

MONTHLY MEETING - November 10, 2009 - 6:30 P.M.
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market Street, Elysburg, PA 17824

Chairman Howard Shaddock called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Responding to roll call were Supervisors Howard Shaddock, Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie, Joe Shirvinski and Supervisor Chip Wetzel. Also attending were Township Manager Joe Springer, Roadmaster Bill Hoy; Code Enforcement Officer Howard Howal; Chief of Police Stuart Appel; Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Stephen Major Planning Commission Chairman; Solicitor Todd Kerstetter; Bob Leffler and Consetta Leffler, Ed Blair, Ron Bittner, Al Cihocki, Jim Roth, Andy and Kim Mills, Adele Mills, Joseph Shepard and Justin Strawser of the News-Item.

Chairman Shaddock acknowledged Veterans, Veterans Day and we had a moment of silence for those affected by the tragedy in Fort Hood, TX.

A presentation was made to Coach Jim Roth, Coach Al Cihocki and Coach Andy Mills, from Southern Columbia Area School District, in recognition of 300 wins and their many years of dedication and devotion to the Southern Columbia School District football program.

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 and the long-term nature of the funds.

CITIZENS INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

Bids for Roof Replacement of the Municipal Building were opened, tabulated and considered (see tabulation sheet). Madara/Wetzel motioned to accept the apparent low bid of \$24,800.00 from Boss Insulation and Roofing, Inc. for the Roof Replacement project. On the question: award is contingent upon bid meeting all legal, bonding and insurance requirements. Motion unanimously approved.

MINUTES of October 13, 2009 regular meeting and October 27 special meeting and budget work session were approved with by Payeskie/Wetzel motion and carried.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE –

- Shamokin Township Application to DEP for expansion project was received.
- 3rd Quarter 2009 Investment Reports for pensions were received from TCG Investment and are available for review in the Township Office.
- Elysburg Fire Company Ambulance Committee formal request for funding.

Payeskie/Madara motioned to transfer \$20,000 from the general fund to the Elysburg Fire Company Ambulance committee. Motion carried unanimously.

- Brush Valley Chamber advertisement in welcome booklet was discussed.

- AQUA GP-5 Permit Application to DEP for Roadarmel Lane Phase II Watermain Replacement project was received.
- AQUA future water main replacement projects letter in response to our letter was received. Secretary was asked to keep it for the spring when road repairs are discussed.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING COMMISSION – Steve Major, Chairman

- Shirvinski/Wetzel to give Joseph A. Shepard a 90 day extension on the Shepard Ponds Estates preliminary plans. Motion carried.
- Wetzel/Payeskie motioned to accept the William Henry Storm Water Management Plans. Motion carried. Secretary is to send a letter to William Henry alerting him that he needs to replenish his escrow account and contact township engineer for construction observation when ready to start work on the project.
- Payeskie/Madara motioned to accept the resignation with regret of Chairman Steve Major from the Planning Commission effective 12-2-09. Motion carried. Mr. Major won the election to be a Township Supervisor as of the January 4, 2010 township reorganizational meeting.

STREET DEPARTMENT – Payeskie

- Thanks to the road crew for the hard work with the leaf collection. They have been working to get caught up the past few weeks and ask the patrons to be patient.
- 2001 Truck is in the shop for extensive clutch repair.

BUILDINGS – Madara

- Playground fence has not been looked into yet.
- Boiler replacement project will be discussed in executive session because of possible litigation.
- The library would like to put more receptacles in to handle computers, etc. Mr. Springer spoke to Wade Hampton to come in and look into this. Should have more information for December's meeting.
- Tiles lifting off in the transition from tile to wood floor in the police vestibule. Mr. Payeskie spoke with the contractor and he will be coming to look at how to repair the problem.

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

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT read by Supervisor Shirvinski.

- There were 5 permits issued and fees of \$1,344.95 collected. Several Occupancy Permits were issued, handled burn barrel complaint and testified at Zoning Hearing Board hearing.
- Exotic Animal Ordinance will be discussed by Code Officer Howard Howal and Solicitor Kerstetter and be brought to the next supervisor's meeting.
- Land Lord Ordinance, Chief Appel and Code Officer Howal will forward their information to the solicitor and discuss at the next meeting.

RECREATION – Madara

- Township Manager will bring further information to the December meeting for gym door replacement.
- Playground bathrooms were winterized and will remain closed for the winter season. Chip Adams Sewer Service placed the check valve to prevent problems that arose last spring.

RECYCLING – Shaddock

- Program is running smoothly.

MANAGER’S REPORT – by Joe Springer

- All items were discussed previously in the meeting.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT –

- Garancosky Paper Street vacating will not be pursued by the Township.
- Code Officer Howal and Solicitor Kerstetter will forward a campground ordinance to the supervisors for review at the next meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Leffler asked some questions about the Campground Ordinance being reviewed and asked for help on the matter of what he can do with a proposed piece of land he is looking at buying. He will meet with the Planning Commission again on December 1st at their regular meeting and the Township Solicitor will attend also to hopefully answer some of his questions.

ENGINEER’S REPORT –

- All items were discussed earlier in the meeting.

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:

- Proposed Budget - Authorize advertising and posting proposed 2010 budget was approved on a Wetzel/Shirvinski motion. Motion carried. Real estate taxes will remain the same at 4-1/2 mills; i.e. general purposes 3-1/4 mills; fire protection 1/2 mill; equipment 1/2 mill and library 1/4 mill; street lighting per assessment formula. General Fund anticipated receipts plus carry over from 2009 = \$1,332,300; budgeted expenditures = \$1,318,883 leaving a projected surplus of \$13,417. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts plus carry over from 2009 = \$257,217, budgeted expenditures of \$217,945 leaving a projected surplus of \$39,272.
- Proposed Budget – Authorize advertising re-acting current Act 511 taxes 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 –

Howard Howal questioned why the Ralpho Township Taxpayer needs to support the ambulance when it goes to other surrounding municipalities. Supervisor Payeskie explained that the ambulance service is required by law to help the municipalities directly around Ralpho Township.

Chairman Shadduck announced that there would be an executive session for personnel and possible litigation.

The board went into executive session to discuss personnel matters and possible litigation at 8:58 p.m. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:26 p.m.

Payeskie/Wetzel motioned to advertise for a Full-time Roadmaster in the Press Enterprise, the Daily Item and The News-Item 2 times for 2 different weeks at the manager's discretion. Application deadline is December 8 at 4 p.m. Motion carried.

Wetzel motioned and Madara seconded to authorize payment to CCSI, Inc. for the remainder owed on the contract for boiler replacement less 10% of total contract amount. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:30 p.m. on motion by Madara/Wetzel.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary