

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - DECEMBER 10, 2019**  
*Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St., Elysburg, PA*

**Chairman Madara Sr. called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.**

Congratulations to Southern Columbia Football team and everyone involved with the team for winning the record 10<sup>th</sup> State Championship.

Attending were: Supervisors Blaine Madara Sr., Vincent Daubert, Stephen Major, Daniel Williams and Blaine Madara Jr. Also attending were: Solicitor Todd Kerstetter; Township Manager Joseph Springer; Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Code Officer Mark Lyash; Police Chief Stuart Appel; Roadmaster Howard Shaddock; Township Engineer Brad Aurand; Harvey Boyer Planning Commission Chairman; Larry Deklinski *Shamokin News Item*; and 6 interested citizens.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – Brian Major, Knights of Columbus representative, was present asking for permission to purchase new welcome banners for the Ralpho Township. Major/Madara Sr. motioned to allow the new banners to be purchased and the Township will install them. Motion carried.

DJ Spotts, EMA Coordinator, was present to request funding from the EMA budget to purchase 4 tactical vests for each the Elysburg Fire Company and the Ralpho Fire Company. Madara Jr./Major motioned to purchase 8 total vests, motion carried.

Minutes of November 12, 2019 regular monthly meeting were accepted as presented on Major/Madara Jr. motion and carried.

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

Bills were approved as presented for payment including those bills paid between meetings on a Major/Williams motion, motion carried unanimously.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Letter was received from Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency regarding Mountain View Estates property. Manager will look into this further.

#### **COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

##### **PLANNING – Harvey Boyer**

- Madara Jr./Daubert motioned to give Pennsylvania State Shotgunning Association Land Development an extension to March 9, 2020. Motion carried.
- Daubert/Major motioned to give Hoagland Subdivision an extension to February 28, 2020. Motion carried.
- Madara Jr./Williams motioned to give Mt. Road Subdivision an extension to February 28, 2020. Motion carried.
- Via Dante Subdivision requested release of funds on deposit held for security for MART sewer improvements. Easement and dedication are required by MART and then funds can be released for improvements. Major/Madara Jr. motioned to release financial security upon notice that the Municipal Authority is satisfied. Motion carried with Madara Sr. voting against.
- Major/Madara Sr. motioned accept recommendation of SEO Bill Brior to approve signatures on Hoagland Subdivision Component 1 Sewage Planning Module. Motion carried.
- Depth to width ratio was discussed further with Josh Hoagland's input.

##### **STREET DEPARTMENT – Madara Jr.**

- Report was received.
- Solicitor will have Street cut ordinance compiled for review by the Supervisors in January.

- Aqua met with Roadmaster and Code Officer about future projects Wednesday, November 27 at 10 a.m., discussion took place about Horizon Drive and other possible projects in the Township. Roadmaster is looking for further input from Horizon.
- Williams/Madara Jr. motioned to hire Tim Eckert part-time for snow plow driver at \$14.00 per hour. Motion carried.
- Williams/Madara Jr. motioned to hire William Jeremiah as a CDL driver contingent upon clean record and pre-employment paperwork for part-time snow plow driver at \$14.00 per hour. Motion carried.

**BUILDINGS – Madara**

- Gym roof project is complete. Invoice has been received and check has been cut but will be held for warranty paperwork, etc.

**RECREATION – Major**

- Tiger Youth Basketball is up and running, CYO will not have a team this year.
- Insurance issues for gym rental will be discussed with agent when he attends February meeting.

**ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT – Daubert**

- 1 permit was issued and \$121.92 in fees were collected during November. 16 letters of correspondence were sent and 17 complaints were received for vehicles, trash, dumping and dangerous structures.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Williams**

- Report was read.
- Ralpho Fire request for signature will be brought to January meeting.

**RECYCLING – Daubert**

- none

**MANAGER’S REPORT**

- Green Light Go Grant plans have been submitted to PennDot and are waiting to hear back to put out for bid.
- Manager was asked to move forward with the process to put the pension out for RFP.
- Check signing policy was discussed Major/Madara Sr. motioned to change actual signature cards to have only one of the related Supervisors on the card with the bank. Motion carried.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

- Hearing to Consider an Ordinance 191 amending chapter 1, part 3, of the code of ordinances to amend sections 303(1) and 304(1) of the Non-Uniform Pension Plan was held. Williams/Madara Sr. motioned to adopt amendment. Motion carried.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT**

- Report was reviewed.
- Dan Honaberger requested an inspection of Danson Subdivision and engineer will respond to him to tell him what still remains to be done.
- Engineer will be only accepting hard copy submissions from developers within the Township moving forward.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Resolution 2019-05 re-enacting current Act 511 taxes as advertised:
  - Per Capita \$5
  - Occupation 100%
  - 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 a Major/Williams motion and carried unanimously.

- Proposed 2020 Budget was posted for public inspection on November 13, 2019. Resolution 2019-06 establishing Real estate taxes for 2020 as follows: general purposes 4-1/4 mills; fire protection ½ mill; equipment ½ mill and library ¼ mill; street lighting depending on location .21, .23, .34 or \$5.87. Daubert motioned and Madara Jr. seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Resolution 2019-07 adopting the 2020 Budget was approved on Madara Jr./Williams motion and carried unanimously. General Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2019 = \$1,649,854; budgeted expenditures = \$1,647,780 leaving a projected surplus of \$2,074. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2019 = \$328,895, budgeted expenditures of \$328,765 leaving a projected surplus of \$130.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Secretary will send a letter of appreciation to the Knights of Columbus for spear heading the community tree lighting and for the new welcome banners they plan to purchase.
- Major/Williams motioned to adopt resolution 2019-08 requiring contribution of 5% of gross pay from uniformed employees toward pension for 2020. Motion carried.
- Madara Jr/Madara Sr. motioned to adopt resolution 2019-09 requiring contribution of 1.25% of gross pay from non-uniformed employees toward pension for 2020. Motioned carried.
- Madara Jr./Major motioned to approved advertising for meeting dates of Ralpho Township Supervisors meeting to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month beginning at 6:30 p.m. and for Planning Commission meetings to be 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month beginning at 6:30 p.m., January Planning Commission meeting will be held at 5 p.m., Monday, January 6 to accommodate any plans, etc. to move forward to the Supervisor's meeting; also, to authorize advertising January's reorganizational and regular monthly meeting for Monday, January 6, 2020 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The annual budget meeting the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of October will also be included in the advertisement. Approval was unanimous.
- Williams/Madara Sr. motioned effective January 1, 2020 to give Debra Olson, Secretary \$.75/hr raise; Howard Shaddock and Wayne Horne, Street Department, \$.75/hr raise per contract; Officers Stephen Spade, Officer Matthew Filarski, Officer Wonsock \$.75/hr raise per contract; Sergeant Bryon Chowka \$.75/hr raise per contract; Chief Appel \$1.00/hr per agreement.; Mark Lyash, Code Officer \$.75/hr. and Charles Kowalchick, buildings/grounds \$.75. Motion carried unanimously.
- Secretary was asked to contact those positions that are up for reappointment in January to see if they are willing to continue to serve the Township.
- Major/Williams motioned to allow Ralpho Township Business Association the use the municipal building meeting room for monthly meetings in 2020. Motion carried.
- Williams/Major motioned to allow All Home Days Association the use the municipal building meeting room for monthly meetings in 2020. Motion carried.
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**CITIZEN INPUT** – Bill Fracalossi and Rich Barrett from Sunset Drive were present to make sure the water concerns they had brought up a few months back were still being considered.

**ADJOURNMENT** – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m. on Williams/Daubert motion and carried.

Executive session was held for personnel reasons

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson  
Ralpho Township Secretary