

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - December 8, 2020**  
**Held in Municipal Building Gymnasium, 206 S. Market St., Elysburg, PA**

**Chairman Major called the meeting to order at 6:35 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, Township Secretary Debra Olson via telephone; Solicitor Todd Kerstetter; Code Officer Mark Lyash; Roadmaster Howard Shaddock; Police Sergeant Bryon Chowka; Township Engineer Brad Aurand; and Larry Deklinski *Shamokin News-Item*.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

Minutes of November 10, 2020 regular monthly meeting were accepted as presented on Daubert/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 Madara Jr./Madara Sr. motion, motion carried unanimously. \*Herr Signal checks on the list will be held until Green Light Go Grant Reimbursement from prior month is received.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- DEP letter regarding Notice of Termination Approval Letter Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Central Penn Line South was received.

**COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**PLANNING – Mark Lyash**

- none

**STREET DEPARTMENT – Williams**

- Report was received.
- Possibly consider tree removal policy at a later date in lieu of an ordinance.
- Williams/Madara Jr. motioned to sell old traffic light signals, poles, misc. police equipment cages, radios, sirens, light bars, speed timing device; as well as authorizing Roadmaster in cooperation with police department to find deserving recipients of bikes that have been in possession of police for many years. Motion carried.
- Madara Sr., Williams motioned to accept stone pricing for 2021 from Meckley’s Limestone. Motion carried.

**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 January 4th meeting.

## **RECREATION – Major**

- Gym de-humidification was discussed for the gym. Considering getting someone to check humidity and possibly see about costs of system, etc.
- Locking mechanism on the gym door is giving us trouble, will do further research, may have to get Computation to look into the problem.
- Supervisor Major thanked the road crew for Santa’s mailbox set up and holiday lights being put up.

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

- 3 permits were issued and \$1,851.50 in fees were collected during November; 17 letters of correspondence were sent, 16 complaints were received for vehicles, trash, dumping and dangerous structures.
- Madara Sr./Major motioned to release remaining escrow balance of \$1,465 to Springer Land Development. Engineer has concurred that monies can be returned. Motion carried.
- Madara Sr./Daubert and \$1,480 to Jeff Lyash Major Subdivision. Engineer has concurred that monies can be returned. Motion carried.

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

- Report was read.
- Madara Sr. gave update on some door to door soliciting going on within the Township.

## **RECYCLING – Madara Sr.**

- none

## **MANAGER’S REPORT**

- Discussion on the Green Light Go Project painted lines took place. We will report back to Herr Signal that we are okay with lines for project. Joe received a letter from PennDot about Traffic Signal warranty.

## **SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

- none

## **ENGINEER’S REPORT**

- Report was reviewed.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Resolution 2020-11 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 Daubert/Madara Sr. motion and carried unanimously.

- Proposed 2021 Budget was posted for public inspection on November 16, 2020. Resolution 2020-12 establishing Real estate taxes for 2021 as follows: general purposes 6-1/4 mills; fire protection ½ mill; equipment ½ mill and library ¼ mill; street lighting depending on location .21, .23, .34 or \$5.86. Madara Sr./Daubert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Resolution 2020-13 adopting the 2021 Budget was approved on Daubert/Madara Jr. motion and carried unanimously. General Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2020 = \$1,706,104; budgeted expenditures = \$1,692,348 leaving a projected surplus of \$13,756. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2020 = \$249,876, budgeted expenditures of \$249,569 leaving a projected surplus of \$307.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Madara Sr./Williams motioned to adopt resolution 2020-14 requiring contribution of 5% of gross pay from uniformed employees toward pension for 2021. Motion carried.
- Daubert/Williams motioned to adopt resolution 2020-15 requiring contribution of 1.25% of gross pay from non-uniformed employees toward pension for 2021. Motioned carried.
- Daubert/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 4 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 4, 2021 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.
- Madara Sr./Daubert. motioned effective January 1, 2021 to give Debra Olson, Secretary \$.75/hr raise; Howard Shadduck and Damion Beagle, Street Department, \$.75/hr raise per contract; Officers Stephen Spade, Officer Matthew Filarski, Officer David Tomtishen, Officer Glen Wonsock \$.75/hr raise per contract; Sergeant Bryon Chowka \$.75/hr raise per contract; Chief Appel \$1.00/hr per agreement; and Charles Kowalchick, buildings/grounds \$.75; Joseph Springer \$15,000 annually. 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.

**CITIZEN INPUT** – Supervisor Madara Jr. will work on honors for Southern Columbia Girls' Soccer State Champion Team and Southern Columba Football State Champion Team.

**ADJOURNMENT** – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m. on Daubert/Williams motion and carried.

Executive session for personnel.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson  
Ralpho Township Secretary