

MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - November 10, 2020
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St., Elysburg, PA

Chairman Major called the 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 Sr, Vincent Daubert, Stephen Major, Daniel Williams and Blaine Madara Jr. Also attending were: Township Manager Joseph Springer, Solicitor Todd Kerstetter; Code Officer Mark Lyash; Roadmaster Howard Shadduck; Police Sergeant Bryon Chowka; and Township Engineer Brad Aurand.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

Minutes of October 13, 2020 regular monthly meeting and October 27, 2020 budget meeting were accepted as presented on Madara Jr./Williams motion and carried.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- A report from the Village Cat Knappers was read concerning the status of the cat control program. Chairman Major noted that a small number of vouchers from 2020 will be carried over into 2021 due to the neutering location being closed during the COVID-19 shutdown.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING – Mark Lyash

- Daubert/Madara Jr. motioned to give a 180-day extension for Gallina Land Development Project on Northumberland Drive. Motion carried.
- Daubert/Madara Sr. motioned to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve Brian Mann Subdivision. Motion carried.

STREET DEPARTMENT – Williams

- Report was received.
- Williams/Madara Sr. motioned to approve \$1 per hour increase for Damion Beagle in accordance with the AFSCME contract following a successful probationary period. Chairman Major noted that Mr. Beagle also successfully obtained his CDL license. Motion carried unanimously.
- Madara Sr./Madara Jr. motioned to hire Wayne Horne for part-time snow plowing at a rate of \$16/\$2 CDL for a total of \$18 per hour. Motion carried unanimously.
- Williams/Madara Jr. motioned to hire Aaron Kroh for part-time street department help at a rate of \$16 per hour. Motion carried unanimously.
- Tree Removal/Policy Ordinance was presented for review and discussion. The Ordinance was tabled for discussion at next month's meeting.
- Sale of the old traffic signal was discussed. Roadmaster Shadduck recommended retaining the old control box and circuitry in case there is damage to the new system the old one can be swapped in easily. Department heads will review operations for any additional items to be put out on bid with the remainder of the signal equipment, possibly in December.
- Roadmaster Shadduck stated the Department would like to clean a drainage ditch on either side of a Hemlock Street pipe but will need an easement to do so. Mark Lyash will check the subdivision plans for an existing easement; if none exists, Solicitor Kerstetter will work with the Roadmaster on obtaining an easement for the work.

BUILDINGS – Madara Jr.

- Discussion took place as to when the Municipal building will be opened back up to foot traffic. It was decided that the building will not be opened until further discussion at the December 8th meeting.
- Discussion took place regarding sanitization of gym and the concern that fogging will increase the humidity level in the gym. Current practices of sanitizing high touch areas and bleachers will continue without fogging.
- Madara Jr. asked if de-humidification has been considered for the gym. History of the humidity problem was reviewed and Madara Jr. will investigate how large a system would be required.

RECREATION – Major

- Williams/Daubert motioned to purchase the overhead ladder w/parallel bars for the playground at a cost of \$2,048 from Ely & Associates. This will replace the equipment damaged in October when had to be cut to release child. Motion carried.

ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT – Madara Sr.

- 8 permits were issued and \$1,985 in fees were collected during October; \$2,700 in mechanical amusement license fees were collected. 23 letters of correspondence were sent, 19 complaints were received for vehicles, trash, dumping and dangerous structures.
- Williams/Daubert motioned to approve \$1 per hour increase for Mark Lyash after successful 6-month probationary period. Motion carried unanimously.
- An executive session was requested for possible litigation.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Daubert

- Report was read.
- Sergeant Chowka updated the Board on the status of car and body cameras. Training will likely not take place until January.

RECYCLING – Madara Sr.

- none

MANAGER’S REPORT

- none

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

- Madara Sr./Daubert motioned to approve Resolution 2020-09 increasing the Tax Collector Compensation to \$1.75 per bill for Real Estate and \$0.90 per bill for Per Capita effective next election term. Motion carried 4-0 with Chairman Major abstaining.
- Daubert/Major motioned to approve Resolution 2020-10 authorizing a small borrowing from First Columbia Bank. The terms are \$125,000 to be repaid over 5 years at a rate of 2.05%. The principal may be repaid at any time without penalty. Motion carried unanimously.
- Madara Sr./Major motioned to approve the agreement in lieu of amusement tax with Knoebels Grove Amusement Park, Pennsylvania State Sportsman’s Association, Valley Gun and Country Club, and Knoebel’s Three Ponds, Inc. that extends the agreement for 25 years to July 1, 2045. Motion carried 3-0 with Madara Jr. and Williams abstaining.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

- Report was reviewed.
- The progress of the Green Light GO project was updated. The Board expressed concern with the alignment of the pavement markings. Engineer Brad Aurand will review the markings and make sure the problem is corrected.
- Williams/Daubert motioned to proceed with advertising additional construction of a footbridge and retaining wall for the West Center St Flood Mitigation Project once the environmental review is complete. Motion carried 3-0 with Madara Jr. and Madara Sr. abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Daubert/Madara Jr. motioned to authorize the update to the General Code at a cost of \$2,640.00. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Proposed Budget –Daubert/Madara Sr. motioned to authorize advertising and posting proposed 2021 budget. Real estate taxes 7½ mills; i.e. general purposes 6¼ mills; fire protection ½ mill; equipment ½ mill and library ¼ mill; street lighting per assessment formula. General Fund anticipated receipts plus carry over from 2020 = \$1,706,104; budgeted expenditures = \$1,692,348 leaving a projected surplus of \$13,756. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts plus carry over from 2020 = \$249,876, budgeted expenditures of \$249,569 leaving a projected surplus of \$307.

Proposed Budget – Daubert/Madara Sr. motioned to authorize advertising current Act 511 taxes as follows:

Per Capita	\$5
Occupation	100%
Real Estate Transfer	1%
Earned Income	1%
LST	\$52 on earnings exceeding \$12,000
TV Franchise	2%
Mechanical Amusement	\$50 per machine

Motion carried.

- Williams/Madara Jr motioned to purchase \$25 gift cards to Boyer’s for employees for the holidays. Motion carried unanimously.
- Madara Jr/Madara Sr. motioned to release remainder of the budgeted donation to the Ralpho Township Library in the amount of \$6,022.77 along with a letter regarding the 2021 budgeted donation. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN INPUT – none

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 8:32 p.m. on Williams/Daubert motion and carried.

Executive session for possible litigation and personnel was held.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph J. Springer
Ralpho Township Manager