

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS REORGANIZATION  
AND REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - JANUARY 4, 2021  
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St., Elysburg, PA**

***Chairman Major called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.***

***Chairman Madara comment: As mandated by State Law and as advertised this meeting is for Reorganization purposes and the regular January meeting.***

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, Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Code Officer Mark Lyash; Sergeant Bryon Chowka; Roadmaster Howard Shadduck; and Larry Deklinski *Shamokin News-Item*.

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

Chairman Major handed the gavel over to Vice Chairman Williams. Williams requested nominations for the Chairman's position. Williams/Madara Sr. motioned to elect Supervisor Major as chairman. Vice Chairman Williams moved that nominations cease with approval of Major as Chairman unanimous.

Major/Daubert motioned to nominate Supervisor Williams as Vice Chairman. Chairman Major motioned to close nominations with approval of Supervisor Williams as Vice Chairman unanimous.

Madara Sr./Williams motioned to appoint Joseph Springer, Township Manager and to adopt Resolution 2021-01 setting his annual salary at \$15,000. Motion carried.

Daubert/Madara Jr. motioned to appoint Debra Olson, Township Secretary/Treasurer; Schlesinger & Kerstetter, Solicitor and Larson Design Group as Township Engineers; and, to adopt Resolution 2021-02 establishing the revised engineering fee schedule. Motion carried.

Madara Sr./Daubert motioned to designate township depositories PLGIT and First Columbia Bank; appoint Vanessa Major as Real Estate Tax Certifier, Act 511 tax collector and Delinquent Tax certifier; appoint Berkheimer Associates Tax Collector for Earned Income and LST taxes; appoint Statewide Tax Recovery for delinquent taxes. Motion carried with Major abstaining.

Daubert/Madara Jr. motioned to appoint Mark Lyash as Code Enforcement Officer and Flood Plain Administrator; Tri-County COG Uniform Construction Code Officer and Building Code Officer; Howard Shadduck as Roadmaster; Bill Brior as Primary Sewage Enforcement Officer and Robert Fugate Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer. Motion carried unanimously.

Madara Jr./Williams motioned to appoint Doug Gessner, one-year term Township Vacancy Board, Donald J. Spotts, one-year term as EMA Coordinator; Frances Berger, ZHB 3-year term; Robert L. Dluge, Jr., Esq. one-year term as solicitor to Zoning Hearing Board, motion carried.

Daubert/Williams motioned to appoint Peter Scott Damgaard, 5-year term to Municipal Authority of Ralpho Township; Blaine Madara to 5-year term to Municipal Authority of Sunnyside Overlook. Motion carried with Madara Sr. and Madara Jr. abstaining.

**CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none**

Minutes of December 8, 2020 regular monthly meeting were accepted as presented on Daubert/Madara Sr. motion and carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT was accepted as presented on Daubert/Williams motion and carried.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Received thank you for support and allowing Santa’s village to be placed at the Community Holiday Tree from Ralpho Township Business Association and notice of Holiday Tree Pickup, which is January 9<sup>th</sup>.
- PennDot Letter was received giving notice to the Township of agencies they will be contracting for traffic safety studies.

**COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**PLANNING – Mark Lyash**

- none

**STREET DEPARTMENT – Madara Jr.**

- Report was received.

**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 February 8th meeting.

**RECREATION – Major**

- The gym will remain closed until February meeting.
- Gym de-humidification was discussed for the gym. Paul’s HVAC recommended to not have drastic temperature changes. Temperature will be set at 55 degrees for the month.

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

- 8 permits were issued and \$3,105.75 in fees were collected during December. 19 letters of correspondence were sent, 16 complaints were received for vehicles, trash, dumping and dangerous structures.
- Madara Sr./Daubert motioned to authorize Northumberland County to use Berks Road to facilitate repairs to County Bridge 142 connecting Ralpho Township in Northumberland County and Cleveland Township in Columbia County. Motion carried.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Daubert**

- Report was read.
- Cruiser and body cameras will arrive and training will take place in 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February.

**RECYCLING – Daubert**

- none

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- First reimbursement for payment to Herr Signal for Green Light Go Grant has arrived and 2<sup>nd</sup> payment has been mailed. Additional invoice will be on bills list in February.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

- None

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- Report was reviewed.
- CDBG Center Street Flood Mitigation project has not begun because inclement weather prior to Christmas. Coleman will be in touch with Mr. Springer as project progresses. Phase 2 is awaiting permit prior to advertising for bids.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- none

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Madara Sr./Williams 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.
- Madara Sr./Williams motioned to approve Chairman Major to sign agreement with No Nonsense Neutering. Motion carried. Vouchers will be handed out with proof of residency in Ralpho Township, with a maximum of 3 at a time. Maximum vouchers for 2021 is 43.
- Major/Jr. motioned to approve Memorandum of Understanding with Northumberland County to receive \$4,321 in direct funding and approximately \$84,592.95 value in car and portable radios for Police Department. Motion carried.
- Williams/Daubert motioned to approve amendment of engineering agreement for Center Street Flood Mitigation CDBG Project. Motion carried with Madara Sr. and Madara Jr. abstaining.
- Williams/Madara Jr. motioned to adopt Resolution 2021-03 appointing assistant township manager Mark Lyash; with medical benefits, retirement benefits, holidays, vacation days and sick days shadowing current AFSCME agreement. Motion carried.

## **CITIZEN INPUT – none**

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 7:07 p.m. on Daubert/Williams motion and carried.

Executive Session was held for personnel.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson  
Ralpho Township Secretary