

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mark Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Other Supervisors present were Andy Merritt, Todd Kirsten and Ben Pisoni. Staff present was Susan Steele, Township Manager; Amy Smith, Township Clerk; D.J. Liggett, CRPA; Eric Vorwald, CRPA; Tom Zilla, CRPA; Danelle DelCorso, PC & Bob Eberhart, PC. Audience in attendance: Bill Hilshey, Clearwater Conservancy.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen's comments.

4. **MINUTES**

• ***MOTION: Mr. Kirsten moved to approve the minutes of February 14th, 2013; Mr. Pisoni seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.***

5. **DISCUSSION AND FINALIZATION OF TOWNSHIP COMMENTS TO DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO BE FORWARDED TO CENTRE REGION OF GOVERNMENTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BY 3/1/13**

The Board discussed the comments Ms. Steele provided in a memo from staff. Mr. Stevenson commented that he is okay with the comments as is and had no additions. There were no additions to the comments.

• ***MOTION: Mr. Merritt moved to forward the comments to Mr. Jim Steff, Director of Centre Region Council of Governments; Mr. Kirsten seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.***

Ms. Steele commented that a final Comprehensive Plan should come to the Township for public hearing for June or July.

6. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Ms. Steele provided a manager's report and discussed the temporary speed limit sign to be placed along State Route 550 near Municipal Lane in order to place the semi permanent speed radar sign in stealth mode to collect speed data for the cross walks prior to the placement of the pedestrian sandwich boards and after.

Ms. Steele commented that there have been inquiries regarding the bright blinking light on the ridge and she had contacted Centre County 911 to see if this issue could be resolved. Ms. Steele was told that it is possible the timer needed an adjustment and may be on daylight brightness instead of nighttime brightness.

Ms. Steele stated she invited the DCED to attend the BOS meeting on 3/14/13 to discuss with the Board fiscal responsibilities of municipalities within the state, debt limits and advice and assistance in procuring and funding different municipal facilities, as well as local government's role in economic development.

Ms. Steele stated that Hugh Mose, CATA, will be in attendance at the 3/28/13 meeting to discuss data collected on Halfmoon CATA ridership and CATA Ride program. This meeting will also include attendance from Don Franson, Township Engineer, Scott Brown, Township Roadmaster, Trish Meek, CRPA; PennDot and Federal Transportation representatives for discussion on berm widening on future road projects.

Secretary

Ms. Steele commented that Mr. Houtz has filed an appeal with the Court of Common Pleas. Mr. Terry Williams will be representing the Zoning Hearing Board and Ms. Yurchak will be representing the Township. Mr. Williams is in the process of getting the appropriate paperwork to the Courts that includes the transcripts that are due by 3/7/13. Mr. Williams will be asking for an extension. Ms. Yurchak has submitted an appearance of the Township's behalf.

Ms. Steele stated she will be meeting with Ms. Yurchak and Ms. Liggett to discuss the private road/shared driveway amendments. They will also be meeting on a monthly basis during lunch to discuss pending codification issues and zoning items. The shared driveway/private roadway Ordinance should come back to the Board for public hearing sometime in April or May.

Ms. Steele stated she will be meeting with members of the Port Matilda Fire Company to discuss a possible agreement with them on Friday, March 1, 2013.

7. SUPERVISORS' REPORT

Mr. Kirsten reminded residents the Park & Recreation Board will host the Easter Party on March 24th from 2 – 4 p.m.

Mr. Stevenson complimented the Road crew with their maintenance efforts during the snow storms.

Mr. Merritt thanked Ms. Prosek and the Centre Region COG for their hospitality when he took his class to COG.

8. TOWNSHIP STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION-DANELLE DELCORSO, FACILITATOR

Ms. DelCorso introduced herself and went over the overview for the strategic planning session. Ms. DelCorso stated that her goal of the session was to address ongoing questions/concerns of citizens about the direction/goals of the township, to establish a strategic baseline (an easy guide for staff and other boards to look to), improving work efficiency with established strategy and reduce back and forth, allow staff, BOS, boards to work in the Township's best interest. Ms. DelCorso further stated that the possible benefits of this session would be to have goals/strategies for the focus of services and budgets, to make planning decisions that would match the long term goals for the Township, and to recognize early on when a decision might be contradictory to the vision of the Township so it might be addressed quickly. Ms. DelCorso gave a brief example topic to introduce the format of the strategic planning session before actual questions were gone over. Mr. Stevenson asked how the 8 topic questions had been derived. Ms. Steele answered that they were broad vision topics that had consistently been questioned by citizens.

a. Which direction would you like to see Halfmoon Township head?

Ms. Steele stated that this question was put forth because many citizens asked why the Township was putting into place programs and services more for a suburban community rather than a rural community. Ms. Steele further stated that knowing the broad vision here might help when there is competing budget money it can be better allocated between things that might be better based upon the Board of Supervisors vision for the Township. Ms. DelCorso stated that it might have been beneficial to have a fifth member present to help break up the tie since there was two in the middle and one on either side. Mr. Stevenson stated that without proper zoning whether they wanted to go in one direction or not the landowner has the right to do with their land whatever they can do to the extent that they can and still facilitate sewage and water and everything else. Mr. Stevenson further stated that the real answer to the question is what is the focus of zoning efforts and not budgetary and that he's hard-pressed to find out what is a rural budget priority, unless it's just not spending money on something like the library or COG. Mr. Merritt stated that from his own experience, his family moved out here because

it was less expensive and not because it was rural and that over time he feels that more people who move out here are going to feel that way. Mr. Merritt further stated that many of these people will be looking more for the best of both worlds (i.e., bigger lots but also services) and that the future demands on the Board might be to manage growth by doing what will be beneficial for the Township as a whole. Mr. Merritt expressed he felt by default the area might become more suburban in the future whether it is wanted or not, and that the reality is there is a lot of farmland here but not a lot of farmers to work it. Ms DelCorso asked if a potential consensus would be the best of both worlds. Mr. Stevenson stated that he agreed with Mr. Merritt that people did move out here because of it being less expensive but also because of the lack of things like noise and road congestion throughout. Mr. Stevenson further stated that there could be a shrink in the 1 lot per 1 acre of land in one part of the Township to help facilitate suburban growth without building road congestion throughout the Township and to utilize the future land use map to help build the middle of the road and inform future zoning.

b. What type of growth would like to see in the Township?

Mr. Kirsten stated that it had been said before that property owners have the right to make choices for their own land and you don't want to strip away any of those rights by regulating growth too heavily. Mr. Pisoni stated that there needs to be some growth but it needs to be managed. Ms. Steele stated that this question had come up because the future land use map from 2000 had a large amount of open land in ag, however the actual zoning had not kept the land open but with residential lots. Now, with the new future land use map being proposed, with tryinhg to keep ag land indeed open, there will need to be some downzoning if the future land use map is implemented. This might upset some people. Therefore the question is where does the Board of Supervisors stand on this or how committed are they to growth or non-growth in the event there are citizen questions and concerns?

Mr. Merritt stated that the Township just had a period of non-growth for the past 3 years and with the cost of living and the price of goods increasing there needs to be some managed growth to help possibly lessen the likelihood of future tax increases by getting more residents that put taxes into the system. Mr. Stevenson stated that some growth depends on road creations. Mr. Pisoni stated that not too long ago they were having a high growth rate. Mr. Stevenson stated that looking at the past several years the average was around 3 (on a scale of 1 -5) and that seemed like a good growth rate and if there was more some year that was good but the average should be around 3 (on a scale of 1-5). Ms. Steele reiterated that the Board of Supervisors did not want to stagnate and discourage growth but rather have managed growth.

c. How would you like to regulate the Township and residents?

Ms. Steele said the Township has an advantage because Halfmoon is not as restrictive and regulatory as some of the surrounding Townships. Mr. Stevenson stated that his view was the less restrictive the less expensive as it requires less people to enforce. Mr. Pisoni stated that as the Township grows, however, there will naturally be a need for a little more restriction to come about. Ms. DelCorso reminded the Board of Supervisors that these topics were not mutually exclusive but were all connected. Mr. Stevenson stated that possibly as the Township begins to grow that there might be a need to create or contract police services because with more people there is growing need to be able to respond to complaints or enforce ordinances (i.e. noise, light) more efficiently. Ms. Steele stated that 4,000-5,000 in population seemed to be when a municipality needed to get into police services. Mr. Stevenson stated that in future budgeting there might be a need to budget monies towards this possibility in the future.

d. How would like the laws defined?

Ms. Steele stated that it might be worded as "more enforced" than defined because it deals with laws that are on the books already. Ms. Steele further stated that on a staff level they try to enforce the laws on the books equally to all citizens and in all cases. But if a situation arises, which is not regulated, nor

there is a law on the books, staff handles on a case by case basis. Mr. Merritt stated that he felt that a law is a law and that it is common sense they really should deal with and enforce all cases in the same manner if a law exists on the books. Mr. Stevenson stated that the Township currently implements a sensible application of the law and discussed a current case of towing where the Township didn't give a knee-jerk reaction to a law but a sensible reaction by giving a warning that the car was parked illegally before towing the car. Ms. DelCorso commented that enforcing all laws equally might bring up a possible need in a change or adaption of a law instead of handing out waivers for every case that comes up in accordance with the law in question.

e. How would you like to manage the public facilities?

Ms. Steele stated that currently the Township reserves park space on a more priority based basis for those leagues that have made capital investments for improvements into them. Ms. DelCorso stated that the question here would be would you rather keep it the priority that is in place now or make it more shared. Ms. Steele stated that in some Townships, where no capital improvement investments have happened, they have the parks and facilities open and are used on a first come, first serve basis and that could be what the shared might mean. Mr. Kirsten agreed that the leagues who have donated and put into the improvements can get priority reservation rights but no one organization/league should be monopolizing the facilities at all times. Mr. Stevenson agreed with this idea and added that the reservations of these priority leagues/organizations needed to be more specific, such as seasons, dates and times. Mr. Stevenson also remarked on the new priority reservation prices for resident vs. non-resident for facilities as well. Ms. Steele stated that the calendar showed all current reservations for the facilities from the Centre Bulldogs and the Halfmoon Township Little League. Mr. Merritt stated that maybe to help facilitate fairness that perhaps those teams give a week by week or month by month report about when they will actually need the facilities reserved to help allow for more people to have access to them. Ms. DelCorso summarized that the consensus here is that to continue to allow priority reservations for those organizations that have capital improvement investments but not monopolize the use of the facilities so others of the community encounter difficulty with using them

f. How would like to budget the Township funds?

There was brief discussion on wording of the question to which the wording of the question was changed to better reflect the intent of the question. Mr. Pisoni said that the budgeting of the Township funds is mainly determined by the income that comes in. Ms. DelCorso clarified that under that train of thought a middle of the road consensus gives them the freedom to change from going to one side or the other dependent upon recent growth in the Township.

g. How would like to work with other organizations/vendors?

Mr. Pisoni commented his answer could depend on what the contract was (i.e. a contract for constructing a building vs. someone delivering candy bars). Mr. Stevenson stated that the Township doesn't have many verbal contracts most are already written. Mr. Kirsten stated that a written agreement is more beneficial as it provides more clarity and avoids the possible confusion a verbal contract might bring up. Mr. Stevenson stated that a written contract also provides more concrete guidelines to be followed. Ms. Steele stated that written agreements can also be used as tools later on as a baseline for similar situations and it is better for accounting when it comes to monetary contracts so there is some proof for the possibility of an auditor.

h. How would you like to interact with citizens?

Ms. Steele stated that due to current restrictions in technology it is currently difficult to send out electronic updates and correspondence efficiently and it is costly to send out paper correspondence to all in the Township. Mr. Stevenson stated maybe there could be a possibility to update the technology to make it easier on staff and more efficient but also to possibly set up a twitter and facebook page since more people are getting on social media now. Ms. Steele also suggested perhaps getting an intern to manage this or facilitating the budget to hold listening sessions.

Ms. DelCorso stated that since Ms. Spencer was not present at the meeting before any results are posted on a website or finalized to get her answers to these questions as well. Ms. DelCorso further stated that this baseline data can now be used to help with efficiency in decisions as well as used for a tool for new board members to bring them up to speed on Board of Supervisors visions and wants. Ms. DelCorso will provide a summary of the voting results to be attached to the minutes.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

- ***MOTION: Mr. Kirsten moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.; Mr. Pisoni seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.***