

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Barbara Spencer called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Other Supervisors present were Andy Merritt, Ben Pisoni and Todd Kirsten. Staff present were Susan Steele, Township Manager; D.J. Liggett, CRPA; Jim May, CRPA; Eric Vorwald, CRPA; Mark Boeckel, CRPA; Danelle DelCorso, PC; Bob Eberhart, PC. Residents & others in attendance: Irene Schaperdoth & Scott Primann.

2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Spencer announced there was an executive meeting to discuss possible litigation matters and staff has been directed to follow up on the actions the Board has determined. Ms. Spencer reconvened the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Mr. Pirmann questioned why the taxes went up so significantly this year? Ms. Steele explained that the revenues are only going up 1% and the expenses have gone up 5% so to keep the level of services the Board of Supervisors had to increase the millage .96 mills. Mr. Pirmann questioned what percentage were taxes increased? Ms. Steele stated the taxes went from 4.02 mills to 4.98 mills. Mr. Pirmann stated this would be a 25% increase. Ms. Spencer stated that income has flat lined because of citizens retiring and there has been no new development. Ms. Steele commented that the last time taxes increased was in 2006. Mr. Pisoni stated that the Board begins their budget sessions in October and those sessions are open to the public and encouraged citizens to attend. Ms. Spencer commented that the budget sessions are available to watch on C-NET and citizens can go back and watch those sessions through this link <http://cnet.pegcentral.com/index.php>

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ms. Steele reviewed the end of year budget figures.

- ***MOTION: Mr. Merritt moved to approve the Treasurer's Report dated February 14th, 2013; Mr. Pisoni seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.***

6. **BILLS LIST**

- ***MOTION: Mr. Pisoni moved to approve the Bills List dated February 14th, 2013; Mr. Merritt seconded; Vote 3-0-1; Messrs. Merritt, yea; Kirsten, yea; Ms. Spencer, yea; No Nays; Mr. Pisoni abstaining due to payment to the Upper Halfmoon Water Company; Motion Carried.***

7. **MINUTES**

- ***MOTION: Mr. Merritt moved to approve the minutes dated January 24th, 2013; Mr. Pisoni seconded; Mr. Kirsten requested a correction; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.***

8. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHICH OPTION SUPERVISORS WISH FOR PLACEMENT OF SPEED LIMIT SIGN AT OR NEAR MUNICIPAL LANE ON SR 550 FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING ADDITIONAL SPEED DATA AT OR NEAR CROSSWALKS:**

Ms. Steele commented that the Board had some speed sensory data collected that showed what the speeds were before the channel devices were installed and after. Ms. Steele stated the Board questioned whether a temporary speed limit sign could be placed at the crosswalks to collect more accurate speeds counts. Ms. Steele stated Penn Dot will allow a temporary speed sign to be placed for a week to collect data. Ms. Steele questioned whether the Board would like to collect data for a week or if they wanted to request a permit to collect the data longer. Ms. Steele stated the speed sensor can only be placed on the temporary speed sign for a week. Mr. Kirsten questioned whether that would be one week per year? Ms. Steele stated that no, it would be a one time only deal.

Ms. Steele stated the channeling devices are to warn people of a cross walk is coming up and the intention is not to monitor speeds. Mr. Pisoni stated they have been told that the only effective device to slow traffic down are the

channeling devices. Mr. Pisoni commented the reason he is pushing to get speeds before and after the devices are placed is because he is anticipating headaches due to farm traffic and if the Board has the data that shows the devices are slowing traffic down then they have something to show they are slowing traffic down and if it doesn't show that than it is not worth living with the headaches.

Ms. Spencer questioned whether there was a significant difference in the speeds with the before and after with the last data. Mr. Pisoni stated the speed sensor sign was placed a quarter of a mile away from the crosswalks. Ms. Steele stated that the speed sensor was placed across from Halfmoon Towing that showed speeds were 37 mph and the speed limit is 35 mph and this data was collected while the channeling devices were there.

Ms. Steele stated she would like to know whether the Board wants to put the temporary speed sign up for one week or request a permit to have it placed longer. Mr. Pisoni commented that the data would only need to be collected for 2 weeks; one week for each direction. Mr. Kirsten stated the data was already collected going west so they only need to collect data going east. Mr. Merritt questioned whether they could collect data for a week and then request a permit? Ms. Spencer questioned if there was a cost. Mr. Merritt questioned what the harm would be in requesting a permit. The Board directed Ms. Steele to request a permit.

Mr. Pirmann questioned whether anyone noticed it is illegal to pass from Centennial to Stormstown northbound but not southbound. There are signs that state this is a no passing zone coming northbound but not southbound. Mr. Pisoni requested Ms. Steele speak to Ms. Meek and request a do not pass sign.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION TO APPROVE THE NAME CHANGE OF SPORTSMEN CLUB LANE, A PRIVATE ROAD LOCATED WITHIN HALFMOON TOWNSHIP, TO ARIANNA WAY

Ms. Steele requested the Board make a motion to approve the name change to Arianna Way for the Smiths.

- ***MOTION: Mr. Pisoni moved to approve the name change of Sportsmen Club Lane to Arianna Way; Mr. Merritt seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.***

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION REGARDING CHANGE IN PRESENT TOWNSHIP CODE AS IT RELATES TO PRIVATE ROADWAYS/SHARED DRIVEWAYS WITHIN HALFMOON TOWNSHIP:

Ms. Steele stated the Planning Commission has spent 4-5 months working on this issue. Ms. Steele explained that right now the Ordinance only allows shared driveways in the Rural Preservation District (RPD) and if it is not in the RPD than it is one driveway per home. Ms. Steele explained that the RPD is an overlay of the Ag District that states if you have 10 or more acres than you can subdivide one acre lots or give 50% open space for higher density. Ms. Steele commented that the PC questioned why a shared driveway was only allowed in the RPD and recommends that a shared driveway can be used by 2 homes, 4 homes on a private road and anything over 4 homes becomes a public street and make that uniform across the township and not just in the RPD. Ms. Steele explained that this won't change anything that is in place now but would only effect new subdivisions.

Ms. Steele stated the Board could agree and direct the Solicitor to draft language for a public hearing or postpone this item indefinitely. Mr. Merritt commented that he thought that 911 recommended 2 or less homes on a shared driveway. Ms. Liggett stated that it does make it difficult for emergency vehicles to locate a home with many homes sharing a driveway. Ms. Liggett commented that the PC requested that a private road be named and have a maintenance agreement. Ms. Liggett explained that a shared driveway already requires a maintenance agreement.

Ms. Spencer commented that the PC worked hard on this. Mr. Kirsten stated that he is not 100% sold on this but would be willing to go to public hearing but is not sure this will solve all the problems it is intended to solve. Mr. Pisoni stated that if a public hearing is held than any changes would trigger another public hearing. Ms. Liggett stated the Board would have to have the changes buttoned up pretty well before scheduling a public hearing. Mr. Kirsten stated from an emergency service response it is a numbering issue and does not know if dropping it down to 2 homes per driveway will solve that issue. Ms. Liggett commented that the Township has an Ordinance that requires house numbers to be posted when there are visibility issues. Ms. Steele stated she did not think the impotence was 911 for the Planning Commission. Ms. Steele commented that the PC was looking at whether you should have shared driveways or not and does it matter whether they are in the RPD. Ms. Steele explained that there have been some shared driveway/private road issues. Ms. Steele stated the PC was trying to make it more conformed. Mr. Kirsten questioned whether existing shared driveways would be grandfathered even if there were

not built out yet to 3 homes. Ms. Steele stated if it was already subdivided it would be but would not be if it were not already subdivided. Mr. Merritt commented he is inclined to go with staff recommendations.

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Merritt moved to direct the Solicitor to draft changes to present Township Code as it relates to private roads and shared driveways as recommended by the Planning Commission and staff and set same for public hearing on March 28, 2013; Mr. Pisoni seconded; Mr. Pirmann questioned whether this change would restrict the number of driveways on one lot. Ms. Steele stated it would not restrict the number of driveways on one lot. Mr. Pirmann commented that he would rather not be grandfathered and would like to stay at 3 but would like to see the language to restrict the number of driveways not lots; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.*

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE FUTURE DIRECTION OF PURSUING LETTER AGREEMENTS WITH WARRIORS MARK AND PORT MATILDA FIRE COMPANIES FOR TOWNSHIP FIRE SERVICES

Ms. Spencer commented that she thinks Ms. Steele should still attend the UBEH COG and do the presentation. Ms. Spencer stated that she knows some of the other municipalities are not interested in a letter agreement but would still like to have the presentation. Mr. Merritt commented that all the members stated they were not interested in an agreement. Ms. Steele stated that yes, they all stated they were not interested and is not comfortable doing the presentation if they are not interested. Ms. Steele commented that she can work with the Fire Companies to get a letter of agreement and does not need to go through the COG to accomplish this.

Ms. Spencer commented that she thought if this was such an important thing to do legally than she felt obligated to also have the UBEH COG participate and thought if Ms. Steele would come and show them where in the code it states there should be an agreement then they may feel more comfortable. Mr. Merritt stated he did not see any value in having Ms. Steele attend with the presentation if they are not interested. Ms. Steele stated she provided the presentation via email to all the municipalities.

Mr. Kirsten stated the members had received legal opinion from their solicitors. Ms. Spencer stated she does not know how so many solicitors can be looking at the same law and interpret so differently. Ms. Steele commented that she does not want the members to feel like she is being confrontational. Ms. Spencer stated that now she had nothing for the meeting because that was going to be the main topic of discussion. Mr. Kirsten suggested that she could cancel the meeting if there are no agenda items. Ms. Spencer stated she feels as if the Board does not take the UBEH COG seriously and she was part of the group to get it started and they are struggling and we are their connection to the Centre Region COG. Mr. Merritt stated he feels it is important but we can't make them do something they do not want to do. Ms. Spencer commented that the UBEH COG has already reduced their meeting to every other month. Ms. Steele commented she could put something together on a different subject to present. Ms. Spencer stated she would contact Ms. Marshall, from the County, to do something. Ms. Spencer commented that she thought this was important to educate everyone on this but if it is not well received then she just won't do it. Mr. Merritt stated Ms. Spencer did an important thing by getting the Fire Company on board with these discussions.

Ms. Spencer commented that she is disappointed that the other COG members made a decision to not proceed with this without hearing the power point.

Mr. Pisoni commented that he would like to see data on a quarterly basis that provides information on service calls. There was discussion on whether this information could be gotten from the County. Mr. Kirsten stated the Centre County does not provide that information to the municipalities because he had already inquired. Mr. Kirsten commented that he would like to see data from the Fire Company like the data the Port Matilda EMS provided at budget time.

Mr. Pisoni stated that he is not comfortable asking staff to present the presentation if the members are not interested. Ms. Spencer reiterated that she was disappointed that the other municipalities made a decision without listening to the power point.

12. DISCUSSION AND AWARD OF BIDS FOR ANTI-SKID, TRACKHOE, QPR 2000, RENTAL OF FOUR WHEEL DRIVE TRACTOR WHEN NEEDED FY 2013

Secretary

Ms. Steele explained that these items were not bid on in the original bid request so the Township had to re-bid them. Ms. Steele commented Mr. Franson provided a bid tab sheet and the Board should approve the bids per Mr. Franson's recommendation.

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Merritt moved to approve the Materials, Equipment and Labor bid tab for bids opened February 7th, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. per the Engineers recommendation; Mr. Kirsten seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.*

13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION TO SET A FEE FOR REAL ESTATE DUPLICATES FOR MORTGAGE COMPANIES AND DIRECT SOLICITOR TO PREPARE THE NECESSARY ORDINANCE

Ms. Steele provided a letter from the Tax Collector, Robert Musheno requesting that the Board pass an Ordinance to allow for him to make additional revenues and charge to send duplicates to mortgage companies for escrow accounts. Ms. Steele commented she told Mr. Musheno that this was not budgeted for and would cost the township approximately \$3,000 for advertising, having the solicitor draft the ordinance and to make changes to the code and questioned whether he would be willing to wait until next year. Ms. Steele stated this charge would be passed along to the residents through their escrow companies. Ms. Steele commented she would like to do more research. Mr. Pisoni commented that Mr. Musheno is stating when he calculates the hourly rate for the time it takes him to send these duplicates out it is below minimum wage. Mr. Pisoni stated there have been problems with tax collection on and off for over 5-6 years and other municipalities are taking tax collection in house. Ms. Steele pointed out that most townships in the Centre Region have more staff and finance departments and the auditors question the checks and balances. Mr. Pisoni commented that with the current system that the checks are made out to elected individuals and if it was done in house the checks would be written to the township but agrees the tax collector should be paid more than below minimum wage.

14. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION TO APPROVE A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR FERGUSON TOWNSHIP'S WESTSIDE/HILLSIDE FARM ESTATES PARK

Ms. Steele provided a letter from Ferguson Township requesting a letter of support for a grant for Westside/Hillside Farm Estate Park. Ms. Steele stated this is a typical request when acquiring a grant.

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Pisoni moved to provide a letter of support to Ferguson Township for the Westfield/Hillside Farm Estate Park; Mr. Kirsten seconded; Mr. Merritt commented that Centre Region works when townships cooperate; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.*

15. DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS REGARDING POSSIBLE CHANGES TO PRESENT CATA ROUTE SERVICE THROUGH HALFMOON TOWNSHIP

Ms. Steele stated Mr. Kirsten attended the TLU meeting in which CATA did a presentation and inquired whether any municipalities wanted to make any changes to their service in preparing for their budget. Ms. Steele reminded the Board that the CATA budget runs from June – July. Ms. Steele commented that Ms. Meek did a nice presentation and was surprised that there are 7 million CATA riders. Ms. Steele suggested that Ms. Meek and Mr. Vorwald attend a Board meeting to present this presentation. Ms. Steele commented that this may help address any questions regarding costs. Ms. Steele stated she would like CATA to take numbers for ridership in Halfmoon Township and see how CATA is marketing the ride share program. Ms. Steele commented that once those numbers are presented there may be enough riders to request shelters.

Ms. Spencer commented that she would like to see service on the weekend. Mr. Kirsten stated he spoke to Mr. Mose and did request ridership number for 2012 and questioned the current enrollment in the CATA ride program. Mr. Kirsten commented that there is an application called CATA Plus that may be useful for residents.

Ms. Steele commented that CATA share fluctuates. Mr. Kirsten commented that he did not want any actual route changes. Mr. Kirsten stated that any changes to service routes need to be provided by the end of February. Mr. Pisoni stated he would like to see costs to add a weekend route. Ms. Steele commented that there would need to be a morning, noon and evening run. Mr. Kirsten commented that CATA ride is offered on days you have service so they could take advantage of this service currently M-F and if there is a weekend run also on that day as well.

16. DISCUSSION REGARDING HALFMOON LITTLE LEAGUE LEASE DEADLINE AS WELL AS POSSIBLE BUILDING OF AN ADDITIONAL BATTING CAGE AT MUNICIPAL PARK

Secretary

Ms. Steele stated Mr. Miranda stopped into the office with a request on behalf of Little League to erect another batting cage beside the current batting cage by the lower field. Ms. Steele commented she spoke with Mr. Piper and he stated there were no issues with the drain fields. Mr. Kirsten questioned whether Little League would maintain and replace when necessary. Mr. Pisoni questioned whether residents could use them when Little League was not using them.

- **MOTION: Mr. Merritt moved to allow the installation of the batting cage; Mr. Pisoni seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.**

Ms. Steele commented that she would like to give a deadline for Little League to approve the agreement. Ms. Steele stated that Little League wants to use the fields March through November and have a lease with Tri-County to use the fields. Ms. Steele commented that she has residents calling to reserve fields for family reunions and without this agreement she is hesitant not to allow reservations for the fields. Ms. Steele commented she would like to set March 15th as the deadline date and if no agreement is in place then open the fields. Ms. Steele stated Little League uses the field at Autumn Meadow park as well so between Little League and the Centre Bulldogs the field is being used year round except between December, January and February. Ms. Steele stated she would like to add an addendum to the Centre Bulldogs lease that includes times and dates instead of being open ended so the field can be shared. Ms. Spencer commented that this should be handled at staff level. Mr. Kirsten stated that in his conversations with Mr. Kursovich (Centre Bulldogs) that their schedule would be M-Th from 5 p.m. to dusk, August – October for practice. Ms. Steele stated Little League would like Autumn Meadow field from March 1 – August 1 for t-ball. Mr. Pisoni commented that he would like to be careful that these leases are not going to allow total domination and they are not reserving the field whether they are using it or not.

17. FURTHER DISCUSSION ABOUT FUTURE LAND USE MAP TO BE INCORPORATED INTO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Ms. Liggett explained that the Comp Plan is comprised of goals, policies and objectives and is a 10-20 year plan that will be implemented over time.

Mr. Vorwald stated the comp plan is one regional plan that serves as a guidance document for future growth & development and works as a common vision as the Centre Region moves forward. Mr. Vorwald explained the differences between the 2000 comp plan and this plan. Mr. Vorwald stated the MPC requires that a certain amount of information be in the comp plan and reviewed those requirements. Mr. Vorwald discussed the implementation process and timing. Mr. Vorwald explained the 2012 land use categories and commented there were 9 categories. Mr. Vorwald reviewed the 2000 land use map. Mr. Vorwald stated the municipalities need to have comments back by March 1 and CRPA will address those comments.

Mr. Vorwald reviewed the 2000 land use map and stated it was primarily agriculture, state gamelands and residential. Mr. Vorwald discussed the zoning categories and stated with the zoning that is in place the township could end up with residential homes over most of the township. Mr. Vorwald explained that current ag allows one home per acre. Mr. Merritt questioned whether the land use map precedes zoning. Mr. Vorwald discussed the forest zone and mixed use zone and explained that new regs would have to be established to dictate what happens in these areas. Ms. Spencer stated it would be nice to have zoning to mirror the proposed land use map. Mr. Vorwald stated if the Board wanted to keep ag in the township then they would need to change the zoning so it is more in line with what the PC recommends as ag areas. Ms. Spencer stated she would like to make changes to the ag district to keep it true ag. Ms. Spencer stated the Board needs to tap into what the community needs.

Mr. Vorwald explained the map is a vision of the community and the Board can make changes but are not forced to make changes that they are not ready to make. Mr. Kirsten stated that the current ag zone is somewhat of a mixed use and even if it is left ag it does not mean that it will stay an open field.

Ms. Steele provided staff comments and PC comments. Mr. Vorwald stated once all comments are received they will provide a final draft to bring back to the municipalities. Mr. Kirsten stated this is not a binding document but is only goals, objectives and policies so the township is not obligated to anything. Mr. Vorwald stated that was true but CRPA asks that municipalities try to stick with the map. Ms. Spencer commented that once this is accepted than the township will be tasked with conforming the zoning. Ms. Steele explained that any zoning change will be posted and an letter will be mailed to any property owner effected by this change.

Secretary

There was some discussion on mixed use locations and what this would include for mixed uses. Ms. Spencer commented that the Board would have to consider different types of uses to bring in revenues to the community. Ms. Liggett stated the mixed use are stays on the eastern end of the township and does not pull traffic through the township.

There was discussion regarding the property adjacent to Municipal Lane that is zoned residential and Mr. Eberhart pointed out that the PC wanted to change that back to ag.

There was discussion changing the color or adding an overlay to the gamelands to define that it is not a recreation area other than hunting.

18. REQUEST FOR REFUND OF MR. FRENCH FOR TOWING OF HIS CAR WHILE PARKED ON TOWNSHIP ROADWAY DURING SNOWFALL

Ms. Spencer stated she personally feels towing this vehicle was a mistake but in the mean time staff is making sure citizens are aware cars need to be removed from the cul-de-sacs and roads in the event of snow. Mr. Kirsten commented that he does not know if it was a mistake but does not support refunding tax payer monies when no fees were collected by the Township. Mr. Kirsten stated the general fund is not a slush fund and feels that taking money out of that account is inappropriate. Mr. Merritt commented that when it snows than you need to move your car. Mr. Kirsten stated that it is common knowledge to move your car. Ms. Spencer stated this was one time this happened and feels it was a mistake. Ms. Steele commented that most citizens move their vehicles when they get the notice. Ms. Steele commented staff has received complaints from residents in the cul-de-sac that this is a problem. Mr. Pisoni stated he would just like to make sure the Board is being consistent. Mr. Pisoni commented while he was doing checks for the water company that he witnessed vehicles parked in the cul-de-sacs. Ms. Steele stated this is the first car that has been towed since she has been here. Ms. Steele commented staff stated they placed a notice on all the vehicles in the cul-de-sac and this vehicle was not moved so she authorized the tow because there was another snow coming and the roadcrew needed to clear the cul-de-sacs of snow. Ms. Steele stated there is no local police department and staff does not take down license numbers or are able to do a license check. Mr. Merritt stated he feels Ms. Steele made the right decision and feels it is a courtesy to place the notice on the car and if it snows move the car out of the cul-de-sac. Mr. Merritt stated he does not feel we should have to place notices on vehicles. Ms. Steele commented that the Township is not heavy handed and does not just go around just looking to tow vehicles and knows it is inconvenient. Mr. Kirsten stated he has been there and has had to write a check for having his car towed before and will not cut a check out of tax payer monies to refund Mr. French. Ms. Steele stated it is unfortunate but cars need to be moved off the roads. Ms. Spencer stated this is a college student and still feels it was a mistake.

- ***MOTION: Ms. Spencer moved to repay Mr. French for towing; No second; Motion fails.***

19. MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Steele stated Ms. DelCorso will be meeting with the Board at their meeting on February 28th to discuss strategic planning.

Ms. Steele commented she met with Mr. Brown, Ms. Meek, Penn Dot, CRPA and Don Franson to discuss the widening of shoulders along township roads.

Ms. Steele stated that it was requested at the listening sessions that the agenda be forwarded the Friday before a Board of Supervisor meeting via email updates.

Ms. Steele commented the Lacrosse nets have been purchased.

Ms. Steele stated Ms. Andrews agreed to work as the Park Director for the summer park program this year.

Ms. Steele commented that the CCBIC will hold a County Economic Development Summit on March 19th, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the CPI in Pleasant Gap. Ms. Steele strongly encouraged the Board to attend to support and share input.

Secretary

20. SUPERVISORS' REPORT

Mr. Pisoni stated he attended the Public Safety meeting and there was discussion regarding the State College Borough withdrawing from code. Mr. Pisoni commented there was discussion on permit fee increases and the code department is putting together a response. Mr. Pisoni discussed layoffs within the code office.

Mr. Kirsten stated he attended the Finance Committee and they also discussed the State College Borough withdrawing and how the financial implications are unknown.

Mr. Merritt wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

21. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

- ***MOTION: Mr. Kirsten moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m.; Mr. Merritt seconded; Vote 3-0-0; Motion Carried.***

Secretary