

MONTHLY MEETING - December 8, 2009 - 6:30 P.M.
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market Street, Elysburg, PA 17824

Chairman Howard Shadduck called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Responding to roll call were Supervisors Howard Shadduck, Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie and Joe Shirvinski, Supervisor Chip Wetzel will be arriving at a later time. Also attending were Roadmaster Bill Hoy; Chief of Police Stuart Appel; Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Solicitor Todd Kerstetter; Michele Auckerman, Township Engineer, Mr. and Mrs. Persing, Ron Dickey and Shane Willingham of Northeastern ITS, Ed Blair, Dan Schiel and Bill Shultz.

Chairman Shadduck announced that an executive session was held on Wednesday, November 18 for personnel issues.

CITIZENS INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS –

Shane Willingham and Ron Dickey from Northeastern ITS gave a presentation on InfraSource letter with regard to Fiber Optic Cable construction project taking place in Ralpho Township on the right of ways of state routes 61, 54 and Reading Turnpike Road.

Linda Persing spoke in regard to the tenant issue she wrote a letter to the supervisors about. At this time the supervisors informed her they do not have an ordinance to help with her situation and reminded her if it becomes a police mater to be sure to call the Ralpho Police Department. Chief Appel reiterated that point.

Dan Schiel brought up a question about the condition of Bear Hollow Road and Jepko Road. The supervisors told Mr. Schiel they feel for secondary roads the 2 roads are in quite good condition and explained that the paving of those roads could possibly cost over 5 years of the township budget for paving.

Supervisor Wetzel arrived at the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

MINUTES of November 10, 2009 regular meeting were approved with by Madara/Wetzel motion and carried.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE –

- Received numerous letters about remediation of properties near Shamokin-Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority plant from Alternative Environmental Solutions, Inc. and also received notice from DEP on these letters.
- Received notice from Shamokin-Coal Township Sewer Authority they are applying to DEP for a Water Quality Management Permit.
- InfraSource letter in regard to Northeastern ITS Fiber Optic Cable construction project in our area was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- Notice of Proposed Rate Changes from AQUA Pennsylvania, Inc.
- Request from T. Bryce James & Associates for Cancer Care Clinic.

Motion made by Payeskie to approve Chairman to sign the sewer waiver for the Cancer Care Center, seconded by Wetzel. Motion carried.

- Ralpho Township Business Association thank you and Christmas tree pickup schedule. Secretary was asked to post around property the Christmas tree pickup schedule. She will contact Frank Berger for posters.
- PA State Association of Boroughs Newly Elected Officials Training.

Motion made by Wetzel to pay for the training for any new supervisors or current supervisors to attend elected officials training, seconded by Madara. Motion carried.

- Letter from Linda Persing regarding tenant issue. Was discussed prior in meeting.
- Alfred Benesch & Company offers services as Municipal Engineering Consultant.
- Powell, Rogers & Speaks Inc. delinquent tax collection. Secretary will talk with Charlene Zeigler, Tax Collector, and Manager Springer on past history of delinquent taxes.
- Letter from Rep. Belfanti alerting us grant money available through PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency with moneys available from Federal stimulus money. Supervisors gave permission to Chief Appel to look into this and if will work for us go ahead and apply by grant deadline.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING COMMISSION –

- Payeskie/Wetzel motioned to approve the Christine Griffiths Subdivision with Component 2 Sewage Module. Motion Carried unanimously.
- Payeskie/Madara made a motion to grant a 90 day extension to Daniel Honaberger for “Creekside Development” on advice of legal counsel because of extenuating circumstances. Motion carried.
- Meeting dates for 2010 will continue to be on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
- It was noted that the George Dornbach Major Subdivision withdrew their application.
- Wetzel made a motion to appoint Ralph Renn to the seat open on the Planning Commission because of the resignation of Chairman Major. Payeskie/Shirvinski seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Secretary will send a letter to Mr. Renn.

STREET DEPARTMENT – Payeskie

- It was noted that the Township banner near Turkey Hill needs to be re hung. Supervisor Payeskie noted that he could get a bucket truck to get up and place the banner back on its bracket correctly.

BUILDINGS – Madara

- Playground fence has not been looked into yet.
- Boiler replacement project was discussed, this is tabled for now awaiting a response from Mr. Springer’s letter to CCSI.
- Madara/Wetzel motioned to accept the proposed estimate from Wade Hampton to install receptacles in the Library for \$950. Motion carried.
- Tiles lifting off in the transition from tile to wood floor in the police vestibule. Mr. Payeskie is working on this project.

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

- Chief Appel asked if he can go ahead and order the new police cruiser approved in the 2010 budget. It takes approximately 60 days after ordering for delivery. Sunbury Motors is approved through the State Contract. The supervisors don’t have a problem with Chief going ahead and starting the process of purchasing the 2010 cruiser.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT read by Supervisor Shirvinski.

- There were 3 permits issued and fees of \$734.87 collected. Several Occupancy Permits were issued.
- Exotic Animal Ordinance was discussed by Solicitor Kerstetter and he will re-write the draft ordinance with Supervisor's recommendations for January meeting.
- Chief Appel and Code Officer Howard Howal forwarded a land lord ordinance from Mt. Carmel Borough as an example for supervisors review. Solicitor Kerstetter was asked to come up with a more simplified version of the example on the table. The supervisors would want to make the land lord the responsible party and to have the Township Manager noted as the appeal person for the township with the Chairman of the Board as the alternate.

RECREATION – Madara

- Estimates were received from Hampton & Appel Bros Construction and R.C. Rhoades Contractor to replace the gym door and door at the top of the fire escape. Payeskie/ made a motion to accept the estimate by Hampton & Appel for \$2,240, subject to Mr. Madara's approval on type of door. Wetzel seconded the motion. Motion carried. Painting of the doors will be discussed further.
- Township Manager should ask Wade Hampton while he is here working in the library to look at the light that is out in the gymnasium.
- Street crew was asked to put tables, benches, etc. from the playground out of weather when possible.

RECYCLING – Shadduck

- Center will close on Tuesday, December 22 at 3 p.m. and reopen on Saturday, January 2, 2010 at 8 a.m.
- Mr. Shadduck gave a report on the budget for recycling so far this year for 2009.

MANAGER'S REPORT –

- Manager was out of town and unable to attend the meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT –

- Solicitor Kerstetter will forward a campground ordinance to the planning commission at their next meeting.

ENGINEER'S REPORT –

- Joseph Shepard subdivision review. Mr. Parsons, surveyor, has dropped off a new set of plans for Township Engineer's review.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Madara/Payeskie motioned to adopt resolution 2009-07 to apportion street lighting costs. Motion carried unanimously.
- Resolution 2009-08 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 Payeskie/Wetzel motion and carried.

- Proposed 2010 Budget was posted for public inspection on November 13. Consider adopting 2010 budget as follows: Consider resolution 2009-09 establishing Real estate taxes for 2010 as follows: general purposes 3-1/4 mills; fire protection ½ mill; equipment ½ mill and library ¼ mill; street lighting depending on location .20, .22, .33 or \$5.77 was adopted on Payeskie/Wetzel motion and carried.
- Resolution 2009-10 adopting the 2010 Budget was approved on Madara/Shirvinski motion and carried unanimously. General Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2009 = \$1,332,300; budgeted expenditures = \$1,318,883 leaving a projected surplus of \$13,417. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2009 = \$257,217, budgeted expenditures of \$217,945 leaving a projected surplus of \$39,272.
- Open positions for appointments were discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Payeskie/Wetzel motioned to approve advertising for meeting dates of Ralpho Township Supervisors meeting to be 2nd Tuesday of month beginning at 6:30 p.m. and for Planning Commission meetings to be 1st Tuesday of month beginning at 6:30 p.m. and also to authorize advertising January's reorganization and regular monthly meeting for Monday, January 4, 2010 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Approval was unanimous.
- Madara/Payeskie motioned to hire Marion Williams as an employee of Ralpho Township as tax assistant to keep the tax rolls up to date for Per Capita and Occupational Taxes at a rate of \$975 annually. Motion carried. The solicitor asked that a job description be created for this position.
- Wetzel/Shirvinski motioned for the Municipal Authority of Ralpho Township and the Municipal Authority of Sunnyside/Overlook to have the option to pay each member \$50 per advertised meeting attended. Motion carried with Supervisor Madara and Supervisor Payeskie abstaining from the vote.
- Wetzel/Madara motioned to allow the Township Secretary and the Township Manager to attend any training at the PSATS Annual Convention they choose to attend with the Township covering the expense. Motion carried.

Supervisor Madara, Payeskie and Wetzel took a moment to thank Mr. Shadduck and Mr. Shirvinski for all of the great community work they have done while being on the Board of Supervisors. It is also appreciated that Mr. Shadduck will remain on as the recycling coordinator.

Mr. Shadduck and Mr. Shirvinski both thanked the Board for their kind words and good working relationships.

CITIZEN INPUT –

Bob Barret from Mt. Carmel Borough commended the supervisors for a well organized meeting.

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

ADJOURNMENT at 8:46 p.m. on motion by Payeskie/Madara.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary