

MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - DECEMBER 10, 2024
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St., Elysburg, PA

Executive Session was held prior to the meeting for personnel matters. It was also announced that an executive session will be held after the meeting for possible litigation.

Chairman Blaine Madara Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:34p.m. and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Attending were: Supervisors Blaine Madra Sr., Vincent Daubert, Stephen Major, Daniel Williams and Blaine Madara Jr. Also attending were: Township Solicitor Todd Kerstetter; Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Code Officer Mark Lyash; Chief Bryon Chowka; Larry Deklinski *Shamokin News-Item*; and 1 interested citizen.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

Minutes of November 12, 2024 regular monthly meeting were accepted as presented on Daubert/Williams 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 regular meetings on a Major/Williams motion, motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Email was received from Senator Culver's office regarding meeting with her for any questions or concerns.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING – Mark Lyash

- none

STREET DEPARTMENT – Major

- Report was received.
- Leaf collection went well. New grant equipment allowed department to cut down on personnel.
- Traffic study of Intersection of SR54 and Center Street would be approximately \$5,500 if Township would choose to move forward. Supervisor Major will get more information for questions discussed.

BUILDINGS – Madara Sr.

- None

RECREATION – Madara Jr.

- Water fountain in the gymnasium will be turned back on.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT – Daubert

- 8 permits were issued and \$1,957.55 in fees were collected during November. 35 letters of correspondence were sent; 54 permits were closed; and, 27 complaints were received for vehicles, trash, dumping and dangerous structures, etc.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Williams

- Report was read.

RECYCLING – Daubert

- none

MANAGER’S REPORT

- Final 902 Grant payment application has been submitted; Township should receive approximately \$220,000 reimbursement
- Nothing has been received regarding the LSA Grant.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

- none

ENGINEER’S REPORT

- Report was not received.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Major/Daubert motioned to adopt Resolution 2024-08 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

Motion carried.

- Proposed 2025 Budget was posted for public inspection on November 14, 2024. Daubert/Major motioned to adopt Resolution 2024-09 establishing Real estate taxes for 2025 as follows: general purposes 6-1/4 mills; fire protection 1½ mill; equipment ½ mill and library ¼ mill; street lighting depending on location .22, .24, .35 or \$6.20. Motion carried.
- Major/Madara Sr. motioned to adopt Resolution 2024-10 adopting the 2025 Budget. General Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2024 = \$2,187,957; budgeted expenditures = \$2,185,858 leaving a projected surplus of \$2,099. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2024 = \$840,791, budgeted expenditures of \$840,791 leaving a projected surplus of \$0. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Williams/Madara Sr. Motioned to approve the signing of employment contract with Chief of Police Bryon Chowka for period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2029. Motion carried.
- Madara Sr./Major motioned to adopt Resolution 2024-11 requiring contribution of 5% of gross pay from uniformed employees toward pension for 2025. Motion carried.
- Madara Sr./Daubert motioned to adopt Resolution 2024-12 requiring contribution of 1.25% of gross pay from non-uniformed employees toward pension for 2025. Motion carried.
- Major/Madara Sr. motioned to approve advertising dates for 2025 for Planning Commission and Supervisor’s meeting including reorganizational meeting/regular January meeting for Monday, January 6, 2025; Planning Commission reorganizational meeting January 6, 2025 prior to Supervisor meeting at 5 p.m. Motion carried.

- Madara Jr./Daubert motioned to increase pay effective January 1, 2025 by \$.75 per hour for Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson, Mark Lyash Code/Zoning Officer, Charles Kowalchick Buildings and Grounds; by \$.75 per hour for Damion Beagle Roadmaster and Street Department Employee Denton Kosmer per union contract; by \$1.00 per hour for Patrol Officer IV Stephen Spade, Glenn Wonsock, Matthew Filarski and David Tomtishen; by \$1.50 per hour for Chief of Police Bryon Chowka per agreement; by \$1,000 annually for Manager Joseph Springer. Motion carried unanimously.
- Secretary will call all necessary appointees for next year prior to January meeting.

CITIZEN INPUT – none

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m. on Williams/Daubert motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary