

**MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - MARCH 11, 2025**  
**Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St., Elysburg, PA**

*Chairman Daubert 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., 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; Roadmaster Damion Beagle; and 12 interested citizens.

Bids were opened for the 2025 road projects:

Madara Sr./Williams motioned to accept apparent low bid of \$102,407.90 from Meckley's Limestone Products, Inc. for Scratch & Seal Project on Swift Road and Berks Road, award is contingent upon bid meeting all legal, bonding and insurance requirements. Motion carried.

Major/Madara Sr motioned to accept apparent low bid of \$461,387.80 from New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc. for Bear Hollow Road Project, award is contingent upon bid meeting all legal, bonding and insurance requirements. Motion carried.

Daubert/Major motioned to accept apparent low bid of \$137,978.79 from New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc. for Dirt & Gravel Road Project on Happy Valley Road, award is contingent upon bid meeting all legal, bonding and insurance requirements. Motion carried.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS – Marsha Fleming, 163 West Center; Susan Kenigsberg, 192 Thomas Road; Shelby Snyder, 176 W Center St.; Shane Hogencamp, 168 West Center; and, Matt Snyder, 176 West Center St.; were all present at the meeting asking for ordinance change to allow chickens in the residential zone in Ralpho Township. Supervisor Madara Sr. stated that in 60-70% of the Township you are able to have agricultural animals. Supervisor Major also spoke stating how do we draw a line as to what type of animals are allowed in the future.

Minutes of February 11, 2025 regular monthly meeting were accepted as presented on Williams/Madara Jr.

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 on a Major/Madara Jr. motion, motion carried unanimously.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Madara Sr./Williams motioned to give budgeted donation of \$1,250 to Ralpho Youth Sports organization. Motion carried.
- Notice was received from Topp Business Solutions that copier will not longer be able to have a maintenance contract after this year. It is possible they will not be able to get parts in the future. When maintenance contract is up, they will charge \$180 per visit and toner will need to be purchased by the Township.

#### **COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

##### **PLANNING – Mark Lyash**

- Madara Jr./Major motioned to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve the Pine Hill Cemetery Add-On Subdivision. Motion carried.

- Madara Sr./Williams motioned to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve the Dean Anskis Add-on Subdivision Plan. Motion carried.
- Major/Williams motioned to return remaining escrow balance of \$4,320 for Danson Subdivision Plan; remaining escrow balance of \$790 for Danson Subdivision Phase II Plan; remaining escrow balance of \$1,984.70 for Aqua Watermain Projects; remaining escrow balance of \$1,825 for Sherer Land Development Plan; remaining escrow balance of \$922.50 for Verizon Land Development Plan; remaining escrow balance of \$1,297.50 for Brian Hubler Land Development Plan; remaining escrow balance of \$768.75 for Brookside Nursery Land Development Plan; remaining escrow balance of \$5,000 for Via Dante Estates Subdivision Plan; remaining escrow balance of \$2,000 for John Yost Subdivision Improvements; remaining escrow balance of \$4,660 for John Yost Subdivision Plan; remaining escrow balance of \$1,345 for PSSA Land Development Plan; remaining escrow balance of \$925 for Mt. Road Subdivision Plan; remaining escrow balance of \$1,240 for Berkheiser Subdivision Plan. Motion carried.

#### **STREET DEPARTMENT – Madara Sr.**

- Report was received.
- Madara Sr./Daubert motioned to authorize Roadmaster to sign Dirt & Gravel Low Volume Road Grant Contract with Northumberland Soil Conservation for Happy Valley Road. Motion carried.
- Madara Sr./Major motioned to purchase radios for the JCB Hydradig and the New F600 Dump Truck from Keystone Communications for a price of \$2,129.52. Motion carried.
- Discussion took place on bridge inspection within the Township. Solicitor is working on further information.
- Madara Sr./Madara Jr. motioned to allow comp-time up to 40 hours for AFSCME agreement employees, maximum of 40 hours and hours must be used prior to end of following year. Motion carried.
- Madara Jr./Major motioned to rent street sweeper from Bradco Supply for 1 week for \$2,000. If there is a problem with the equipment will return and go back to vendor from past years. Motion carried.

#### **BUILDINGS – Daubert**

- none

#### **RECREATION – Madara Jr.**

- More to follow on broken piece playground equipment from George Ely Associates next meeting.

#### **ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT – Williams**

- 4 permits were issued and \$840 fees were collected during February. 9 permits were closed, 37 letters of correspondence were sent; and, 27n complaints were received for vehicles, trash, dumping and dangerous structures, etc.
- Williams/Madara Sr. motioned to purchase Lenovo Yoga Laptop and Microsoft Office through American Computer Associates for price of \$1,402.95. Motion carried.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Major**

- Report was read
- Major/Madara Sr. motioned to authorize Chairman to sign amendment to Police Contract to amend starting wages for officers and also the wages for part-time help. Motion carried.
- Discussion took place on selling 2016 Police cruiser. Will follow up in April.
- Madara Jr./Major motioned to accept resignation of Part-time Police Officer David Kistner. Motion carried.

#### **RECYCLING – Williams**

- none

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Madara Sr./Williams motioned to take electrical supply contract with IGS Supplier for 15-month term at a \$.098. Motion carried.
- Notice was received that we should receive 902 Grant reimbursement monies with 6 weeks.
- Manager applied for a PA Infrastructure Loan to cover costs of summer road projects, loan is at half of prime interest rate and would be paid back over 10 years with Liquid Fuels money received annually. If full \$500,000 is borrowed the annual payback would be approximately \$60,000.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

- none

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- Report was received from KPI Technology.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Madara Jr./Williams motioned to add DCNR Grant to the agenda. Motion carried.
- Madara Sr./Williams motioned to approve Recreation Chairman Supervisor Madara Jr. to sign and move forward with advertising the DCNR Grant project. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Major/Madara Sr. motioned to adopt Resolution 2025-04 Fee Schedule Update. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Madara Sr. asked if the audit shows everything is okay with finances. Township Manager responded that the Secretary does a wonderful job and the auditors are always happy to come here. Madara Sr./Daubert motioned to accept 2024 Audit and DCED report as presented by auditing firm Wager, Dreese, Elsasser and Associates, P.C. Motion carried.

## **CITIZEN INPUT – none**

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 7:49 p.m. on Madara Sr./Daubert motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson  
Ralpho Township Secretary