

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS REORGANIZATION  
AND REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - JANUARY 5, 2009  
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market Street, Elysburg, PA.**

***Chairman William Wetzel called meeting to order at 6:34 and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.***

*Wetzel stated that, as mandated by State law and as advertised, this meeting is for Reorganization purposes and the regular January meeting.*

***Attending were:*** Supervisors Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie, Howard Shadduck, Joe Shirvinski and William Wetzel. Also attending were: Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Engineer Michele Aukerman, Township Manager Joe Springer, Code Officer Howard Howal, Police Chief Stu Appel, Roadmaster Bill Hoy, Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson and Justin Strausser from the Shamokin *News Item*. Citizens in attendance were: Chris and Denise Kreisher, Bryon and Stacey, Bryon and Courtney Chowka, Karen Appel, Bob and Conseta Leffler, Steve and Alexis Spade, Chris and Maria Grow and Chris Dailey.

Changing Chairman is merely following past practice of rotating the position every year so each board member has an opportunity to fill that capacity.

Mr. Wetzel relinquished his chairmanship to Vice Chairman, Payeskie.

Payeskie requested nominations for the Chairman's position. Wetzel/Madara motioned to elect Howard Shadduck as Chairman; Wetzel moved that nominations cease with a Shirvinski 2<sup>nd</sup>, approval was unanimous.

Payeskie handed the mallet over to Chairman Shadduck to entertain motions for Vice Chairman. Payeskie/Wetzel nominated Supervisor Shirvinski as Vice Chairman; Shirvinski declined the nomination.

Shadduck/Payeskie motioned to elect Madara as Vice Chairman. Wetzel/Payeskie motioned to close nominations, approval was unanimous.

Payeskie/Madara motioned to re-appoint Joseph Springer, Township manager. Motion carried.

Supervisor Payeskie thanked Joan Baskin, who has been our Secretary/Treasurer for the past 19 years, for her years of service and recognized that Joan is now preparing to retire.

Payeskie/Wetzel made a motion to appoint Debra Olson, Township Secretary/Treasurer, unanimous was approval.

Payeskie/Madara motioned to appoint Schelsinger & Kerstetter, Solicitor; Uni-Tec Consulting Engineering Consultants, Inc. as engineers, Forgett & Kerstetter, certified public accountants for auditing services, township depositories, PLGIT and M&T Bank; Charlene Zeigler as Real Estate Tax Certifier and Act 511 tax collector; Berkheimer Associates Tax Collector for Earned Income and LST taxes; Statewide Tax Recovery for delinquent taxes; Howard Howal as Code Enforcement Officer, Uniform Construction Code Officer and Building Code Officer; Bill Brior as Primary Sewage Enforcement Officer and Bruce Dobash Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer. Motion carried unanimously.

The following re-appointments were made on Payeskie/Marada motion and carried unanimously:

Payeskie/Shirvinski motioned to appoint John Yost to a one year term on Township Vacancy Board, motion carried.

Brian Balchunas, one year term as EMA Coordinator, Payeskie/Wetzel, unanimous.

Motion was made by Payeski/Shirvinski to the following appointments: Frank Berger, ZHB 3 year term; Robert L. Dluge, Jr., Esq. one year term as solicitor to Zoning Hearing Board; Vince Daubert, 5 year term to Municipal Authority of Sunnyside/Overlook (MASO), Charles Yoder, 5 year term to Municipal Authority of Ralpho Township.

Wetzel/Madara motioned to appoint Cathy Kessler, 1 year term as auditor; David Noll, 1 year term as auditor. Motion carried.

Payeskie/Madara made the motion to appoint Mark Lyash, to fill unexpired 4 year term on Planning Commission, which expires December 2009; Brent Rhoades, to fill unexpired 4 year term on Planning Commission, which expires December 2011.

The following positions remain to be filled:

1 vacant auditor position; 1 vacancy on Municipal Authority of Sunnyside/Overlook, 5 year term, term would expire January 2012.

Chairman Shadduck will announce Committee/Department appointments at February meeting; we'll maintain status quo till then.

At this point Chief Stuart Appel and the Ralpho Township Supervisors were honored to present Patrolman Bryon Chowka to be promoted to Corporal for the Ralpho Township Police Department. Many of officer Chowka's family and friends were in attendance for his promotion.

There was a brief intermission for celebration and pictures and then the meeting reconvened at 6:55 p.m.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none.

**MINUTES** of December 9, 2008 regular meeting were approved on Wetzel/Madara motion and carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** was accepted as presented on Payeskie/Madara motion and carried.

**BILLS** were approved for payment on Wetzel/Shirvinski motion and carried. It was noted to change the information on the PSATS invoice for the subscriptions to the Township News to Ralpho Township Supervisors in place of Joan Baskin and change the Planning Commission copy to Steve Major, chairman.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Census 2010.
- PSATS Intergovernmental Coop Survey – Township Manager and Secretary will complete survey.

Payeskie/Wetzel made a motion to disburse a \$40,000 payment to the Elysburg Fire Company #1 and EMS. Carried unanimously.

**COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**STREET DEPARTMENT – Wetzel**

- Supervisor Wetzel commended the Street Department employees for excellent snow plowing - streets are always well maintained.

**BUILDINGS – Shirvinski**

- Roof at the police department was repaired.
- West wall at the gym will be looked into when it warms up.
- A bid was given to replace the gymnasium door for \$1,250 installed; Mr. Madara is going to check with the vendor that replaced the doors at the Fire Hall.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY report was read by Payeskie.**

- Payeskie/Shirvinski motion to accept bids on the 2004 cruiser again, because the prior bid process was unsuccessful, motion carried. A 10% retainer will be required with each bid to hopefully prevent from having to do this again. The Roadmaster was asked to place the cruiser out near the road with the for sale sign in it.
- A thank you that was put in the paper by a citizen to commend the Elysburg EMT squad was read.
- Chief Appel is working on policy for the taser equipment.

**ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT- Shadduck**

- 4 permits were issued and \$1,845.51 in fees were collected during December. Several occupancy permits were issued.

A motion was made by Payeskie/Wetzel to pay any regular bills that come in after the meeting date because of the early meeting for the month of January. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **RECREATION – MADARA.**

- Supervisor Shadduck made the board aware of the possibility of 6 students from Northwestern Services possibly being able to come and help with spring work of painting, mulching, etc. on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### **RECYCLING – SHADDUCK**

- Plastic bags are now being accepted for recycling.
- Tire recycling for the spring/dumpster day was discussed. One dumpster for tires and 1 dumpster for yard waste.

#### **MANAGER’S REPORT from Springer listed:**

- Accounting/Payroll Software – QuickBooks is up and working and everything is going well. The payroll account was switched from PLGIT to M&T in order for the direct deposit to work. There will be a minimal fee for this service.
- Both Bloom Heating and Farm & Home have suggested that we consider replacing our furnace with 3-4 smaller units to increase efficiency. Mr. Springer will get information from them both for the next meeting.
- We did not receive the funding we applied for with the Recreational Grant that was submitted. There were less funds available and more applications than ever.

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

- Richard “Brent” Rhoades and Mark Lyash were appointed by the supervisors to serve on the Planning Commission.
- Creekside Major Subdivision has an extension until March 11, 2009.
- Szcpekowski Minor Subdivision will be reviewed at January 6, 2009 meeting.

#### **SOLICITOR’S REPORT -**

- Payeskie/Wetzel made a motion to adopt Resolution 2009-01 Right to Know Policy. Approval was unanimous.
- Solicitor conducted hearing on proposed ordinance repealing portion of Ordinance 164. Effect of new ordinance would resume 2-way traffic to Kase Street. No citizen input. Ordinance 170 was adopted on Madara/Shirvinski motion and carried. Payeskie voted no.
- Solicitor conducted hearing on proposed ordinance for Police Pension Update. No citizen input. Ordinance 171 was adopted on Wetzel/Madara motion and carried unanimously.
- Henry Subdivision plans were dropped off tonight.

#### **ENGINEER’S REPORT –**

- Creekside Subdivision review comments were discussed and will go to Planning Commission and supervisors asked that a letter be sent from the Solicitor after Planning Commission meeting.
- Taxiway at Airport – documents will be provided to engineer and going to bring in an escrow account deposit to the township office.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- There was a heated discussion on the Wind Ordinance and a motion was made by Madara and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Payeskie to change the ordinance back to its original form, to add an insurance requirement and to add an adequate distance clause and then send the ordinance to the Planning Commission. Motion carried. Wetzel voted no.
- Payeskie made a motion to buy a Kyocera photo copier from North Central Digital, the motion died for a lack of a 2<sup>nd</sup>. Wetzel/Shirvinski motioned to buy a Panasonic photo copier from CSP Office Equipment, at a cost of \$2,642.50, motion carried. Payeskie voted no.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Madara/Wetzel motioned to adopt Resolution 2009-02 that waives employee contributions to the Police Pension Fund for calendar year 2009; approval was unanimous.
- Signature cards for the 2 depository banks will be signed tonight at the close of the meeting.

**CITIZEN INPUT – None**

An executive session for personnel matters and possible litigation will be held immediately following this meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT** - There being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 on Payeskie/Wetzel motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson  
Ralpho Township Secretary