

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS REORGANIZATION
AND REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - JANUARY 6, 2025
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.

Chairman Madara Jr. comment: As mandated by State Law and as advertised this meeting is for Reorganization purposes and the regular January meeting.

Attending were: Supervisors Blaine Madara Sr., Vincent Daubert, Stephen Major, Daniel Williams and Blaine Madara Jr. Also attending were: Township Manager Joseph Springer, Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Code Officer Mark Lyash; Chief Bryon Chowka; and Roadmaster Damion Beagle.

Changing Chairman is merely following past practice of rotating the position every year so each board member has an opportunity to fill that capacity.

Chairman Daubert requested nominations for the Chairman's position. Major/Williams motioned to elect Supervisor Vincent Daubert. as chairman. Nominations ceased with approval of Daubert as Chairman unanimous.

Madara Jr. handed the gavel over to incoming Chairman Vincent Daubert.

Madara Jr./Madara Sr. motioned to nominate Supervisor Major as Vice Chairman. Chairman Daubert motioned to close nominations with approval of Supervisor Major as Vice Chairman unanimous.

- Major/Madara Jr. motioned to appoint Joseph Springer, Township Manager. Motion carried.
 - Madara Sr./Williams motioned to adopt Resolution 2025-01 Compensation for Manager. Motion carried.
- Madara Sr./Major motioned to appoint Debra Olson, Township Secretary/Treasurer. Motion carried.
- Madara Jr./Madara Sr. Schlesinger & Kerstetter, Solicitor. Motion carried.
- Major/Madara Jr. motioned to designate Township depositories PLGIT and Journey Bank. Motion carried.
- Williams/Madara Jr. motioned to appoint Vanessa Major as Real Estate Tax Certifier, Act 511 tax collector and Delinquent Tax certifier. Motion carried with Major abstaining.
- Madara Sr./Major motioned to appoint Berkheimer Associates Tax Collector for Earned Income and LST taxes; and Statewide Tax Recovery to be tax collector for collection of Delinquent Occupation Assessment Tax and Delinquent Per Capita Tax. Motion carried.
- Madara Jr./Madara Sr. motioned to appoint Mark Lyash as Code Enforcement Officer and Flood Plain Administrator. Motion carried.
- Madara Sr./Major motioned to appoint Tri-County COG Uniform Construction Code Officer and Building Code Officer; Damion Beagle as Roadmaster; and, motioned to appoint Sewage Enforcement Officer at Brior Environmental and to appoint alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer Robert Fugate and Dominic Picarelli. Motion carried.
- Williams/Madara Sr. motioned to appoint Doug Gessner, one-year term Township Vacancy Board, Clint Herr, one-year term as EMA Coordinator, Joe Scopeliti, 5-year term to Municipal Authority of Ralpho Township; David Phillips to 5-year term to Municipal Authority of Sunnyside Overlook; Joe Pechulis, to the Zoning Hearing Board for 3-year term, motion carried.

Chairman appointed Committee/Department Heads:

- Street Department – Madara Sr.
- Buildings – Daubert
- Police Department/Public Safety - Major
- Zoning - Williams
- Recreation –Madara Jr.
- Recycling - Williams

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

Minutes of December 10, 2024 regular monthly meeting were accepted as presented on Williams/Major motion and carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT was accepted as presented on Madara Sr./Major motion and carried.

Bills were approved as presented for payment, including those bills paid between regular meetings and those regular bills that come in after January meeting because of early meeting date on a Madara Sr./Williams motion, motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

- None

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING – Mark Lyash

- None

STREET DEPARTMENT – Major

- Report was received.
- State Rt 54/Center Street Intersection discussion took place with follow up in April.
- Happy Valley Road Grant through Low Volume Road Grant with Soil Conservation took place. Estimate for Township’s part would be approximately \$60,000.
- Supervisor Major explained a ROW project that MART is undertaking. He stated that it was discussed at the last MART meeting there could be a possibility of the Municipal Authority buying equipment and having Township Road Crew continue to clear the ROW. More information to follow.
- Major/Daubert motioned to increase part-time wages for street department by \$1.00 with starting wage remaining the same. Police part-time wages will be discussed at a later date. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Madara Sr. thanked the street department for all the little extras they do around the Township. It is much appreciated.

BUILDINGS – Madara Sr.

- none

RECREATION – Madara Jr.

- none

ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT – Daubert

- 5 permits were issued and \$2,298.66 fees were collected during December. 30 letters of correspondence were sent; and 25 complaints were received for vehicles, trash, dumping and dangerous structures, etc.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Williams

- Report was read

- Madara Sr./Williams motioned to order Dodge Durango police cruiser from Zimmerman's at a price of \$46,054. Motion carried. Chief will get more information on delivery time frame when purchased.

RECYCLING – Daubert

- Supervisor Major made a point to mention that we are aware of what took place at recycling this past week. We ask that residents please use common sense and if a dumpster is full at recycling, please take your recyclables home and bring back at a later date. We have a high-quality employee who takes care of the recycling and he should not have to clean up after people who don't follow these simple instructions and leave a mess outside of the dumpsters. During the holidays the bins will fill up faster than usual and we can only get them emptied as the hauler is able to take them. There is quite an expense to having them emptied so we always want to make sure the bins are full when taken away. We thank those who are careful to do the right thing with recycling within the Township.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Manager will contact agents who have contacted him about Insurance Renewal. The renewal is on March 5, 2025.
- Manager was asked to get information from another company that does Municipal Pensions.
- Manager will share Engineer Proposals received. After reviewing documents Manager, Madara Sr. and Williams will bring recommendation to board at February meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- none

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- No report was received.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Major/Daubert motioned to have Chairman, Secretary and Manager sign Aggregate Pension Trust Fund Documents and send to the Auditor General. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Major/Madara Jr. motioned to have Chairman sign 2025 Annual Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement with TRA Electric. Motion carried. Chief Chowka will arrange maintenance along with a couple of lights that are also in need of repair.
- Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) information was received for Northumberland County.

CITIZEN INPUT – none

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 7:19 p.m. on Williams/Major motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary