

MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - November 9, 2021
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 Stephen Major, Blaine Madara Sr., Vincent Daubert, Daniel Williams and Blaine Madara Jr. Also attending were: Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Manager Joseph Springer; Solicitor Todd Kerstetter; Chief Bryon Chowka; Assistant Manager Mark Lyash; Roadmaster Damion Beagle; and 20 interested citizens.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – Elaine Foster, 401 Overlook Blvd and Lori Cowell, 421 Overlook Blvd, were present for update on tree situation in Overlook. Ms. Foster asked for a copy of the letter sent to the resident with the trees on her property. Secretary will send the letter. Ms. Cowell stated she learned of a grant through DCNR to help municipalities with deteriorated trees. The board did agree to look into the possibility of a grant program.

Rich Roberts and Robin Zarkowsky, 20 Horizon Drive, were present to discuss stormwater issue on their property after Township project was done on Horizon Drive. Secretary and Solicitor will send a letter to contractor from the project and include invoices and pictures from the problem.

Board of Supervisors honored 6 scouts for attaining the level of Eagle Scout: Nathan David Hoy, Zachary Robert Gee, Nicholas Ryan Chesney, Jaron Nikolas Ferrara, Patrick Michael Lobos and Dylan Scott Kramer. Scouts, scout leaders and family were in attendance.

Minutes of October 12, 2021 regular monthly meeting and October 26 Special Budget meeting were accepted as presented on Madara Sr./Daubert 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 Williams/Madara Jr. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 2020 3rd Quarter Investment Reports for the Ralpho Township Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans are available for review in the Township Office.
- Email was received from Sunnyside Resident regarding feral cars. Secretary will respond.
- PennDot letter regarding proposed Project on State Route 2008 was received.
- Northumberland Conservation District County Wide Action Plan(CAP) Information Brochure was received.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING – Mark Lyash

- Daubert/Williams motioned to acknowledgement of Brady Lane as a private access for 911 purposes. Motion carried.

STREET DEPARTMENT – Daubert

- Report was received.
- 20 Horizon Drive drainage concern was discussed under citizen input.

- 2022 Paving projects were discussed. Roadmaster explained the need for core samples on Bear Hollow Road to move forward with possible reclamation of the road. Madara Sr./Williams motioned to add to the agenda, this item was brought to the attention of the Board after the posting of the agenda 24 hours prior to the meeting. Madara Sr./Williams motioned to have Roadmaster get core samples done on the road and to possibly put 2022 paving projects out for bid in January or February. Motion carried.
- Madara Sr./Daubert motioned to add Aqua project road cut permit to the agenda. This item was brought to the attention of the Board after the posting of the agenda 24 hours prior to the meeting. Madara Sr./Daubert motioned to agree that Aqua do base repair, milling and full width overlays on lower Bradford Lane, Cameron Drive, High Street, Somerset Avenue, Alpha Avenue and Parkview Rd. Motion carried.

BUILDINGS – Madara Sr.

- none

RECREATION – Madara Jr.

- none

ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT – Major

- 8 permits were issued and \$31,826.37 in fees were collected during October; 31 letters of correspondence were sent; 31 permits were closed; 16 complaints were received for vehicles, trash, dumping, dangerous structures, etc.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Williams

- Report was read.
- Madara Sr./Madara Jr. motioned to donate budgeted donation to Ralpho Fire of \$11,250 toward purchase of ladder truck. Motion carried.
- Williams/Madara Jr. motioned to add police part-time help wages to the agenda, item was brought to the attention of the Board after the posting of the agenda 24 hours prior to the meeting. Daubert/Madara Jr. motioned to change police part-time wages to \$20 per hour effective immediately. Motion carried.

RECYCLING –Major

- none

MANAGER’S REPORT

- No findings for grant from previous discussion under citizen input.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

- none

ENGINEER’S REPORT

- Report was reviewed.
- Williams/Daubert motioned to approve Payment Application #2 for Columbia Excavating for payment of \$2,649.30 for Center Street Stormwater Phase I project. Motion carried with Madara Sr. and Madara Jr. abstaining. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Chairman Major updated the Township on the No Nonsense Neutering Program having issues without space to have program. At this point we have budgeted the funds and will wait to hear if the program can go forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Proposed Budget – Madara Sr./Daubert motioned to authorize advertising and posting proposed 2022 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 2021 = \$2,024,830; budgeted expenditures = \$2,012,758 leaving a projected surplus of \$12,072. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts plus carry over from 2021 = \$397,596, budgeted expenditures of \$385,729 leaving a projected surplus of \$11,867.

Proposed Budget – 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

- Daubert/Madara Sr. motioned to purchase \$25 gift cards to Boyer’s for employees for the holidays. Motion carried.

CITIZEN INPUT – none

Board went into executive session for personnel and possible litigation at 7:40 p.m. Board reconvened Public meeting at 8:35 a.m.

- Daubert/Madara Jr. motioned to accept AFSCME Agreement effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2025 as presented by Manager Springer. Motion carried.
- Daubert/Madara Jr. motioned to add employee wage review to the agenda, item was brought to the Board after the posting of the agenda 24 hours prior to meeting. Daubert/Madara Jr. motioned to increase pay for Debra Olson Secretary by \$.55 per hour; Mark Lyash Assistant Manager by \$1.25 per hour; and part-time employees Wayne Horne, Charles Kowalchick, Andy Mills, Aaron Kroh and Barry Yarworth all by \$1.00 per hour, effective December 1, 2021; and Damion Beagle \$1.75 per hour retroactively to August 1, 2021. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m. on, Williams/Daubert motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary