

MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - FEBRUARY 13, 2024
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St., Elysburg, PA

Executive Session was held for personnel at 6 p.m. prior to tonight's meeting.

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.

Jeff Kyle and Eric Aepli of DGK Insurance were present for annual insurance renewal presentation.

Attending were: Supervisors Blaine Madara Sr., Vincent Daubert, Stephen Major, Daniel Williams and Blaine Madara Jr. Also attending were: Township Manager Joseph Springer, Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Code Officer Mark Lyash; Chief Bryon Chowka; and Roadmaster Damion Beagle; Larry Deklinski *Shamokin News-Item*; Drew Munich *Press Enterprise*; Jeff Kyle and Eric Aepli DGK Insurance; and 2 interested citizens.

CHAIRMAN APPOINTS COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT HEADS:

STREET DEPARTMENT - Major

BUILDINGS - Madara Sr.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY - Williams

ZONING - Daubert

RECREATION - Madara Jr.

RECYCLING - Daubert

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

Minutes of January 2, 2024 reorganization and regular monthly meeting were accepted as presented on Major/Daubert motion and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT was accepted as presented on Madara Sr./Daubert motion and carried.

Bills were approved as presented for payment, including those bills paid between regular on a Major/Williams motion, motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Madara Sr./Madara Jr. motioned for Tax Collector Vanessa Major to be exonerated from further collections on the 2023 tax duplicate. Motion carried with Supervisor Major abstaining.
- 2023 4th Quarter and Annual Investment Reports for the Ralpho Township Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans are available for review in the Township Office.
- PennDOT letter regarding resurfacing S.R.487 was received. Secretary will respond with letter requesting the work be done at night due to heavy traffic from Amusement Park.
- Email from Hannah Mitchell, Girl Scout Leader Troop 3-280, service project request was discussed. Secretary will respond for her to contact Supervisor Madara Jr.
- Village Cat Knappers Annual Report 2023 was received.
- Casella letter regarding acquiring GLF Environmental Waste (formerly County Waste) was received.
- Letter was received from DEP in regard to Split Vein Breaker applying for a GP104 Permit.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING – Mark Lyash

- Madara Sr./Daubert motioned to approve Component I sewage planning module for Pantalone Subdivision. Motion carried.
- Major/Daubert motioned to approve Component III sewage planning module for 3-Ponds Golf Course Land Development. Motion carried.

STREET DEPARTMENT – Major

- Report was received.
- 2024 Road Projects were discussed. Major/Williams motioned to advertise for bid paving of West Avenue and Grande Avenue, with bids to be opened at March meeting. Motion carried.
- Mower tractor replacement options were discussed. Madara Jr./Major motioned to purchase 2023 JCB Hydra Dig 110 TAF TAB from Stephenson Equipment Incorporated for \$268,161 to replace Ford mowing tractor, using loan from Journey Bank at a rate of 5.43%. Motion carried.
- No further information on the Bicycle Trail Project.

BUILDINGS – Madara Sr.

- Madara Jr./Williams motioned to purchase new door lock system for the gymnasium at a price of up to \$3,975 from Vector. Supervisor Madara Jr. will verify further details. Motion carried.

RECREATION – Madara Jr.

- Madara Sr./Daubert motioned to purchase 4 deep cell batteries at \$250 each from Battery Warehouse Outlet for gymnasium lift. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Madara Jr. gave an update on the CDBG bathroom project at the gymnasium and the DCNR Grant Project in the playground as well.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT – Daubert

- 3 permits were issued and \$190 fees were collected during January. 24 letters of correspondence were sent; 11 permits were closed; and, 15 complaints were received for vehicles, trash, dumping and dangerous structures, etc.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Williams

- Report was read.
- Williams/Madara Jr. motioned to hire Tyler Bischof as Patrolman II at the rate of \$25 per hour and benefits per the police agreement, starting as soon as available. Motion carried.

RECYCLING – Daubert

- none

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Manager has requested reimbursement from Recycling Grant for truck purchase from Sunbury Motors.
- Yard waste drop off will need to be discussed further.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- none

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Report was not received.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Madara Sr./Major motioned to table appointment of ZHB Member. Motion carried.
- Madara Jr./Major motioned to appoint Engineering for 2024 as Larson Design. Motion carried.
- Major/Madar Sr./motioned to adopt Resolution 2024-01 Fee Schedule update. Motion carried.
- Madara Sr./Major motioned to rescind the motion to appoint Sewage Enforcement Officer as Brior Environmental and appoint Sewage Enforcement Office as KPI Technology from January meeting.
- Daubert/Madara Sr. motioned to appoint William Brior as Township Sewage Enforcement Officer, Robert Fugate as alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer and Dominic Picarelli as alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Tax Assistant position will be discussed further at March meeting.
- Madara Jr./Major motioned to donate \$25 to the Ralpho Township Library in memory of Marian Williams, long-time Township Assessor and Tax Assistant; and, Supervisor William's mother. Motion carried with Williams abstaining.
- Madara Sr./Williams motioned to authorize releasing \$2,200 from both the Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans to pay actuarial/consulting fees to Girard Pension Services. Motion carried.
- Library considering elevator and grant opportunities were discussed.
- Supervisor Madara Sr. asked that the timing of the traffic signal be looked at again. Some traffic is having to wait for over a minute when no one is coming from the other way. Chief Chowka will call Penn DOT to check on options with timing.

CITIZEN INPUT – none

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 7:33 p.m. on Williams/Daubert motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary