

MONTHLY MEETING - September 8, 2009 - 6:32 P.M.
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market Street, Elysburg, PA 17824

Vice Chairman Blaine Madara called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. 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 and Supervisor Chip Wetzel. Chairman Howard Shaddock was absent from the meeting. Also attending were Township Manager Joe Springer, Roadmaster Bill Hoy; Code Enforcement Officer Howard Howal; Chief of Police Stuart Appel; Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Steve Major, Planning Commission chairman; Justin Strawser from the Shamokin News-Item and 2 interested citizens.

CITIZENS INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS –

Tammy Hodder, President of the Vista Ultra Homeowners Association, presented a petition with 11 signatures of home or property owners from that housing development. They are concerned with the condition of Bucks Road and its current condition.

MINUTES of August 11, 2009 regular meeting were approved on Shirvinski/Wetzel motion and carried.

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

BILLS were approved for payment on Wetzel/Shirvinski motion. Carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE –

- The Formal 2008 Financial Statements for the Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans has arrived in the office. Copies are available for review in the office.
- Northumberland County Association of Township Officers Annual Convention, if any of the supervisors choose to attend they will let the secretary know prior to October 1.
- Letters were written to Representative Belfanti and Senator Gordner in regard to SEO reimbursement to the township. A response was received from Rep. Belfanti letting us know that he understands our concerns.
- PennDot requested input on proposed project to resurface the pavement on SR 487 starting at intersection of SR 61 and ending at the intersection with SR 54. Tentatively scheduled for a spring 2010 letting with start work date shortly thereafter. A letter will be sent to PennDot to inform them that we don't have any input at this time for this project.
- PennDot requested input on proposed project to resurface the pavement on SR 61 starting at intersection of Mountain Road and ending at the intersection with SR 61 and Miller Road. Tentatively scheduled for a spring 2010 letting with start work date shortly thereafter. A letter will be sent to PennDot to inform them that we don't have any input at this time for this project.
- The Compliance Audit Report was received from the Commonwealth for Elysburg Firemens Relief Association for January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2007.
- A reply from PennDot was received in regard to the request for a traffic study near Deerfield Townhomes. Their records indicate a guide rail is not warranted at this location. This letter was forwarded to the homeowner who requested the study.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING COMMISSION – Steve Major, Chairman

- Joseph A. Shepard Major Subdivision will be coming before the board at the October Supervisors meeting for preliminary approval.
- Payeskie made a motion and Wetzel seconded it to give Daniel Honaberger a 90 day extension for Creekside Subdivision with it being known to everyone involved that this will be the last 90 day extension for this project. This will be good until December 11, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.
- Rich Parsons brought a question to the Planning Commission for a client of his on whether Rich Lane is a paper street and if the possible land purchase could be subdivided. The supervisors asked Mr. Major to send a letter with concerns on this project to Mr. Parsons.

STREET DEPARTMENT – Payeskie

- The street department made a repair on Jepko Road on a soft spot along with some pipe repair.
- Payeskie made a motion to rebid the 1971 JD Grader with a low bid of \$15,000. After discussion the motion was rescinded.
- Mr. Wetzel was approached about the cement blocks that are blocking the back road by the softball field? Wetzel/Shirvinski motioned to have Howard Howal check on this and report back to supervisors at the next meeting. Motion carried.
- The resurfacing project on S.R. 54 continuing onto the water company was discussed. The secretary was asked to call PennDot and inquire as to when the guide rails would be replaced for the safety of the citizens using the road.

BUILDINGS – Madara

- Playground fence has not been looked into yet.
- Gym refinishing project is done. Mr. Payeskie will check on prices to paint Name on building and also possibly to put up a welcome sign.
- Boiler replacement was discussed with a deadline of November 1st. The contractor sent an e-mail with a time line for the project to be done in time for the heating season.
- The library would like to put more receptacles in to handle computers, etc. Mr. Madara will look into it. Payeskie/Wetzel made a motion to handle this with a maximum of \$1,000. Motion carried.
- The back stairs will need to be looked at in the spring.
- Howard Howal will look at some tiles lifting off in the transition from tile to wood floor in the police vestibule.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY- report was read by Supervisor Wetzel.

- Mr. Payeskie made the board aware of compliments received on behalf of the Ralpho Township Police Department.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT read by Supervisor Shirvinski.

- There were 7 permits issued and fees of \$4,470.19 collected. Several Occupancy Permits were issued, handled several weed complaints, burn permits.
- A taxpayer would like us to look into an ordinance in regard to snakes in the township. The solicitor and code officer will look into this matter.

- There was a discussion on a possible land lord ordinance. Chief Appel will get Mr. Howal an example to look at.

RECREATION – Madara

- Looking into gym door replacement. Need to have this replaced prior to winter season. Mr. Madara will get quotes on this project.
- Playground bathrooms will be closed sometime in October when the mornings turn colder.
- Bathrooms in the gymnasium were not cleaned regularly over the summer. This will be handled by Mr. Madara.

RECYCLING – Shaddock

- Program is running smoothly.

MANAGER’S REPORT – by Joe Springer

- Roof repairs – The board would like Mr. Springer to look into options other than piggybacking on the CSIU vendor for roofs.
- Wetzel/Shirvinski motioned to renew the Geisinger Health Plan for the township employees. Motion carried.
- Street Light assessments are being researched further prior to the budget process of 2010.
- At this point the supervisors are not going to move forward with a light on Pearle and Highway 487 because of the recommendation that PennDot did not deem the intersection as hazardous. The township supervisors thank Mr. Lakitis for his interest.
- 2 bottles of repair vinyl for the benches in the playground will be ordered to make repairs.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT –

- The LCB hearing was held on Thursday, August 13 at 1 p.m. in the meeting room. Seems to have been successful, the Solicitor believes this will be relooked at each year or maybe 2 years at the most. The supervisors think a fee for this is a possibility in the future. The solicitor should hear prior to the next meeting the results of the hearing and whether or not we are indeed exempt.
- The case with Mr. Krushinski has been settled and he has been given 30 days to hook up to the sewer. He is also required to pay court costs of \$2,006.26 within ten days after the court order becomes final.

ENGINEER’S REPORT –

- No report given as engineer was absent from the meeting for vacation.

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:

- Saturday, October 31 from 6 to 9 p.m. will be Trick or Treat night in Ralpho Township.
- The Elysburg Haunted House will be held October 16 and 17, 23 and 24, & 30 and 31 starting at 7 p.m. nightly.
- The All Home Days Celebration was appreciated by all the citizens of Ralpho Township and seemed to be a great success. All people involved did a great job.

CITIZEN INPUT – none

Vice Chairman Madara announced that there would be an executive session to discuss possible litigation issues at this time.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:27 p.m. on motion by Wetzel/Payeskie.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary