirts on a Shirvinski/Madara motion and carried.

MINUTES of the September 9, 2008 Regular meeting as corrected were approved on a Shaddock/Shirvinski motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT was approved as presented on Shaddock/Shirvinski motion and carried.

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

On a Payeskie/Madara motion, **the following check signing procedure was adopted:**

Township checks may be signed by:

- One (1) elected Supervisor and either the Township Secretary or Township Manager, OR
- Two (2) elected Supervisors

On a Payeskie/Shaddock motion, **the following procedure regarding payment for flowers** was adopted:

The Township will pay for “get well” or “condolence” flowers for direct employees of Ralpho Township.

On a Payeskie/Madara motion, **payment of the flower invoice** from Crystal Ann Creations was approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received into the record and noted:

- ❖ Notice of Real Estate Assessment Hearing – Michael Phillipine Oct 15 @ 11:30am. The Solicitor will attend.
- ❖ Notice from PPL regarding availability of “phase-in payment option” for Township electric bills. No action will be taken.

- ❖ Copy of letter from Northumberland County Conservation District regarding the E&S Plan for the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Church.
- ❖ Letter from North Central Digital Systems indicating that parts are no longer guaranteed for the office copier and the maintenance agreement will end on 10/16/2008. They will continue to service the copier on a time & materials basis. Supervisors directed that replacement possibilities be examined.
- ❖ Letter from PA Dept of Transportation regarding the traffic study done relating to the installation of left-turn arrows at the intersection of Rt. 54 & Rt. 487. Traffic is not sufficient to make the change.
- ❖ Notice from the PA Dept of Transportation regarding Ralpho Township's estimated Liquid Fuels Tax allocation for 2009.
- ❖ Notice from Brian Snyder indicating the remediation associated with the Hanger Cleanup Project has been completed and a final report filed with DEP.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

STREET DEPARTMENT –Payeskie for Wetzel

- ❖ Kase Street residents are asking to eliminate the one-way restriction. After a brief discussion, the Supervisors will revisit the issue when the street is paved.
- ❖ A motion to **withdraw the sale of the snowblower** was approved on a Shadduck/Shirvinski motion.
- ❖ Pat Burke of Aqua Water asked they be given notice of our paving intentions so they can review their own priority list for pipe replacements.
- ❖ Leaf collection to begin October 20th. Approval to advertise was approved on a Payeskie/Shadduck motion.

BUILDINGS –No report

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

- ❖ Grant-funded Tasers are ordered.
- ❖ A motion to **advertise the sale by sealed bid of the old police cruiser** was approved on a Payeskie/Madara motion.
- ❖ The Police Department was commended for their services during the Balchunas funeral.
- ❖ The Street Department was thanked for their assistance to the Elysburg Fire Company and the Haunted House.
- ❖ A motion to **add the antique fire truck recently acquired by the Elysburg Fire Company to the Township vehicle insurance policy** at an annual cost of approximately \$117 was approved on a Payeskie/Madara motion.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT – Shadduck read the Zoning Officer's report for September.

- ❖ The Supervisors discussed zoning permit requirements for rebuilding following a structure fire. They elected to keep requirement as is: construction requires a zoning permit and payment of the permit fee.

- ❖ A proposed windmill ordinance was discussed and tabled on a Payeskie/Shadduck motion.

RECREATION – Madara

- ❖ The gym floor has been repainted.
- ❖ Letters regarding heating control will be sent to heads of the groups using the facility.
- ❖ Raising the rental fee for the gymnasium was discussed but elected to keep the fee at \$25 per hour.
- ❖ The Street Department will close the recreation complex restrooms sometime in the next month.

125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – Shirvinsk

- ❖ T-shirts are still available for \$7 each. Complimentary shirts will be given to those who provide volunteer service to the Township.

RECYCLING – Shadduck

- ❖ Newspapers are now being sent to Jeff’s Recycling in Shamokin Township for the same revenue but \$25 less in costs per trip.
- ❖ Another “dumpster day” is being considered for the spring of 2009.

MANAGER’S REPORT –

- ❖ Storage Building – Complete.
- ❖ Lighting on the ash shed - Complete.
- ❖ Ambulance review – Still working with Chip and Harvey Boyer on this.
- ❖ Health Insurance options – Quotes from Capital Blue Cross and Highmark show no cost savings. Option to self-fund a deductible will be reviewed
- ❖ Gym Exterior – Talked to Tom Hall who will be helping me with the specs.
- ❖ Informational Sign – Working on this.

PLANNING COMMISSION –

- ❖ Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Church Classroom Addition – received check for \$2,500.00 to open escrow account.
- ❖ Lynn & Carol Hoagland/Whitetail Run - Escrow account replenished to \$2,500.00. Sewage Planning Module was recently returned by DEP for additional information. Logging in the proposed subdivision disturbed some of the test areas for on-lot disposal systems requiring re-test. A motion **to extend the 90-day limit for preliminary plan approval to November 12, 2008 provided wording in the extension agreement is modified to reflect “preliminary approval”** was approved on a Madara/Shirvinski motion.
- ❖ Daniel Honaberger/Creekside Development – Escrow account has been set up for engineer’s review; received new check to replace a Dec 7, 2007 check (stale) to cover the filing fee for the development application. The Commission reviewed the preliminary plans at the October 7th meeting; comments will be provided to the engineer for inclusion in her review.

- ❖ Sketch plan submitted by Rich Parsons for a major subdivision off Blue Church Rd., part of the property of Joseph & Sandra Shepard.
- ❖ Two vacancies remain to be filled on the Planning Commission.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- ❖ William D. Henry – Received a voluntary fine of \$200; the engineer is currently hospitalized so no plans have been received.

ENGINEER'S REPORT - Michele was not present for the meeting; her report was read in her absence.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- ❖ A motion to **ratify advertising for a part-time secretary** was approved on a Shaddock/Madara motion.
- ❖ The **Budget Work Session was established for October 28th at 6pm** on a Shirvinski/Madara motion.
- ❖ A motion to approve payment of \$540 (representing the Township's proportional share of taxes) toward the cost of a professional appraisal for the Paper Magic property assessment appeal was approved on a Payeskie/Shaddock motion.
- ❖ A motion to ratify establishing Trick or Treat night as October 30th from 6-9pm was approved on a Payeskie/Madara motion. The Supervisors asked that the date be established at the September meeting next year.

CITIZEN INPUT - None

ADJOURNMENT –Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM on motion by Payeskie, followed immediately by executive session for negotiations and personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joseph Springer
Ralpho Township Manager**