

MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - MARCH 9, 2021
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St., Elysburg, PA

Chairman Major called the meeting to order at 6:33 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, Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Engineer Brad Aurand; Roadmaster Howard Shaddock; Assistant Manager Mark Lyash; Sergeant Bryon Chowka; Larry Deklinski *Shamokin News-Item*; and several family and friends of new Chief Bryon Chowka and Retiree Wayne Horne.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

Board of Supervisors honored Employee Wayne Horne on his retirement. They thank him for his over 15 years of hard work and dedication to the citizens of Ralpho Township.

Oath was given to new Chief of Police Bryon Chowka. Many of Chief Chowka's family were present for his appointment.

Williams/Madara Sr. motioned to promote Sergeant Bryon Chowka to Chief of Police. Motion carried.

Williams/Madara Jr. motioned to accept Chief of Police Contract with Bryon Chowka. Motion carried.

Daubert/Madara Jr. motioned to reject all bids without opening for the 2021 paving and seal coat projects advertised for bid. There was a significant change in the scope of the work for the project. With the recommendation of Township Personnel and PennDot Representative the decision was made reject all bids. Motion carried.

Minutes of February 9, 2021 regular monthly meeting were accepted as presented on Daubert/Williams 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 Daubert/Madara Jr. motion, motion carried unanimously.

Daubert/Major motioned to approve Payment Application and Change Order submitted for payment from Columbia Excavating, LLC for the Center Street Flood Mitigation Project for payment through CDBG funds. Motion carried with Madara Sr. and Madara Jr. abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Madara Jr./Williams motioned to accept TRA Electric Annual Maintenance Agreement. Motion carried.
- KPI Technology letter informing intent to submit DEP for NPDES Permit for Municipal Authority was received.
- Northumberland County Conservation District letter regarding Stadium Dirt Design, Inc. NPDES Permit was received.

- Central Susquehanna Opportunities, Inc. flyer for Emergency Rent Relief Program as received. Manager will post on our web page.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING – Mark Lyash

- Daubert/Madara Sr. motioned to accept extension request until July 13, 2021 from Heath Subdivision. Motion carried.
- Daubert/Madara Sr. motioned to accept extension request until July 13, 2021 from Gallina Land Development. Motion carried.
- Daubert/Madara Sr. motioned to accept extension request until July 13, 2021 from Damage Inc. Land Development. Motion carried.

STREET DEPARTMENT – Daubert

- Report was received.
- Daubert/Williams motioned to do Street Sweeping with Stadium Dirt Design for up to two days at \$150 per hour. Motion carried.

BUILDINGS – Madara Sr.

- 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 April 13th meeting.
- Cameras at recycling are continuing to have problems, Madara Jr. received quotes to help with the situation from NRG and Vector. Will follow up further.

RECREATION – Madara Jr.

- Williams/Madara Jr. motioned to open the gym effective 3-17-21. Motion carried with Daubert voting against. Maximum capacity per the current state regulations.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT – Major

- 3 permits were issued and \$630 in fees were collected during February; 24 letters of correspondence were sent, 16 complaints were received for vehicles, trash, dumping, dangerous structures, etc; 1 burning permit issued.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Williams

- Report was read.
- Madara Sr./Daubert motioned to accept rosters and any other event the Fire Companies choose to hold. Fire company should send updates for more events as they plan them. Motion carried. Secretary will send letter explaining they were accepted within the Township Meeting minutes and if any changes are made to the roster or the fundraiser lists they must be reported to the Township. Motion carried.
- Part-time police officers were discussed. Williams/Madara Sr. motioned to hire Frances Petrovich at \$16.50 per hour contingent upon clear background check. Motion carried.
- FT Officer position was discussed. Board gave Chief Chowka and Supervisor Williams go ahead to start the process.

RECYCLING –Major

- none

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Change Order for Green Light Go Grant Pavement Marking was discussed. Manager reviewed the project to date. Madara Sr./Williams motioned to accept the change orders for total of \$8,926.67 with Herr Signal & Lighting Co. Inc. for line painting and \$3,920 for professional fees with Larson Design for inspections. Motion carried.
- Madara Sr./Madara Jr. motioned to accept high bid for cages for cruiser, \$51 from Blake Bankes from Frackville. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- none

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Report was reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Daubert/Madara Jr. motioned to rescind authorize releasing \$1,200 from both the Police and Non-uniformed Pension Plans to pay actuarial/consulting fees to Girard Pension Services. Motion carried.
- Daubert/Madara Jr. motioned to correct motion from last month to authorize releasing \$2,000 from both police and Non-uniformed pension plans to pay actuarial/consulting fees to Girard Pension Service. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Major gave an update on CDBG Covid-19 Funding.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Madara Jr/Williams motioned to have chairman sign Drop Pension Release for retiree Chief Stuart Appel to authorize Nationwide Pension Services to pay DROP account balance as directed by Mr. Appel's completed Lump-Sum Distribution and Rollover Election Form-DROP Account. Motion carried.

CITIZEN INPUT – none

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m. on Williams/Daubert, motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary