

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING - DECEMBER 14, 2010**  
**Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St, Elysburg, PA.**

***Vice Chairman William Wetzel called meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.***

Attending were: Supervisors Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie, William Wetzel, Stephen Major and Vince Daubert. Also attending were: Township Manager Joe Springer, Police Chief Stu Appel, Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Code Enforcement Officer Howard Howal, Roadmaster Howard Shadduck, Engineer Michele Auckerman, Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Debra Eliassen of the Shamokin News-Item and 4 citizens.

Chairman Blaine Madara arrived after attendance was taken and took over leading the meeting.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

Minutes of November 9, 2010 regular meeting were accepted as presented on Payeskie/Major motion and carried.

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

Bills were approved as presented for payment with the exception of the Miller's Gas & Oil invoices, including those bills paid between meetings on a Payeskie/Wetzel motion, motion carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Payeskie/Major motioned to release \$5,000 to Elysburg Fire Company previously approved for purchase of new brush truck. Motion carried.
- A note from Uni-tec was read stating that instead of gifts this year for Christmas a donation was being given to Marine Toys for Tots and food banks to serve hungry families on our behalf. Chairman Madara thanked Michele Auckerman, Engineer from Uni-tec.
- A House of Representatives Citation was given to Ralpho Township to note Ralpho Township being honored by the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania with the Waste Watchers Award. Supervisor Major thanked Roadmaster Howard Shadduck for getting the Recycling Program started when he was a supervisor for the Township.
- Brior Environmental Services thanked the Township for allowing them to serve in 2010 and look forward to serving us in 2011.
- The Ralpho Township Business Association thanked the township for all of the support they have received from the Township in the past year and also noted that the Christmas tree pickup will be Saturday, January 8, 2011 starting at 9 a.m.
- Notice to Remediate for Shamokin Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority from AES and DEP response was received. Secretary was asked to look into this more prior to the next meeting.
- Department of Agriculture Invitation to attend Farm Show Public Officials Day Luncheon January 13, 2011 was received.
- Corson Quarries, Inc. notice to apply for a DEP facility-wide Air Quality State Only Permit to continue operating its Bear Gap Stone Quarry located in Ralpho Township was received.
- PennDot Notice of designing plans for rehabilitation of the bridge on SR 2013 was received.
- DEP letter Split Vein Breaker Operation Application Mid Valley Coal Sales, Inc. change of location for coal refuse material was received.
- An e-mail was received from Jaci Harner, Watershed Specialist from Northumberland County Conservation District asking if the Township would like to partner with them on a Rain Barrel Workshop in the spring. Secretary is to call her and get more information and bring to the next meeting.

**COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:  
PLANNING COMMISSION –**

- Nothing at this time

**STREET DEPARTMENT – Payeskie**

- Wetzel/Major motioned to ratify hiring Howard R. Shadduck as Roadmaster at an hourly rate of \$16.00, effective December 6, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.
- Payeskie/Wetzel motioned to reimburse Howard Shadduck \$20 toward his monthly cell phone for township use. Motion carried.
- Payeskie/Madara for Mr. Springer to purchase a lap top and printer for the Roadmaster not to exceed \$800. Motion carried.
- Payeskie/Wetzel motioned to have Mr. Springer and Roadmaster look into an internet connection. Motion carried.
- Wetzel/Madara motioned to give Mr. Payeskie the authority to accept lowest price and go ahead to purchase 6 tires for 1996 F-450 after checking for one other price to compare to quote currently in hand from Bastian. Motion carried.
- Solicitor was asked to inform a taxpayer on West Ave that his question for his driveway is a civil matter.
- Pipe on Sugar Hollow road was discussed. Mr. Shadduck will contact DEP on this issue because the matter is not on the Township road or right of way.
- Roadmaster was asked to look into back hoe prices. It will be discussed at next month's meeting after getting more prices and information.

**BUILDINGS – Daubert**

- Heating system repairs were discussed. Wetzel/Payeskie motioned to pay Miller's Gas and Oil for invoices to this point. Motion carried. Supervisor Daubert abstained from voting. Mr. Madara will have LTS do a walk through to get their opinion of what needs to be done to fix the system to compare with a proposal already received from Miller Gas and Oil.
- Mat service with Dempsey was discussed. Secretary will send letter to them to cancel contract effective end of the contract, January 2013.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Wetzel**

- Police report was read.

**ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT – Madara**

- 1 permit was issued and \$82.50 in fees were collected during November. Zoning officer issued several Occupancy Permits.
- Code Officer Howal reported on November 17, 2010 he inspected 185 South Market and found it in violation of Ordinance #174 prohibiting conditions constituting a nuisance. A certified letter was sent to Mrs. Gloria Kramer at that address as well as hand delivered Mr. David Kramer. Photos were presented to the board by Code Officer Howal. Mrs. Gloria Kramer, homeowner, was present and stated that the stuff on the property is not hers. Solicitor Kerstetter stated that Mrs. Kramer has sole occupancy and has the ability to clear the property. The Board of Supervisors Authorized the Code Enforcement officer to take action filing a citation with the Magistrate against Mrs. Kramer if the said property is not cleaned up in 10 days. Motion carried unanimously.

**RECREATION - Major**

- Wetzel/Payeskie motioned to allow Meadowview Christian School to use the gymnasium on 1/7, 1/21, 2/4, 2/18, 3/4 and 3/18. Motion carried. Secretary will verify a certificate of insurance is received.
- Mr. Doyle Horne will be asked to look into fixing the outer door to the gymnasium.

- The rent for the gymnasium has been received from both Tiger Youth Basketball and Queen of Most Holy Rosary for the teams for the 2010-11 season.
- Faucets were donated to the Township and Charles Kowalchick, buildings and grounds, installed them in men's bathroom at the gymnasium.

**RECYCLING – Major**

- Scicchitano's from Mt. Carmel installed the light at recycling at a cost of \$327.16.

**MANAGER'S REPORT - Joe Springer**

- The electricity supplier for the township was discussed. It was decided that we would stay with Exelon for another year. Wetzel/Madara motioned and carried.
- Manager with the help of Chief Appel applied for a grant to upgrade our Traffic Signal to a camera system from the current loops we have now.
- Manager would like to get a feasibility study on the gymnasium prior to applying to get the Recreation Grant in April. Manager will contact Engineer for a price on a feasibility study.
- Payeskie/Wetzel to release \$10,000 of the \$20,000 left in the budget for 2010 to the ambulance. Motion carried.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

- Township received an exemption from Liquor Control Board regarding Amplified Sound. It will commence immediately and shall end on December 1, 2012 at 2 a.m. Invoices were sent by the solicitor to the 2 parties involved in this request to share the \$500 fees to be paid directly to the solicitor's office.
- Mountain View Assoc. was denied a tax assessment reduction and they are taking the decision to the Court of Appeals. Solicitor Kerstetter explained the process to the Supervisors. He said that in the future the township will more than likely be asked to pay part of the fees for the appraisal that will need to be completed. This will be based on percentage of tax received.
- William Henry property was discussed. The Henry's attorney informed the solicitor that the Henry's are hiring a new engineer. Solicitor will follow up on that.
- Solicitor drew up an addendum to the Police Union Contract in regard to Act 51 Killed in Service. He will forward this to Chief Appel and his police officers with possible adoption of this Ordinance at the January meeting.
- Rich Parsons is doing a Subdivision Plan for the land acquisition proposal.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- Cancer Care Center is under construction review and has been in contact with the developer.
- Shamokin Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements Project was sent to the developer and Planning Commission last week. Has not been approved by Planning Commission as of yet.
- Engineer reviewed PennDOT's Updated Stormwater Policy she has been informed of through a webinar.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Secretary was asked to send letters to the fire companies clarifying the policy to request funds from the Township to purchase fire equipment. The letters were reviewed by the Supervisors and they are to be mailed to both Fire Companies.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Resolution 2010-06 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 Wetzel/Payeskie motion and carried.

- Proposed 2011 budget was posted for public inspection on November 15. Resolution 2010-07 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, .21, .32 or \$6.22. Payeskie motioned and Major seconded. Motion carried unanimously. It was noted that the taxes have not been raised in over 20 years.
- Resolution 2010-08 adopting 2011 Budget was approved on Payeskie/Major motion and carried unanimously. General Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2010 = \$1,305,971; budgeted expenditures = \$1,301,102 leaving a projected surplus of \$4,869. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2010 = \$236,076, budgeted expenditures of \$225,400 leaving a projected surplus of \$10,676.
- Payeskie/Daubert motioned to approve advertising for meeting dates of Ralpho Township Supervisors meeting to be 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3, 2011 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Approval was unanimous.
- Payeskie/Wetzel motioned to return unused escrow balances to Queen of Most Holy Rosary Church \$1,183.75; Todd Sabo \$102.84 and Frances Y. Leisenring Estate \$2,050. Motion carried. It was noted that Northumberland County Airport has a balance of \$1,133.75 from phase one of their land development, we are holding the remaining balance for the next phase of their project.
- Wetzel/Payeskie motioned to give Wayne Horne, Street Department, \$.75/hr raise per contract; 5 full-time police officers, \$.75/hr raise per contract and Debra Olson, Secretary \$.75/hr raise. Motion carried.
- Wetzel/Major motioned to give Howard Howal, Code/Zoning Officer, \$.75/hr raise; Charles Kowalchick, Buildings/Grounds, \$.75/hr raise and Doyle Horne, part-time Street Department, \$.75/hr raise. Motion carried.
- Wetzel/Payeskie motioned to give Stuart Appel, Chief of Police, \$.75/hr raise. Motion carried with Supervisor Madara voting against.
- Wetzel/Payeskie motioned to give \$20 per month to Township Manager Joseph Springer toward the data plan he has on his phone for Township Business. Motion carried.
- There was a discussion of raising the rate per meeting for newly elected Township Supervisors. Mr. Springer was asked to survey other townships and find out the rate they pay their Township Supervisors.
- Water line and possible hydrant on Thrush Lane was discussed. Wetzel motioned and Major seconded that the township will not be putting a hydrant on Thrush Lane. Motion carried.

**CITIZEN INPUT** – none

**ADJOURNMENT** – there being nothing further for discussion, adjourned at approximately 9 p.m. on a Major/Daubert motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson  
Ralpho Township Secretary