

MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2008 – 6:30 PM
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market Street, Elysburg, PA 17824

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairman William Wetzel who led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Responding to roll call were: Supervisors Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie, Joseph Shirvinski, Howard Shaddock and William Wetzel. Also attending were Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Engineer Michele Aukerman, Township Manager Joseph Springer, Police Chief Stu Appel, Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer Howard Howal, Roadmaster Bill Hoy, Township Clerk Debi Olson, Justin Strausser a reporter from Shamokin News Item and 6 interested citizens.

Supervisor Ed Payeskie welcomed and introduced 3 representatives from Toy Factory, LLC, a new business coming into Ralpho Township that is going to occupy the Arrow Building at the Paper Magic location. It is a seasonal business that manufactures amusement toys. They plan to start the hiring process in mid January with 30 to 35 employees. All supervisors welcomed them to the township and thanked them for attending the meeting.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

MINUTES of November 11, 2008 Regular meeting were approved as presented on Shaddock/Payeskie motion and carried.

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

BILLS were approved for payment as listed with the exception of North Central Digital check being held until Mr. Springer approves payment, Payeskie/Shirvinski motion and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- **Ray Snarski** letter of introduction for his recently-opened auto repair business at 130 N. Market Street. He asked that the township consider possibly using his business to service township vehicles. Township supervisors asked that the township clerk open an account with Mr. Snarski and let Chief Appel know when that is complete so that he can do business with Mr. Snarski.
- **Northumberland Co. Planning Commission** info on **2009 CDBG** funding and hearings
- **County DEP** letter to **Brian Snyder** re: project at airport should be complete by December 21, unless there are complications
- Copy of **DEP** letter to **Split Vein Coal Company** regarding coal exploration permit. Supervisors directed solicitor to write a letter in reply.

- E-mail from **PennDOT** regarding federal funding for new stop signs. Roadmaster will look into this.
- Letter from **Brior Environmental Services, Inc.** regarding reappointment as SEO. Will be considered at January meeting.
- Letter from **Michele Aukerman, Engineer**, regarding **Shamokin-Coal Township Wastewater Treatment Facility**

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

STREET DEPARTMENT –WETZEL

- Truck that is used with leaf machine is now prepared for snow removal, so any leaves will have to be bagged.
- There was a complaint received by Chief Appel in regard to the speed bumps placed in the parking lot. A motion was made to place 2 speed bump warning signs by Payeskie/Madara and motion carried.

BUILDINGS – SHIRVINSKI

- Christmas tree was to be brought out and decorated.
- Memo to all users of the gymnasium was sent to remind them to conserve heat.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY –PAYESKIE read monthly activity report.

- Top bidder for 2004 Crown Victoria cruiser wasn't able to purchase cruiser in a timely manner, so supervisors directed township clerk to call next highest bidder. Motion by Shaddock/Shirvinski motion carried.
- Tasers/equipment have arrived and Chief Appel is writing policy for adoption.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT –SHADDUCK read Zoning Officer's report for the previous month.

RECREATION – MADARA

- Mr. Payeskie will give Township Clerk phone number of person to call for a quote by the next meeting to replace door/hardware to gym entrance.
- Gym floor will be stripped and waxed over holiday to help with continuous problems

RECYCLING – SHADDUCK

- Tire recycling was discussed, supervisors in favor of doing it how it was done in the past with a dumpster from Mostik Brother's Disposal and with a grant from DEP.
- Coal ashes are accepted by putting them in the cinder pile.

MANAGER'S REPORT - SPRINGER

- Health insurance options were discussed.
- Gym Exterior – Mr. Tom hall will help with the specs.
- Recreational Grant submitted on April 23rd, waiting on response in 08-09 fiscal year.

PLANNING COMMISSION

- 2 vacancies remain to be filled – Mr. Brent Rhoades attended the meeting with interest in being on the planning commission.
- Creekside Major Subdivision: Payeskie/Madara motion to approve extension of preliminary plan review period until March 11, 2009, carried.
- Payeskie/Madara motioned to approve Napoli Minor Subdivision, motion carried.
- Madara/Shaddock motioned to approve plan and component 1 sewage module for Dornbach Minor Subdivision, motion carried.
- Szczepkowski Minor Subdivision will be reviewed next month.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

- Solicitor reported that the revised Right-To-Know Law takes effect January 1, 2009 and that the township needs to appoint a Right To Know Official. Madara/Shirvinski motioned to appoint Debra Olson, Township Clerk to the position, unanimous.
- Solicitor to advertise police pension update with Chief Appel's approval.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

- It was noted that Mr. Springer should come up with a procedure for planning items to go through the correct channels in the correct order for approval now that a complete planning commission is in effect.
- Roxanne Bembenek came before the board to ask that Kase street be turned back into a 2-way street. Madara/Shaddock made a motion to put the road back to original condition, motion carried. Solicitor was directed to prepare necessary paperwork to repeal the ordinance that made Kase street a 1-way street.

OLD BUSINESS

- The wind ordinance was discussed with some changes being mentioned. The solicitor will make changes and bring before the board at the next meeting.
- Proposed 2009 Budget was posted for public inspection on November 13. Consider adopting 2009 budget as follows: Resolution 2008-08 establishing Real estate taxes for 2009 as follows: general purposes 3-1/4 mills; fire protection ½ mill; equipment ½ mill and library ¼ mill; street lighting depending on location .145; .19; .22 or \$4.48 was adopted on Shirvinsk/Shaddock motion and carried.
- Resolution 2008-07 re-enacting current Act 511 taxes as advertised:

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

was adopted on Shaddock/Madara motion and carried.

- Resolution 2008-09 adopting the 2009 Budget was approved on Madara/Shadduck motion. General Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2008 = \$1,358,425; budgeted expenditures = \$1,356,435 leaving a projected surplus of \$1,990. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2008 = \$265,325; budgeted expenditures of \$205,155 leaving a projected surplus of \$60,170.
- A quote to replace the copier was received from North Central Digital. Township Manager is to acquire one more bid and a decision can be made at that point.

NEW BUSINESS:

- There was a discussion on SCI-CT spring work detail. Supervisors wanting to have work done in the township should report it to Township Clerk for her contact with SCI.
- Madara/Shirvinski motion to authorize signing of contact with GHP. Motion carried.
- Shadduck/Madara motioned to approve advertising for meeting dates of Ralpho Township Supervisors meetings to be 2nd Tuesday of month beginning at 6:30 p.m. and for Planning Commission meetings to be 1st Tuesday of the month beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Motion Madara/Shirvinski to send Township Clerk to training on 12/16/08 with no registration fee and on 4/19/09 for \$60 registration fee. Motion carried.

ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING:

- Madara/Shadduck motioned to authorize advertising January's Reorganization and regular monthly meeting for Monday, January 5, 2009 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Approval was unanimous.

CITIZEN INPUT – None

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM on motion by Madara/Shirvinski, followed by executive session for litigation and personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Clerk