

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS REORGANIZATION
AND REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - JANUARY 4, 2010
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St, Elysburg, PA.**

Vice Chairman Blaine Madara called meeting to order 6:33 p.m. and let the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Madara stated that, as mandated by State law and as advertised this meeting is for Reorganization purposes and the regular January meeting.

Oaths of Office were given to supervisors Stephen A. Major and Vincent P. Daubert and also to re-elected Tax Collector, Charlene F. Zeigler.

Attending were: Supervisors Blaine Madara, Ed Payeskie, William Wetzel, Stephen Major and Vincent Daubert. Also attending were: Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Engineer Michele Aukerman, Township Manager Joe Springer, Code Officer Howard Howal, Police Chief Stu Appel, Roadmaster Bill Hoy, Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Justin Strawser from the Shamokin *News Item* and Pat Janovich, of Schlesinger & Kerstetter Law Office; and 4 interested citizens.

Changing Chairman is merely following past practice of rotating the position every year so each board member has an opportunity to fill that capacity.

Vice Chairman Madara requested nominations for the Chairman's position. Payeskie motioned to elect Madara as chairman; Wetzel moved that nominations cease with a Payeskie 2nd, approval unanimous.

Payeskie nominated Supervisor Wetzel as Vice Chairman. Madara motioned to close nominations with a Payeskie 2nd, approval was unanimous.

Wetzel/Payeskie motioned to appoint Joseph Springer, Township manager; Debra Olson, Township Secretary/Treasurer; Schelsinger & Kerstetter, Solicitor; Uni-Tec Consulting Engineering Consultants, Inc. as engineers; Forgett & Kerstetter, certified public accountants for auditing services; and designate township depositories PLGIT and M&T Bank, motion carried unanimously.

Wetzel/Payeskie motioned to appoint Charlene Zeigler as Real Estate Tax Certifier, Act 511 tax collector and Delinquent Tax Collector per ordinance; Berkheimer Associates Tax Collector for Earned Income and LST taxes; Statewide Tax Recovery for delinquent taxes; Howard Howal as Code Enforcement Officer, Uniform Construction Code Officer and Building Code Officer; William Hoy as Roadmaster; Bill Brior as Primary Sewage Enforcement Officer and Bruce Dobash Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer; Howard Shadduck as Volunteer Recycling Coordinator. Motion carried unanimously.

The following re-appointments were made on Wetzel/Major motion and carried unanimously: John Yost to a one year term on Township Vacancy Board; Brian Balchunas, one year term as EMA Coordinator; Joseph Pechulis, ZHB 3 year term; Robert L. Dluge, Jr., Esq. one year term as solicitor to Zoning Hearing Board; Dave Phillips, 5 year term to Municipal Authority of Sunnyside/Overlook (MASO), Joseph Scopelliti, 5 year term to Municipal Authority of Ralpho Township; Cathy Kessler, 1 year term as auditor; David Noll, 1 year term as auditor; Mark Lyash, 5 year term on Planning Commission, which expires December 2014.

The following positions remain to be filled:

1 vacant auditor position; 1 vacancy on Municipal Authority of Sunnyside/Overlook, 5 year term, term would expire January 2012.

Chairman Madara will announce Committee/Department appointments at February meeting.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS –

Mr. and Mrs. Persing questioned how to get the landlord ordinance passed.

Minutes of December 8, 2009 meeting were accepted as presented on Payeskie/Wetzel motion and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT was accepted as presented on Wetzel/Madara motion and carried.

Bills were approved for payment with the amount of 10% being held on the Boss Roofing Invoice until the project is completed on Payeskie/Wetzel motion and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Received Liquid Fuels Tax Fund Examination Report for 2 years ended December 31, 2007. Report is available in the office.
- Dividend check was received from Gannon Associates in the amount of \$3,223.17.
- PSATS letter in regard to Act 51 of 2009 was read. Solicitor Kerstetter will look into this matter with Insurance Agent, Pension Representative and review the wording of our ordinances.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

STREET DEPARTMENT – Payeskie

- Tailgate Salt Spreader was discussed for 2009 pickup. This item is tabled for now.
- Thanks to the supervisors volunteering in snow removal as well as thanks for the long days of the street department with snow removal.

BUILDINGS – Madara

- Fence repairs will be taken care of in the spring.
- Library receptacles will be updated starting this Friday by Wade Hampton. Secretary is to let the library staff know that he will be coming.
- Boiler Replacement final payment is listed on bills list.
- Contractor who placed the tiles in the police entrance is going to come and make some repairs to the tiles that are lifting up.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Wetzel

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT –

- 6 permits were issued and \$4,675 in fees were collected during December. Several occupancy permits were issued.
- Exotic Animal Ordinance/household pets ordinance was discussed at length and the solicitor is going to refine it further and bring it back to the supervisors for review.
- The Landlord Ordinance issues were discussed earlier in the meeting and again now. The new supervisors need to get up to speed on this matter and it will be discussed further and future meetings.

RECREATION - Madara

- Gym door should be replaced soon by Hampton & Appel Bros. Construction.

RECYCLING –

- Report on January 2, 2010 recycling was read. Recycling opened early and stayed open late because of the heavy traffic after the holiday closing. Special thanks to Dave Hoopengardner and Brent Rhoades for volunteering their help on one of the coldest and busiest days of the year.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- General Code Supplements will be reduced to 10 copies in the future and books will be retained by Solicitor, Law Library, Magistrate, Code Officer, Planning Commission, Secretary/Treasurer and the remaining copies will be retained in the office for supervisors, etc. to check out if needed. All code information is available on the Ralpho Township website.
- Payeskie/Wetzel motioned to allow Mr. Springer to go ahead with the choice of Exelon Energy Company to purchase our electricity at \$.088 per kwh for a 1 year lock in. Motion carried unanimously.
- There is just one minor thing left to be finished on the roof project. The inspection for the 10 year warranty will take place in the spring.
- Mr. Springer looked over a grant that Chief Appel had given him for review and it was determined after some research that the grant would apply to more high crime areas than Ralpho Township.

PLANNING COMMISSION

- There was no report from Planning because the meeting will be held the night after the Township Meeting on Tuesday, January 5.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- A new draft of the Campground Ordinance was forwarded by Mr. Kerstetter to the Planning Commission for review at their Tuesday meeting.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

- Signature cards for 2 depository banks were signed at the completion of the meeting.
- Payeskie/Madara made a motion to pay any regular bills that come in after meeting date because of early meeting for the month of January. Motion carried.
- Wetzel/Payeskie made a motion to adopt Resolution 2010-01 Consider that waives employee contributions to the Police Pension Fund for the calendar year 2010. Motion carried.
- Major/Payeskie motioned to return unused escrow funds for George Dornbach Major Subdivision to developer because they will be resubmitting plans as a minor subdivision. Motion carried.

CITIZEN INPUT – none

The board went into executive session at 8:34 p.m. for personnel issues and possible litigation. The meeting was reconvened at 8:55 p.m.

Major motioned to hire Edward Miller as Ralpho Township Roadmaster at an hourly rate of \$12.00 to start Monday, January 18, 2010, with Roadmaster William Hoy being in charge until his retirement. Motion carried. 4 votes yes and Supervisor Payeskie voted no.

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m. on Payeskie/Wetzel motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary