

MONTHLY MEETING - FEBRUARY 10, 2009 - 6:30 P.M.

Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market Street, Elysburg, PA 17824

Chairman Howard Shaddock called meeting to order and led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Responding to roll call were Supervisors Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie, Joe Shirvinski, Chip Wetzel and Shaddock. Also attending were Kim Potter from Gannon Associates, Lester Bloom from Bloom Heating; Don Walters, Brian Kierman and Larry Weiser of Farm & Home/Energy Kinetics; Steve Major, Ed Blair, Frank Berger; Buddy Knoebel, Trevor Knoebel, John Jones all of H.H. Knoebel & Sons; Justin Strausser of The News Item, Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Township Manager Joe Springer, Township Engineer Michele Aukerman, Roadmaster Bill Hoy and Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson.

Kim Potter of Gannon Associates gave a presentation on the proposal to renew the insurance plan. Ms. Potter will get back to us with answers to a few questions and can change items after renewal if we so choose.

Payeskie/Madara motion to ratify accepting insurance proposal from Gannon Associates for March 5 renewal. Total premium for package policy Workers Comp, Public Officials Liability and Police Professional Liability is \$66,840.

Don Walter and Larry Weiser of Farm and Home and Brian Kierman of Energy Kinetics gave a presentation on replacing and updating our current heating system. Lester Bloom also gave a presentation to replace and update the current heating system. Chairman Shaddock thanked them both for their presentations and told them that specs to replace the heating system would be put together in the future and they would both be welcome to bid at that time.

Discussion on Knoebels Conditional Use Application.

PLANNING COMMISSION - Steve Major, Chairman

- Payeskie/Wetzel made a motion to approve Frances Y. Leisenring Estate Minor Subdivision contingent upon Engineer researching if there is a limit to the number of times one can subdivide. Engineer will let secretary know Wednesday morning and she will inform supervisors. Carried Unanimously.
- Payeskie/Madara made a motion to table the Szczepkoski subdivision plans and send them back to the Municipal Authority of Ralpho Township for further explanation on the design of the sewer and the party will also need a road occupancy permit. Motion carried. Supervisors directed Solicitor to send Szczepkowski's a letter explaining the situation.
- H.H. Knoebel & Sons Conditional Use Application was discussed earlier. If they choose to request a hearing on the contingent matter they will need to let the township know within a week. Motion made by Shirvinski/Wetzel to advertise if a hearing is needed. Carried unanimously.

- Planning commission is awaiting answers to engineer's comments on the Creekside Subdivision. They will recommend for rejection in March after 90 day extension if questions are not answered.

Chairman Shadduck named Supervisors to head up departments as follows:

Street Department – Payeskie

Buildings – Madara

Police Department/Public Safety – Wetzel

Zoning – Shirvinski

Recreation – Madara

Recycling - Shadduck

CITIZENS INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS - none

BID OPENING – Bids for the 2004 Crown Victoria police car were publicly opened and recorded. On a motion by Payeskie and second by Wetzel the bid was awarded to the apparent highest bidder, Grace Quality Used Cars Inc., for \$2,126.

MINUTES of January 5, 2009 Reorganization and Regular meetings were approved on Madara/Wetzel motion and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT was accepted as presented on Wetzel/Shirvinski motion and carried.

BILLS were approved for payment on Madara/Shirvinski motion and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- PennDot requested input on proposed project to resurface the pavement starting at intersection of SR 54 and SR 487 and ending at the water company. Tentatively scheduled for a spring 2009 letting with start work date shortly thereafter. Township Secretary sent a letter to PennDot telling them the supervisors have no questions or input at this time.
- PennDot requested input on proposed project to resurface the pavement on SR 4012 starting at the intersection of Zimmerman Hollow Road and SR 4012 and ending at the intersection of SR 4012 and SR 487. Tentatively scheduled for a spring 2009 letting with start work date shortly thereafter. Township Secretary sent a letter to PennDot telling them the supervisors have no questions or input at this time.
- Ralpho Township Business Association wrote thanking the supervisors for us of the meeting room for their monthly meetings and would like to continue to use conference room at this time.
- Payeskie/Wetzel motioned to have Solicitor Todd Kerstetter write a letter to the Great Valley Consultants/Shamokin-Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority to tell them Ralpho Township is in support of the project. Motion carried.

Wetzel/Shirvinski made a motion to accept the offer of Shamokin Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority to pay the taxes we lose because they are going to condemn properties in our commercial zone. Motion carried.

- Northumberland County Conservation District, grant applications for the Dirt & Gravel Roads program. No action was taken at this time.
- Trollinger Consulting Group/Univest merger effective 1/1/09.
- Tax Collector Charlene Zeigler was exonerated from further collections on the 2008 tax duplicate on Wetzel/Payeskie motion and carried.
- 2008 Annual Investment Reports for pensions were received from TCG Investment. They are available for review in the Township Office.
- Liquid Fuels Audit will be performed on February 20, 2009 for the years 2006 and 2007.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

STREET DEPARTMENT – Wetzel

- Supervisor Wetzel thanked the street department for the great job they are doing on snow/ice removal. He also stated that homeowners are moving snow out into the streets and that is against the ordinance and to make sure everyone knows that the ordinance is going to be enforced.
- Wetzel/Madara to sandblast and paint the bottom of the 2007 F550 for \$1,555 with Bradco. Motion carried.
- Wetzel/Madara motion to purchase a 2009 Ford F350 4x4 from Sunbury Motor Company through a program with the state for a price of \$23,607; to purchase a 8 ½' power angle snow plow at a price of \$5,400.60 and a Star 200A strobe light roof mounted for a price of \$260 through a program with the state from Bradco Supply Company for the truck. Supervisor Payeskie voted no, motion carried.
- There was discussion as to repair or replace the spreader on the 2004 truck. To repair it would be \$5,740 and to replace would be \$9,049. No action was taken so a stainless steel spreader quote could be attained.

BUILDINGS – Shirvinski

- Payeskie/Wetzel motion to allow the 2010 US Census to use the building on Wednesday evenings in February for hiring people to help with the census. Carried.
- Township Manager, Joseph Springer and Supervisor Madara are going to meet to do specs for updating/replacing furnace system.
- A taxpayer had an accident at the recycling center and 2 bids will be received by the secretary to send in to his insurance company to make minor repairs on the salt shed.
- It was noted that a light near the police department needs repair.
- Roof repair was discussed. Boss roofing is going to wait until it warms up to come back over to repair.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Payeskie read report.

- Chief Appel was not in attendance because he was away on vacation.
- The supervisors are thankful for a \$1,000 anonymous donation to use toward the purchase of tasers for the police department.
- Secretary was directed to put in the policy book that if someone is having a marathon in the township they are to notify the police 2 weeks in advance for traffic control. She was also asked to send a letter to the school district.
- Police Cruiser No. 2 driver's side rear door is in need of repair.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT read by Supervisor Shadduck.

RECREATION – Madara

- Heating problems in the gym are now fixed.
- Supervisor Madara will get name from Supervisor Payeskie for price quote on gym access door.
- Need to think about painting tennis courts in the spring.

RECYCLING - Shadduck

- Coal Township is now transporting our plastic and cardboard. Mostick Disposal takes glass, bi-metal and newspapers.
- Tire/Computer Tower Recycling Day will be Saturday, April 11, 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Branches and limbs will also be accepted, no grass clippings or leaves. This is not a dumpster day.

MANAGER'S REPORT - by Springer.

- Received a price quote of \$7,500 for informational sign. No action taken.
- Right-to-know information has been added to the website.
- Madara/Shirvinski motioned to allow employees to have payroll deductions for AFLAC insurance at no cost to the township. Supervisor Payeskie voted no. Motion carried.
- IRS issue has been going on and now the Township has a Taxpayer Advocate to help alleviate the situation.
- TASC, the 3rd party that handles the Township vision plan is not providing us with good service. Supervisors asked Mr. Springer to look into having the plan run through the township office and quit paying them a monthly fee.
- County Commissioner, Kurt Masser and the Northumberland County Planning commission contacted Township Manager for some input on bridge repairs and flood control projects in Ralpho Township for the incentive plan.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT –

- Wetzel/Payeskie motion to change ordinance to eliminate Letter A, 20-foot set back from all property to set back 20 feet from property line and advertise for hearing for the Wind Energy Ordinance at the March 10, 2009 supervisor's meeting. Motion carried.

- Madara/Wetzel made a motion to accept the retirement/separation agreement with Joan E. Baskin. Motion carried.
- Madara made a motion and Wetzel seconded to have the solicitor make an amendment to the agreement with Tri-County COG and Steve Beilski. Unanimous, motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT –

- Queen of Most Holy Rosary Building Project waiting on one comment.
- Henry, William D. site development storm water plan, consultant will meet with engineer next week.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Auditors positions** - 1 position remains to be filled.
- **Municipal Authority of Sunnyside/Overlook**, 1 vacancy, 5 year term, term would expire January 2012.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Resolution 2009-03, the Order of Succession Resolution, was adopted on Wetzel/Payeskie motion and carried.
- Madara/Wetzel motioned authorizing releasing \$1,000 from both the Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans to pay actuarial/consulting fees to Trollinger Consulting Group. Carried unanimously.
- Madara/Shirvinski made a motion to send Secretary to Open Records Training February 26 in Lewisburg for a registration fee of \$20. Motion carried.

CITIZEN INPUT – nothing.

Executive Session to discuss personnel matters was held at 10:12 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 10:32 p.m.

Payeskie/Madara made a motion to increase the wages of the part-time street workers: Clint Herr, Earl Fetterman and Doyle Horne by \$.50 per hour; to increase the wages of part-time custodian, Ed Blair, by \$.50 per hour; to increase Township Manager, Joseph J. Springer's hourly rate by \$2.00 and to give Debra Olson, Township Secretary, her \$1.00 per hour probation increase, all to be effective 2/7/09. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT at 10:35 PM on motion by Payeskie.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary