

MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - NOVEMBER 14, 2023
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St., Elysburg, PA

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

Attending were: Supervisors Blaine Madara Sr., Stephen Major, Blaine Madara Jr., Daniel Williams and Vincent Daubert were present. Also attending were: Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Manager Joseph Springer; Solicitor Todd Kerstetter; Code Officer Mark Lyash; Chief Bryon Chowka; Roadmaster Damion Beagle; Larry Deklinski *Shamokin News-Item* and 3 interested citizens.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – Bryon Sokoloski, 5 S Hickory St. brought a survey that he placed on Facebook in regard to raising taxes for the Fire Companies, the unofficial survey showed abundant support for the Fire Companies.

Minutes of October 10, 2023 regular monthly meeting and October 24, 2023 Budget Work Session were accepted as presented on Williams/Major 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 Major/Daubert motion, motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 3rd Qtr. Police and Non-Uniform Pension Plans are available in the Township Office for review.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING – Mark Lyash

- Daubert/Major motioned to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and to approve the Linda Berkheiser Final Minor-Subdivision. Motion Carried.
- Madara Sr./Major motioned to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and to approve the Trevor & Mary Frances Knoebel Add-On Subdivision. Motion carried.

STREET DEPARTMENT – Major

- Report was received.
- No further information was received on multi-municipal/pedestrian friendly route project.
- Upper Philippines Development pipe replacement was discussed.
- Major/Madara Sr. motioned to send Denton Kosmer to Professional Driver CDL School at a price of \$3,525, contingent upon agreement approved by solicitor. Motion carried.
- Major/Daubert motioned to purchase Jumping Jack for \$3,977.80 and Pressure Washer for \$10,271.99 from Bestline at approved Costars Prices and to be paid for in the 2024 budget. Motion carried.

BUILDINGS – Madara Sr.

- Municipal building plumbing blockage was discussed. Roadmaster Damion Beagle did a great job with the project. Thanks to him and the rest of the street department crew.

RECREATION – Madara Jr.

- Gym card key access problem was corrected and is usable now; Chairman also got a quote from Vector to update the system in the future.
- Pickle Ball will be starting to use the gym during the daytime in the near future.

ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT – Daubert

- 10 permits were issued and \$2,466.22 in fees were collected during October. 26 letters of correspondence were sent, 16 permits were closed; 1 burn permit was issued; and 19 complaints were received for vehicles, trash, dumping and dangerous structures; etc.
- An update on Robert Meredith Public Nuisance Hearing was given. Mr. Meredith and his Attorney Robb Varano were present and asked questions. Township Solicitor recommended to not give the permit for the fence because the property has no primary use on it. Madara Jr./Williams motioned to not approve the permit and also gave Mr. Meredith 60 days to clean up the property before further action is taken by the Code Officer. Motion carried.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Williams

- Report was read
- New Durango Pursuit has been striped and is now at Keystone for equipment installation.
- Williams/Madara Sr. motioned to sell 2016 Ford Explorer with reserve at the discretion of Chief Chowka and Manager Springer; and, Tractor with Boom Mower with reserve at discretion of Roadmaster Damion Beagle and Manager Springer, on Municibid, auctions to close prior to December meeting. Motion carried.
- Williams/Major motioned to give final donation of \$17,500 to Elysburg Fire toward purchase of tanker. Motion carried.

RECYCLING – Daubert

- none

MANAGER’S REPORT

- Madara Sr./Major motioned to adopt Resolution #2023-10 to allow Manager Springer and Secretary Olson to sign documentation for Local Share Account Grant Documents. Motion carried.
- Madara Sr. spoke of grant possible for elevator lift at library, he will get information to Manager Springer.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

- Major/Daubert motioned to advertise Agri-tainment Ordinance and hold hearing at December meeting. Motion carried.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

- No Report Received

OLD BUSINESS:

- Williams/Daubert motioned to purchase sweatshirts and a \$25 gift card for each of the employees for the holidays. Motion carried.
- Major/Madara Sr. motioned to release payment of \$7,410.19 to the Ralpho Township Public Library for remainder of budgeted monies. Motion carried.
- Madara Sr./Williams motioned to do a \$25 memorial to the Ralpho Township Public Library in memory of Manager Joe Springer’s mother, Una Todd. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Proposed Budget – Williams/Madara Sr. motioned to authorize advertising and posting proposed 2024 budget. Real estate taxes 8½ mills; i.e., general purposes 6¼ mills; fire protection 1½ mills; equipment ½ mill and library ¼ mill; street lighting per assessment formula. General Fund anticipated receipts plus carry over from 2023 = \$2,248,180; budgeted expenditures = \$2,174,067 leaving a projected surplus of \$74,113. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts plus carry over from 2023 = \$380,266 budgeted expenditures of \$230,266 leaving a projected surplus of \$150,000.

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

Motion carried.

- Madara Sr./Williams motioned to reach out to vendors for SEO proposals. Motion carried. Code Officer Mark Lyash will request proposals.

CITIZEN INPUT –none

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 7:18 p.m. on Williams/Daubert motion and carried.

Executive session held for possible litigation.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary