

MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING - DECEMBER 9, 2025
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St., Elysburg, PA

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

Attending were: Supervisors Blaine Madara Sr., Vincent Daubert, Daniel Williams and Steve Major; Also, attending were: Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Solicitor Todd Kerstetter; Code Officer Mark Lyash; Chief Bryon Chowka; and 6 interested citizens.

Chairman Daubert on behalf of the board congratulated the Southern Columbia football team on an excellent season and for winning the State Championship.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS- none

Minutes of November 11, 2025 regular monthly meeting were accepted as presented on Major/Madara motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT was accepted as presented on Madara/Daubert 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.

Madara/Williams motioned to approve Payment Application #3 and Payment Application #1 (Electrical Work) for H&P Construction Inc. for the Ralpho Township Gym ADA Accessible Entrance Project to be paid with CDBG funds. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Elysburg Food Pantry thank you was received for food collection done at the Recycling Center. Chairman Daubert thanked Secretary for spear heading the collection.
- Note was received from Paul McDermott thanking Chief Chowka and the Street Department for help after an accident on road near his property.
- Notice was received from Great Dane regarding a mass layoff at the facility.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING – Mark Lyash

- Coal Regions Winery Conditional Use Hearing was held prior to meeting at 5:30 p.m.

STREET DEPARTMENT – Madara Sr.

- Report was received.
- Madara/Major motioned to accept high bid of \$3,300 on Municibid from Orestes Catacora for TARCO Leaf Collector. Motion carried.
- Madara/Dauber motioned to purchase John Deere Tractor/Mower from LandPro Equipment for \$155,419.55 with LSA Grant monies. Motion carried.
- Williams/Major motioned to repair clutch on 2008 F550 for approximate cost of \$2,000 at Abundant Auto. Motion carried.
- Supervisor Madara mentioned PPL has a wire down on Jeremiah Avenue. He spoke with Vince Stanishefski from PPL and he reported it would be repaired this week.

BUILDINGS – Daubert

- Secretary was told to contact Vector Security to move the camera at the back of the building that is now under roof because of back ramp project.

RECREATION – Madara Jr.

- Color pallet was discussed for DCNR Project in the playground. Secretary was told to let HPCI know the colors in the pamphlet provided were fine.

ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT – Williams

- 7 permits were issued and \$2,541.52 fees were collected during November. 4 permits were closed; 34 letters of correspondence were sent; and 30 complaints were received for vehicles, trash, dumping and dangerous structures, etc.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Major

- Report was read
- Major/Madara motioned to have 2025 Dodge Durango repaired at Jeff's Auto Body for estimated price of \$2,329.40 and to file insurance claim. Motion carried.

RECYCLING – Williams

- none

MANAGER’S REPORT

- none

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

- Madara/Major motioned to advertise amendment to Police Pension Ordinance with hearing to be held at January meeting. Motion carried.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

- Report was received.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Major/Williams motioned to adopt Resolution 2025-09 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 2026 Budget was posted for public inspection on November 13, 2025. Madara/Major motioned to adopt Resolution 2025-10 establishing Real estate taxes for 2026 as follows: general purposes 7-1/4 mills; fire protection 1½ mill; equipment ½ mill and library ¼ mill; street lighting depending on location .23, .25, .37 or \$6.51. Motion carried.

- Major/Daubert motioned to adopt Resolution 2025-11 adopting the 2026 Budget. General Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2025 = \$2,251,482; budgeted expenditures = \$2,225,352 leaving a projected surplus of \$26,130. State Aid Fund anticipated receipts including projected carry over from 2025 = \$513,811, budgeted expenditures of \$433,651 leaving a projected surplus of \$80,160. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Williams/Major motioned with regret to accept the resignation of Supervisor Blaine Madara Jr. from the Ralpho Township Board. Motion carried. Supervisor Major spoke on behalf on the board stating that our loss is the school's gain with Supervisor Madara Jr. His work for the board and the community will be dearly missed.
- Madara/Williams motioned to accept AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028. Motion carried.
- Major/Madara motioned to change internet to 100 Mbps for \$65. Motion carried
- Major/Daubert motioned to purchase access point for municipal building internet. Motion carried.
- Madara/Williams motioned to accept Change Orders 1 through 4 for Ralpho Township GYM ADA Accessible Entrance CDBG Project. Motion carried.
- Madara/Major motioned to adopt resolution 2025-12 requiring contribution of 5% of gross pay from uniformed employees toward pension for 2026. Motion carried.
- Major/Madara motioned to adopt resolution 2025-13 requiring contribution of 1.25% of gross pay from non-uniformed employees toward pension for 2026. Motion carried.
- Williams/Major motioned to establish and advertise meeting dates for 2026 for Planning Commission and Supervisor's meetings including reorganizational meeting/ regular January meeting for Monday, January 5, 2026.
- Willaims/Madara motioned to increase pay effective January 1, 2026 by \$1.75 per hour for Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson, Mark Lyash Code/Zoning Officer, Charles Kowalchick Buildings and Grounds; by \$1.75 per hour for Damion Beagle Roadmaster and Street Department Employee Denton Kosmer per union contract; by \$.75 per hour for Patrol Officer IV Stephen Spade, Glenn Wonsock, Matthew Filarski and David Tomtishen; by \$.75 for Patrol Officer III Tyler Bischof; by \$1.50 per hour for Chief of Police Bryon Chowka per agreement. Motion carried unanimously.
- Secretary will call all necessary appointees for next year prior to January meeting
- Letters of interest to fill open Supervisor Position will be accepted in the Township Office until Thursday, December 11th with a special meeting on Tuesday, December 16th to interview and choose appointee to board.

CITIZEN INPUT – none

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m. on Williams/Madara motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary