

MINUTES- RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - November 11, 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. Veteran's Day and veterans of Ralpho Township were acknowledged and thanked for their service to our country.

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, Engineer Michele Auckerman, Police Chief Stu Appel, Roadmaster Bill Hoy, a reporter from Shamokin News Item and two interested citizens.

Ron Bittner, representing Trollinger Consulting Group, reviewed the investment performance of the Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Funds. A discussion was held about market conditions, the long-term nature of the funds and possible benefit enhancements.

On a Payeskie/Madara motion, Trollinger Consulting Group was authorized to present a cost study for the following enhanced benefits: 1) optional COLA for both plans and 2) survivor benefit increase for the police plan only.

CITIZEN'S INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – None

BID OPENING - Bids for the 2004 Ford police car were publicly opened and recorded as per Exhibit A. On a Payeskie/Shirvinski motion, the bid was awarded to the apparent high bidder, John Pryce, for \$6000.00.

MINUTES of the October 14, 2008 Regular Meeting and the November 5, 2008 Budget Work Session were approved on a Payeskie/Madara motion and carried.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE - none

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

STREET DEPARTMENT – Wetzel

- ❖ Leaf collection and crack sealing continue.
- ❖ Parking lot speed bump height and effectiveness was discussed with no further action taken.

BUILDINGS – Shirvinski

- ❖ Shadduck noted that one light on the Salt Shed needs replacing. Street Department will check the gasket and replace the bulb.
- ❖ The memo regarding gym use and heat control will be distributed this month.

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

- ❖ Payeskie thanked all who assisted for the success of the Haunted House which benefits the Elysburg and Ralpho Fire Companies.
- ❖ A motion to sell the prisoner divider from the old police car to Crabby Larry, State Constable, for \$100 was approved on a Madara/Shadduck motion.

ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT – Shadduck read the Zoning Officer’s report for the previous month.

- ❖ Code Officer Howard Howal will return to the office on November 17th.
- ❖ Supervisors were asked to review the proposed Wind Energy Facility ordinance for discussion and possible action in December.

RECREATION – Madara

- ❖ The Street Department was thanked for closing and winterizing the restroom facilities at the playground.
- ❖ Winter gym activities are underway.
- ❖ A motion to purchase a floor buffer for up to \$1,200 was approved on a Payeskie/Shirvinski motion and carried.
- ❖ A check was received from Adult Basketball in the amount of \$874.

RECYCLING – Shadduck

- ❖ A grant is being investigated to have a tire recycling program.
- ❖ A “Dumpster Day” is being planned for the spring, likely in the first part of April. Plans are to accept brush/branches, tires, burn barrels and yard waste.

MANAGER’S REPORT –

- ❖ Ambulance review – complete
- ❖ Police Association negotiations – complete
- ❖ Street Department negotiations - complete
- ❖ Health Insurance options – Quote for a plan to self-fund a deductible was requested.
- ❖ On a Wetzel/Madara motion the purchase of Quickbooks Pro accounting software was approved and carried. Payeskie voted “no”.
- ❖ Gym Exterior – Talked to Tom Hall who will be helping with the specs.
- ❖ Informational Sign – Working on this.

PLANNING COMMISSION –

- ❖ Meeting held Tuesday, November 4th with all three current members

- ❖ Commission re-organized as follows: Steve Major, Chairman; Harvey Boyer, Jr, Vice-Chair; Dana Lucas, Secretary.
- ❖ QMHR/Classroom Addition – PC is waiting on land development application
- ❖ Honabarger/Creekside Development – Engineer’s comments received November 6th. 90-day review period ends January 5, 2009
- ❖ Hoagland/Whitetail Run – Jeremy & Josh Hoagland presented plans for the major subdivision. A motion to authorize “preliminary approval” of the plans was approved and carried on a Madara/Payeskie motion with the following contingencies:
 - Developer agreement must be completed
 - Engineer’s technical review must be completed satisfactorily
 - Proof of the required drainage easement must be received
 - Letter indicating SEO approval must be received
- ❖ The Solicitor explained the Napoli minor subdivision request is required to clear up an error from about 20 years ago when the plan should have been submitted. Approval will provide clear title to the current property owners. PC will review at the December meeting.
- ❖ Two vacancies remain on the Planning Commission.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

- ❖ Krushinski matter – the Township has prevailed once more; the Township’s request for attorney’s fees will be pursued.
- ❖ Henry matter – Mr. Henry is looking for a new engineer as his current engineer is no longer available.
- ❖ Shamokin/Coal Twp Joint Sewer Authority matter – no further information received.

ENGINEER’S REPORT – Nothing further beyond the report submitted.

OLD BUSINESS - Deferred until after the Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion to employ Debra L. Olson as Township Clerk, effective November 12, 2008, was approved on a Payeskie/Madara motion and carried.

A motion to authorize advertising and posting proposed 2009 budget was approved on a Madara/Shirvinski motion and carried. Taxes will remain the same. General Fund anticipated receipts plus carry over from 2008 = **\$1,358,425**; budgeted expenditures = **\$1,356,435** leaving a projected surplus of **\$1,990**. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts plus carry over from 2008 of **\$265,325**; budgeted expenditures of **\$205,155** leaving a projected surplus of **\$60,170**.

A motion to authorize advertising the re-enactment of current Act 511 taxes was approved on a Madara/Shirvinski motion and carried. Taxes area as follows:

Per Capita	\$5
Occupation	50%
Real Estate Transfer	1%
Earned Income	1%
LST (formerly EMST)	\$52 on earnings exceeding \$12,000
TV Franchise	2%
Mechanical Amusement	\$50 per machine

CITIZEN INPUT - None

The Board recessed to an Executive Session for negotiations and personnel matters at 8:20pm, returning at 8:53pm.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Ralpho Township Police Association on a Shirvinski/Shaddock motion was carried.

A motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Street Department workers represented by AFSCME Local 2433 on a Shirvinski/Shaddock motion was carried.

ADJOURNMENT –Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm on motion by Madara.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joseph Springer
Ralpho Township Manager**