

MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - DECEMBER 12, 2023
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St., Elysburg, PA

Chairman Madara Jr. 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 Blaine Madara Sr., Stephen Major, Blaine Madara Jr., Daniel Williams and Vincent Daubert were present. Also attending were: Solicitor Todd Kerstetter; Code Officer Mark Lyash; Chief Bryon Chowka; Roadmaster Damion Beagle; and 5 interested citizens.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

Minutes of November 14, 2023 regular monthly meeting were accepted as presented on Williams/Major motion and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT was accepted as presented on Major/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

- None

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING – Mark Lyash

- Madara Sr./Williams motioned to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and to approve the Jay & Rebecca Drumheller Final Minor-Subdivision. Motion Carried.
- Major/Madara Sr. motioned to give Heath Subdivision a 180 extension. Motion carried.
- Josh Hoagland from Crossroads Group was present to discuss waiver consideration for Heath Subdivision. Item failed for lack of a motion.

STREET DEPARTMENT – Major

- Report was received.
- Thank you to Street Department for hanging of snow flake lights.
- No further information was received on multi-municipal/pedestrian friendly route project.
- Williams/Madara Sr. motioned to sell 7740 New Holland Tractor/Mower to Ethan Mylin, New Providence, PA, for \$9,300 through auction on Municibid. Motion carried.
- Roadmaster provided a quote from Stephenson Equipment for a JCB Hydra Dig 110 TAF TAB. Supervisors discussed and asked Roadmaster to get information on financing the piece of equipment.

BUILDINGS – Madara Sr.

- Thanks to Charlie Kowalchick for helping with the repairs in the bathroom.
- Replaced a circulator pump for library heat.

RECREATION – Madara Jr.

- Board congratulated Southern Columbia High School Football team on 7th straight State Championship.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT – Daubert

- 14 permits were issued and \$2,375.39 in fees were collected during November. 32 letters of correspondence were sent, 22 permits were closed; and 19 complaints were received for vehicles, trash, dumping and dangerous structures; etc.
- Request for proposals for Sewage Enforcement Officer were discussed. Zoning Officer will compile a list of services from interested parties prior to January meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Williams

- Report was read.
- Madara Sr./Daubert motioned to accept with great regret the resignation of Brandon Cohick from the Police Department. Motion carried.
- Madara Sr./Daubert motioned to move forward with hiring a new police officer, including advertising if needed. Motion carried.
- Madara Sr./Daubert motioned to purchase replacement in-dash camera at the discretion of the Chief and Supervisor Williams. Motion carried.
- Williams/Madara Sr. motioned to sell 2016 Ford Explorer cruiser to Bryon Sokoloskie, Elysburg, PA, for \$5,203 through auction on municibid. Motion carried.
- Williams/Madara Sr. motioned to add street light discussion to the agenda. Motion carried
- Madara Sr./Williams motioned to approve Chief and Secretary to pursue street light at the intersection of State Highway 54 and Southview Drive. Motion carried.

RECYCLING – Daubert

- none

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Local Share Account Grant has been submitted for the Boom Mower/Tractor future purchase.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- Public Hearing was held for Agri-tainment Ordinance #197. Sara Keefer, 169 Wyndam Lane, Paxinos, Frank Kalejta, Coal Township, and Bryon Sokoloskie, 5 Hickory St., Elysburg, were present and asked questions. Madara Jr./Daubert motioned to adopt the Ordinance. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Report Received

OLD BUSINESS:

- Resolution 2023-11 re-enacting current Act 511 taxes as advertised:

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

Was adopted on a Major/Williams motion carried unanimously.
- Proposed 2024 Budget was posted for public inspection on November 15, 2023– Resolution 2023-12 real estate taxes for 2024 as follows: general purposes 6¼ mills; fire protection 1½ mills; equipment ½ mill and library ¼ mill; street lighting depending on location .22, .25, .37 or \$6.46. Daubert/Madara Sr. motion and second. Motion carried unanimously.

- Resolution 2023-13 adopting 2024 Budget was approved on Major/Daubert motion and carried unanimously. 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Williams/Major motioned to adopt resolution 2023-14 requiring contribution of 5% of gross pay from uniformed employees toward pension for 2024. Motion carried.
- Daubert/Madara Jr. motioned to adopt resolution 2023-15 requiring contribution of 1.25% of gross pay from non-uniformed employees toward pension for 2024. Motioned carried.
- Madara Sr./Williams motioned to approved advertising for meeting dates of Ralpho Township Supervisors meeting to be the 2nd Tuesday of month beginning at 6:30 p.m. and for Planning Commission meetings to be 1st Tuesday of month beginning at 6:30 p.m., January Planning Commission meeting will be held at 5 p.m., Tuesday, January 2 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 Tuesday, January 2, 2024 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The annual budget meeting the 4th Tuesday of October will also be included in the advertisement. Approval was unanimous.
- Madara Sr./Madara Jr. motioned effective January 1, 2024 to give Debra Olson, Secretary \$.75/hr. raise; Damion Beagle Roadmaster, \$.75/hr. raise per contract; Denton Kosmer Street Department, \$.75/hr. raise per contract; Officers Stephen Spade, Officer Matthew Filarski, Officer David Tomtishen, Officer Glen Wonsock, \$1.00/hr. raise per contract; Chief Bryon Chowka \$1.00/hr. raise per agreement; Mark Lyash, Assistant Manager \$.75/hr.; Charles Kowalchick, Buildings/Grounds \$.75/hr.; Motion carried unanimously.
- Major/Madara Jr. motioned to add CDBG change to agenda. Motion carried.
- Madara Sr./Williams motioned to approve moving \$2,500 CDBG funding from FFY-2020 Fuel Oil Assistance to Ralpho Township Gym Project. Motion carried.
- Vacancies for next year were discussed.

CITIZEN INPUT –none

Board went into executive session for personnel at 7:34 p.m. Board reconvened at 8:33 p.m.

- Major/Williams motioned to authorize Chairman to sign agreement with employee, Denton Kosmer, for CDL Reimbursement Agreement. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m. on Williams/Daubert motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary