

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - December 14, 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; Engineer Brad Aurand; Manager Joseph Springer; Solicitor Todd Kerstetter; Chief Bryon Chowka; Assistant Manager Mark Lyash; Roadmaster Damion Beagle; Larry Deklinski *Shamokin News-Item*; and 8 interested citizens.

The Board congratulated the Southern Columbia Area School District Girls' Soccer and Football team on their state championships.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – Bryant Farrence 225 Hemlock Lane and Rick Lavella 135 Butternut Lane were present in regard to stormwater basin in upper Phillipine Development. Secretary will ask engineer for contact information for Mr. Farrance of the person he spoke to at DEP. Assistant Manager will contact engineer for follow up on plate in pipe of the basin.

Minutes of November 9, 2021 regular monthly meeting were accepted as presented on Madara Jr./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 Madara Sr./Williams. Motion carried unanimously.

Madara Jr./Madara Sr. motioned to approve payment of Larson Design Group bill #1 and #2 for meeting attendance and general consulting when invoices are received. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Village Cat Knappers annual update was received.

**COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**PLANNING – Mark Lyash**

- Madara Sr./Madara J. motioned to adopt Resolution 2021-07 Hoagland Sewage Planning Module. Motion carried.
- Madara Sr./Williams motioned to accept recommendation of Planning Commission to accept Robert & Karla Clark Final Minor Subdivision. Motion carried.
- Madara Jr./Williams motioned to accept recommendation of Planning Commission to accept John Savitski Land Development Plan. Motion carried.
- Gallina Land Development was discussed.

**STREET DEPARTMENT – Daubert**

- Report was received.
- 2022 Paving projects were discussed. 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.

**BUILDINGS – Madara Sr.**

- none

## **RECREATION – Madara Jr.**

- Playground equipment was discussed.
- Madara Sr./Madara Jr. motioned to purchase toddler arm addition for swing set for \$879. Motion carried.

## **ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT – Major**

- 10 permits were issued and \$4,400 in fees were collected during November; 23 letters of correspondence were sent; 27 permits were closed; 15 complaints were received for vehicles, trash, dumping, dangerous structures, etc.

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

- Report was read.
- Williams/Madara Jr. motioned to add a fire hydrant on East Mill Street. Motion carried.
- Covid Policy was discussed. Supervisor Daubert will bring information to next meeting.
- Chief Chowka was instructed to check into purchasing a new cruiser before next meeting.

## **RECYCLING –Major**

- Holiday hours were announced. Center will be closed on Christmas and New Year’s holidays.

## **MANAGER’S REPORT**

- none

## **SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

- none

## **ENGINEER’S REPORT**

- Report was reviewed.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Resolution 2021-08 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 Williams/Daubert motion and carried unanimously.

- Proposed 2022 Budget was posted for public inspection on November 11, 2021. Resolution 2021-09 establishing Real estate taxes for 2022 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 2021-10 adopting the 2022 Budget was approved on Daubert/Madara Jr. motion and carried unanimously. General Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2021 = \$2,024,830; budgeted expenditures = \$2,012,758 leaving a projected surplus of \$12,072. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2021 = \$397,596, budgeted expenditures of \$385,729 leaving a projected surplus of \$11,867.
- Center Street Phase II update was discussed.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Madara Jr./Williams motioned to adopt resolution 2021-11 requiring contribution of 5% of gross pay from uniformed employees toward pension for 2022. Motion carried.

- Madara Sr./Madara Jr. motioned to adopt resolution 2021-12 requiring contribution of 1.25% of gross pay from non-uniformed employees toward pension for 2022. Motioned carried.
- Madara Sr./Daubert 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 3 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 3, 2022 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./Williams motioned effective January 1, 2022 to give Debra Olson, Secretary \$.75/hr raise; Damion Beagle Roadmaster, \$.75/hr raise per contract; Officers Stephen Spade, Officer Matthew Filarski, Officer David Tomtishen, Officer Glen Wonsock \$.75/hr raise per contract; Chief Bryon Chowka \$1.00/hr raise per contract; Mark Lyash, Assistant Manager \$.75/hr. 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** – none

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 8:38 p.m. on, Daubert/Williams motion and carried.

Executive session was held for personnel and possible litigation.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson  
Ralpho Township Secretary