

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING - NOVEMBER 9, 2010**  
**Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St, Elysburg, PA.**

**Chairman Blaine Madara called meeting to order at 6:30 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, Engineer Michele Auckerman, Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Debra Eliassen of the Shamokin News-Item and 4 citizens.

Chairman Madara acknowledged Veterans and Veteran's Day on November 11.

Ron Bittner, Trollinger Consulting Group gave a presentation on the Township Pension funds.

**CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS –**

Linda Tessarvich, Elysburg Postmaster, came to the Township asking for guidance or assistance as to the disrepair of the paper street behind the post office. The supervisors informed her that paper streets are not owned by Ralpho Township they are owned by all people who own properties touching the paper street. Homeowners Billy George and Mike Johnston also commented on the matter. Howard Howal, Code Officer, also made a comment. She thanked the Board of Supervisors for their time.

Minutes of October 12, 2010 regular meeting and October 26, 2010 Budget 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 on Payeskie/Daubert motion, motion carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Invitation to Relay for Life Wrap Up 2010 and Kick Off 2011 was received. Supervisor Major mentioned he will be attending.
- DEP Notice of Permit Correction was received for Surface Mining Permit No. 49851603. The supervisors asked Mr. Howal to look into this matter.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2010 Investment Reports from pensions were received from TCG Investment and are available for review in the Township Office.
- A Notice of Violation from DEP for Clean Streams Law and Solid Waste Management Act Violation for a resident of Ralpho Township was received.

**COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**PLANNING COMMISSION –**

- Nothing at this time

**STREET DEPARTMENT – Payeskie**

- Payeskie/Wetzel made a motion to hire David Peters and Rudy Persing @ \$11.00 per hour to help with snow removal. Motion carried.
- Payeskie/Major motioned to have Township Manager poll the supervisors to hire a person as Roadmaster prior to next meeting. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Payeskie thanked everyone for help that was given during the Haunted House. Also thanked Chief Appel for the police presence. He reported that the season went very well.

### **BUILDINGS – Daubert**

- Mat service with Dempsey was discussed. Mr. Wetzel and Mr. Springer will look into this for next month.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Wetzel**

- Wetzel/Major motioned to allow Chief Appel to purchase a Nikon D3100 D-SLR Camera for \$649 along with a corresponding memory card. Motion carried.
- Chief Appel is going to look into a 2011 cruiser that Sunbury Motors has on hand to see if they can hold it until 2011 for the Township at a savings instead of ordering one in the spring.

### **ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT – Madara**

- 3 permits were issued and \$159.20 in fees were collected during October. Zoning officer issued several Occupancy Permits, several burning permits and issued “Stop” work order, via certified mail.
- Solicitor conducted a hearing on the proposed Public Nuisance Ordinance. No citizen input. Ordinance #174 was adopted on Wetzel/Daubert motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **RECREATION - Major**

- The playground bathrooms were closed around November 3<sup>rd</sup> with the help of the Municipal Authority of Ralpho Township.

### **RECYCLING – Major**

- Winter hours were discussed as well as an additional light on the shed. Mr. Springer has asked Scicchitano’s from Mt. Carmel to install the light. It will be approximately \$200.

### **MANAGER’S REPORT - Joe Springer**

- Manager explained designation of Equipment and Fire Equipment Funds. Payeskie/Wetzel motioned to designate Equipment and Fire Equipment Fund bank accounts set aside within the General Fund for financial reporting purposes. Motion carried.
- Mr. Springer brought up the fact that some bills for utility, health insurance and life/disability insurance do come in between meetings that need to be paid prior to the next meeting because of due dates. It was the favor of the board that those be listed on a separate invoice list stating bills paid in between meetings in the monthly meeting packet for the next meeting.

### **SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

- The hearing for Resolution 2010-5 to file petition for extension for exemption from Liquor Control Board’s Regulations Regarding Amplified Music was held Tuesday, November 2 at 10 a.m. in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Building. The findings have not been reported as of yet. We hope that it will cover a 2 year period this time.
- 2 Real Estate hearings took place and the Solicitor attended on behalf of the Township. The Mountain View Assoc. was denied and TROSS Realty LLP received a revised assessment from \$197,600 to \$103,275.

### **ENGINEER’S REPORT**

- Henry site has not begun construction.
- Cancer Care Center is under construction review. 2 reviews have been done to date. Review letter is attached to report for tonight.
- Review letter from revised plans for Shamokin Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements Project was sent to the developer and Planning Commission last week. It is attached to the engineers report for tonight.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Wetzel/Daubert motioned to ratify hiring Bruce Elliott as temporary part-time street department employee at rate of \$11 per hour through the leaf season and if needed in the future. Motion carried.
- Wetzel/Payeskie motioned to ratify advertising for Roadmaster position in Press Enterprise and News-Item on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried.
- Secretary was asked to send letters to the fire companies clarifying the policy to request funds from the Township to purchase fire equipment. The policy is if the Fire Company is thinking of purchasing a piece of equipment please come and sit down with the Board of Supervisors to discuss and then we will give our thoughts as to if we are able to help with a donation toward the purchase from the Fire Equipment Donation Fund and the insurability of the piece of equipment. Supervisor Payeskie will review the letters prior to their mailing.
- Alternate energy grants will be looked into by Mr. Springer for the future.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Proposed Budget - Authorize advertising and posting proposed 2011 budget was approved on a Wetzel/Major 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 2010 = \$1,305,971; budgeted expenditures = \$1,301,102 leaving a projected surplus of \$4,869. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts plus carry over from 2010 = \$236,076, budgeted expenditures of \$225,400 leaving a projected surplus of \$10,676.
- 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

Madara/Payeskie motioned to purchase turkeys for Thanksgiving and hams for the Township Employees for Christmas. Motion carried.

**CITIZEN INPUT** – none

Chairman Madara announced that there would be an executive session for personnel issues.

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m. on a Payeskie/Daubert motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson  
Ralpho Township Secretary