

MINUTES - RALPHO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING - OCTOBER 11, 2011
Held in Municipal Building Meeting Room, 206 S. Market St, Elysburg, PA

Chairman Edward Payeskie 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, Ed Payeskie, William Wetzel, Stephen Major and Vincent Daubert. Also attending were: Township Manager Joseph Springer, Solicitor Todd Kerstetter, Township Secretary/Treasurer Debra Olson; Code Office Howard Howal; Township Engineer Justin Keister (*arrived at 6:45p.m.*), Police Chief Stu Appel, Roadmaster Howard Shadduck, Debra Eliassen from the Shamokin *News Item*; and 3 interested citizens.

Bids for M-600 grader were opened. Wetzel/Madara motioned to accept the apparent high bid of Warriors Mark Township of \$3,877. Motion carried unanimously.

Ron Bittner from Trollinger Consulting gave a presentation on the Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plan.

CITIZEN INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS –

George Griscavage and his son-in-law Keith questioned what could be done with drainage problem on Pocahontas Lane and Scenic Drive. Township asked that the 4 neighbors affected by the problem all agree to purchasing new pipes for the Township to place in the driveways at the earliest in the spring. Major/Daubert motioned to have secretary forward letters to homeowners of 4 N Scenic, 6 N Scenic, 8 N Scenic and 10 N Scenic stating that the Township would do the work of placing the pipes in the driveways with the homeowners purchasing the pipe and also doing the reconstruction of their driveways after the pipe is placed. Motion carried. The pipe could be purchased by the Township with the homeowners reimbursing the value of the pipe placed on their property. A release would also need to be signed by all affected. This fall the Township will also work on cleaning out the ditch in that area as soon as the water stops running.

Minutes of September 13, 2011 regular monthly meeting were accepted as presented on Major/Wetzel motion and carried.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- Received notice from PSATS the township's contribution rate for UC Group Trust Fund for 2012 will be 4%. An increase from 2011 rate of 1%.
- Letter was received from Northumberland County Conservation District for township resident Marvin Johnson for erosion and sediment control plan for "Bank Stabilization" in Township.
- Letter was received from Northumberland County Conservation District for township resident Gerald Strausser for erosion and sediment control plan for "Bank Stabilization" in Township.
- Letter was received from Department of Auditor General explaining that many municipalities received more funding this year for their pension funds because of a unit value being changed. Mr. Bittner explained to secretary that this does not affect our Township.

- FEMA letter was received in regard to a webinar for disaster recovery and mitigation. Manager Springer will attend the webinar.

COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING –

- Madara/Major motioned to approve the Component 2 Sewage Module for Roseview Estates Subdivision. Motion carried.
- Madara/Wetzel motioned to require Roseview Estates \$1,000 escrow per lot for on-lot sub surface detention basins, to be retained for 15 years or until all the lots are developed. When each system is completed the Township will refund \$1,000 per lot to the developer. After 15 years the remaining money will be retained by the Township for future expenses possibly incurred in this subdivision. Motion carried with Major and Payeskie opposed.
- Wetzel/Daubert motioned to give an extension to Roseview Estates until November 8, 2011. Motion carried.
- Wetzel/Payeskie motioned to have Solicitor send a letter to Aqua PA stating that the Township will take on the monthly expense for one hydrant in the Danson Subdivision. The letter will state one hydrant and the fire chief will be the one to approve where the hydrant will be placed. The Supervisors will start paying for the hydrant once the first structure is built. Motion carried unanimously.
- Wetzel/Major motioned to give an extension to Danson Subdivision until November 8, 2011. Motion carried.

STREET DEPARTMENT – Payeskie

- Approved Howard Shaddock, Roadmaster, to attend Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance of Dirt and Gravel Road Course, sponsored by the Columbia County Conservation District ESM on November 15 and 16 in Bloomsburg. Part-time help will cover for him and help with the leaf collection during his absence.
- Craze road flood damage/closure was discussed. 2 local residents affected by this road being closed are okay with it remaining closed. Solicitor Kerstetter was asked to look into the Township vacating this road.
- Drumheller road flood damage/closure was discussed. Emergency permit was applied for with DEP. Township will make a temporary repair to allow the farmer affected directly to cross with his tractor until spring when complete repair can be done. It is possible that a concrete box culvert will have to be placed in the road to replace two old galvanized pipes to meet the 25 year flood plan. PEMA or FEMA will possibly help with funds to repair to prior to flood conditions not to meet new 25 year flood plan regulations.
- Hower road flood damage/closure was discussed. Solicitor Kerstetter was asked to look into the Township vacating this road.
- Leaf Collection will be advertised in the Press Enterprise and The News-Item one time each. Collection will start October 31 and continue through Wednesday, November 23. This is two week a shorter period of time than past years because of flood clean up.
- Elk Lane was discussed. Manager Springer and Code Officer Howal are reviewing plans to check on Township Responsibility of the storm water retention basin.

BUILDINGS – Daubert

- LTS was at the Municipal Building on Friday to do a check on the boilers. The Secretary will check to see if the heat in the gym is functioning the first cold morning we have.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT – Daubert

- 8 permits were issued and \$800.00 in fees were collected during September and issued several occupancy permits.

POLICE DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – Madara

- Report was read.

RECREATION - Wetzel

- Monies for the Chris Fox memorial were discussed with further update to come.
- Roadmaster Shaddock will research how the Township could honor Henry Hynoski, local SCA graduate, who is playing for the New York Giants.

RECYCLING – Major

- Township received notice that we were approved for Act 101 Recycling Performance Grant for 2009 in the amount of \$4,620. Supervisor Major thanked the secretary for completing the paperwork to receive the grant.
- Supervisor Major also explained that he has been asked by several residents about electronic recycling. Coal Township Recycling does accept electronics at this time and will accept from anyone.

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Mr. Springer is looking into other health insurance plans for the Township for a cost savings. He will bring more information on proposals to the November meeting.
- Set budget meeting for Tuesday, October 25 at 7 p.m. Will advertise special meeting in News-Item.
- Manager Springer will be attending a Community Blight and Property Summit on Thursday at the Vo-Tech.
- CDBG Grant that we were notified of last month, we are eligible because our population exceeded 4,000 in the recent census, could be up to \$75,000 if apply and are qualified. It is to be spent on community projects that benefit low income and poverty eligible families. We could possibly survey people that use the facilities from outside of the area as well. SEDA-COG will come to the November meeting to discuss the opportunity with the Board.
- Manager was visited by Township residents Dave Cardell, Jerry Strausser and Dave McAnaney with flood issues they are having on their properties. At this point it doesn't seem there is anything the Township can do to help them, but if we go to mitigation he would certainly bring these issues up.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- SCTJSA proposed resolution was delivered to his office. He will have Justin Township Engineer look at the resolution.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Covered earlier in meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Halloween is Monday, October 31 from 6 to 9 p.m.
- Elysburg Haunted House has Grand Opening Friday, October 14th.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Major/Madara motioned to make a \$25 donation to the Ralpho Library in memory of Earl Herring (Supervisor Wetzel's Father-in Law). Motion carried.
- Zoning Hearing Board application was received from Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

CITIZEN INPUT – none

There will be an executive session following the meeting for personnel issues.

ADJOURNMENT – there being nothing further for discussion, meeting adjourned at approximately 8:55 p.m. on Daubert/Wetzel motion and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Olson
Ralpho Township Secretary