

***MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING - OCTOBER 12, 2010  
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St, Elysburg, PA.***

***Chairman Blaine Madara called meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.***

Chairman Madara announced that there was an executive session held on Tuesday, October 5 to handle a personnel matter.

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, Roadmaster Ed Miller, Code Enforcement Officer Howard Howal, Engineer Michele Auckerman, Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Dana Carroll-Lucas, Planning Commission Secretary; Debra Eliassen of the Shamokin News-Item, Frank Sawicki County Commissioner, Kurt Masser County Commissioner and 1 township citizen.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

Minutes of September 14, 2010 regular meeting were accepted as presented on Payeskie/Wetzel motion and carried.

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

Bills were approved as presented for payment on Wetzel/Payeskie motion, motion carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Letter from Northumberland County Association of Township Officers Annual Convention being held Thursday October 28 at 5:45 p.m. was read. None of the Supervisors will be attending.
- Report from PSATS Unemployment Compensation Fund was read on the stability of the fund and at this time because of the low claims the Township has had there is no required money requested to keep the fund in good standing.

**COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**PLANNING COMMISSION –**

- Wetzel/Daubert motioned to approve Joan E. Latsha Add-On Subdivision. Motion carried.

**STREET DEPARTMENT – Payeskie**

- Pipe Replacement at Hemlock was discussed. Permit from DEP was received in the office on Friday, October 8. We are allowed to hold off on the project until the spring. There was discussion if the pipe should be purchased now or in the spring. No final decision was made at this time.
- Payeskie motioned and Madara seconded with regret to accept the resignation of Edward A. Miller as Roadmaster effective 10/29/10. Mr. Miller will be using 5 personal days the week of October 25 through October 29<sup>th</sup>. The supervisors thanked Mr. Miller for his excellent work here in the township. Motion carried.

**BUILDINGS – Daubert**

- Mat service with Dempsey was discussed. Secretary will phone them and send a follow up letter if necessary.

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

- Wetzel/Payeskie motioned to get 3 additional mounts for the computer in the cruisers and to purchase 1 additional computer for \$99 and the mobile card for that computer with a monthly service fee of \$43. The computers are transferable from cruiser to cruiser once the mounts are installed. Motion carried.

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

- 10 permits were issued and \$2,640 in fees were collected during August. Zoning officer issued several Occupancy Permits and several burning permits.
- Wetzel/Payeskie motioned to advertise the Public Nuisance Ordinance for next meeting. Motion carried.

### **RECREATION - Major**

- The playground bathrooms will be closed around November 1 as in prior years.
- Tiger Youth Basketball and CYO gym rent was discussed. Madara/Wetzel motioned to charge CYO and Tiger Youth Basketball \$400 per team for gym rent. Motion carried. This should be on the agenda every October to re-evaluate and to also do a follow-up on those coaches that have and need access key cards.
- Supervisor Wetzel will contact 3B to take care of the gym floor weekly cleaning and initial cleaning/waxing.

### **RECYCLING – Major**

- Winter hours were discussed as well as an additional light on the shed. Payeskie/Wetzel motioned that Major contact someone to add 2 additional lights to the salt shed with a limit of \$500, to keep the recycling hours the same even though it is getting dark earlier. Motion carried.
- It was reported that we had no hauling expenses for the month of August and we took in payments from Jeff's Recycling in the amount of \$351.10.
- There is a replacement container coming from Jeff's Recycling for the tin cans to be recycled.

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

- Manager attended an Act 32 meeting on September 15. The committee appointed Central Tax Bureau for 3 years as the tax collector for our group effective January 2012. The commission rate is 1.3% compared to 2.5% that we pay now. Open item is how the LST tax will be collected for the group.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

- Campground ordinance has been approved by the Planning Commission and brought before the supervisors tonight for discussion. After a lengthy discussion Ms. Carroll-Lucas will take back info to Planning Commission to work further on this ordinance.
- Wetzel/Major motioned to approve Resolution 2010-5 to file petition for extension for exemption from Liquor Control Board's Regulations Regarding Amplified Music. Motion carried.
- 2 Real Estate hearings were discussed and it was decided the Solicitor should attend on behalf of the Township.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- Hemlock Pipe replacement permit from DEP is complete.

- Henry site has not begun construction.
- Cancer Care Center has begun construction and has fulfilled the \$5,000 construction review escrow balance. Construction started this week and the engineer was on site today to check on the retention pond and storm water facilities.
- Review letter 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.
- Escrow accounts for plan review and construction observation were discussed. The Solicitor, Engineer and Code Officer interpret the ordinance in different ways. It was decided that when the original application for the land development or subdivision comes into the office the secretary is to inform the developer of the \$2,500 plan review escrow required. After the review by the engineers is complete the engineer should include in her final review letter that there is a \$5,000 construction observation escrow required per ordinance by the Township and 48 hours notice prior to construction beginning the engineer should be alerted. Once the plans are approved by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors an approval letter from the secretary will go to the developer. In the letter they will be told of the requirement of the construction observation escrow account. This will be either the \$5,000 per ordinance or a separately approved amount that the Board of Supervisors approves on a case by case basis. At that time the developer will also be given the opportunity to roll over the remaining amount into their plan review escrow account to the new construction observation escrow or have the balance returned to them and send in a new check for the complete balance required in their construction observation escrow account. They will be informed that the construction observation escrow must be in place prior to getting any permits. When the developer comes to get building/zoning permits Mr. Howal will check with the secretary to make sure the \$5,000 construction observation escrow is in place and they will need to confirm with Mr. Howal that they have been in contact with Township Engineer. Once the project is completed the balance in the escrow account may be returned to the developer after all of the engineer's invoices are paid.

Chief Appel, Roadmaster Ed Miller, Code Officer Howard Howal and Engineer Michele Aukerman were dismissed from the remainder of the meeting at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 2011 MMO's – Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans. Motion to approve MMO's as follows: Police Pension Plan = \$35,804 and Non-Uniformed Pension Plan = \$6,767 was made by Madara/Wetzel and motion carried.
- November 9, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. Ron Bittner from Trollinger Consulting will be meeting with the Police and Non-Uniformed employees about Pensions and then attend the Supervisor's Meeting that night at 6:30 p.m.
- Budget work session meeting will held October 26 at 6:00 p.m. Secretary will advertise notice in paper.
- Alternative Energy grants were discussed for the Municipal Building. Mr. Springer has been asked to look into this for future meetings.

**CITIZEN INPUT –none**

Chairman Madara announced that there would be an executive session for personnel issues at 9:20 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 9:59 p.m.

Daubert motioned and Major seconded to approve the amendment to the Roadworkers's Agreement to set a wage of \$16.00 per hour for a Roadmaster, contingent upon union's approval. Motion carried unanimously.

Wetzel/Madara motioned as contractually required to post the position of Roadmaster that was vacated by Edward A. Miller. Motion carried.

Wetzel/Major motioned to authorize Township Manager to hire a temporary employee for the street department at the current part-time rate. Motion carried.

Payeskie/Wetzel to appoint Joe Springer, Township Manager, as Interim Supervisor of the Street Department as of 10/23/2010 forward. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, adjourned at approximately 10:03 p.m. on a Payeskie/Major motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson  
Ralpho Township Secretary