

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mark Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Other Supervisors present were Ben Pisoni, Barbara Spencer and Todd Kirsten. Staff present were Susan Steele, Township Manager; Amy Smith, Township Clerk and D.J. Liggett, CRPA. Residents & others in attendance: Rich Sutton and Steve Kibe, PMFC.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

4. **MINUTES**

- ***MOTION: Mr. Kirsten moved to approve the budget session minutes dated September 30th, 2013 & October 14th, 2013 and the regular meeting minutes of October 10th, 2013; Mr. Pisoni seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.***

5. **FIRE AGREEMENT BETWEEN HALFMOON TONWSHIP AND PORT MATILDA FIRE COMPANY**

Ms. Steele commented that the payment amount listed in the contract is .85 mils of its prior year's assessment, less the 2% discount. Mr. Stevenson questioned whether the .85 mils is tied into a "fire tax". Ms. Steele stated these monies come out of the general fund. Ms. Spencer suggested adding that it cannot be less than .85 mils. Ms. Steele stated the Fire Company could come in and request more than the .85 mils. Ms. Steele explained assessed values. Mr. Stevenson stated he was concerned that a future board may not know that there could be a higher contribution than .85 mils. Mr. Stevenson requested that Ms. Steele add that additional amounts above .85 mils can be requested and considered by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Pisoni agreed. Mr. Kirsten commented that the .85 mils is required but of course the Board could approve contributing more. Ms. Steele stated she would send the contract to the Township Solicitor and Fire Company to review the changes. Ms. Spencer questioned that when the contract was approved she would like to share it with the Upper Bald Eagle Halfmoon COG.

Mr. Kibe requested that Ms. Steele explain the 2% discount. Ms. Steele explained that the FCC requests .85 of the assessed value but the township does not get the whole assessed value due to the 2% discount that applies if taxes are paid early. Mr. Kibe stated he was not sure he was comfortable signing a contract if it is not the actual .85 mils. Mr. Kirsten commented that this is where his concern comes in for future boards. Ms. Spencer stated this confuses her and she is not happy with the fuzziness of the amount. Ms. Steele stated the .85 mils is split between Port Matilda Fire Company and Warriors Mark Fire Company. Ms. Steele suggested adding the language that .85 mils could be from last years assessed value. Ms. Steele stated the Fire Company has not requested an increase in the last 2 years so the number has not changed. Mr. Kibe stated he understood that Port Matilda Fire Company received the whole .85 mils. Mr. Stevenson explained that Port Matilda Fire Company gets 70% and Warriors Mark Fire Company gets 30% of the .85 mils. Mr. Stevenson stated there needs to be some math done before plugging a number in the contract. Mr. Kirsten stated the language in the contract should only relate to Port Matilda Fire Company. Ms. Steele will bring this agenda item back to a future meeting.

Mr. Kibe stated they have been attending meetings and were planning on requesting more monies for next year but is only there on behalf of Port Matilda Fire Company. Mr. Stevenson commented that if the PMFC comes back with a good base next year for their request the increase will only go towards PMFC.

6. **CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON REVISED TOWNSHIP FIRE REGULATIONS**

Ms. Steele stated the Board requested that the Fire Company and private water companies show what the flow rates were. Ms. Steele stated she forwarded this request to the Upper Halfmoon Water Company and Trotter Farms. Mr. Steve Bair, Centre Region COG Fire Director, measured the hydrants. Ms. Steele provided the information received from Mr. Bair to the Board and asked for direction. Ms. Steele stated the Planning Commission met with the Port Matilda Fire Company and Warriors Mark Fire Company both stated they do not use cisterns. The Planning Commission recommends not requiring cisterns. Ms. Steele stated Mr. Bair saw issues in the subdivision regulations pertaining to wet hydrants. Ms. Steele reminded the Board that if they took out the cistern requirement than they could not require sprinklers. Ms. Spencer stated she hates to make that

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choice. Mr. Stevenson stated the Boards primary job is public safety and it would not be right not to require anything and put citizens in jeopardy. Mr. Stevenson stated there are some cisterns that are not working in certain neighborhoods. Ms. Spencer stated it seems fraudulent and questioned whether those neighborhoods know those cisterns do not work. Mr. Kirsten questioned whether there is language in the township code that would require developers to make their communities aware of that the cisterns are not in working order. Ms. Steele stated she has made the Homeowners Association aware but right now it is still under the developer. Ms. Liggett questioned whether the Board wanted a role in the installation and maintenance of cisterns in new subdivisions.

Ms. Liggett commented PMFC stated that cisterns delay. Mr. Sutton stated the PMFC comes prepared and they are hesitant to hook up to a cistern due to the time consumption in hooking up and unhooking from the cisterns. Ms. Steele suggested that anything over 15 homes could have a wet hydrant and the township could dictate the size of the piping. Mr. Kirsten pointed out that cisterns are not equipt to fill and use. Mr. Sutton discussed how long you could maintain water in a wet hydrant. Mr. Kibe commented they would bring multiple tankers. Ms. Steele stated they could use the wet hydrants to fill the tankers.

Ms. Spencer stated she feels obligated to inform the citizens of Trotter Farms and Orchard Manor that their cisterns do not work. Ms. Liggett commented that people feel protected if they are on a water system or have a hydrant near them. Mr. Kirsten stated he agrees with the Planning Commission. Mr. Pisoni stated cisterns could be designed so they could be useful. Mr. Pisoni commented that they could be designed properly and inspected. Mr. Kirsten questioned whether the PMFC would use a cistern if it was working properly. Mr. Kibe stated it would depend. Mr. Stevenson questioned how the township could ensure that inspections are being done and the cisterns are in working order. Ms. Steele stated maybe Centre Region Code could do the inspections. Mr. Stevenson stated he would like more information and requested Ms. Steele inquire with the Solicitor to any liabilities. Ms. Liggett pointed out that a construction company/home builder is required to offer documentation that sprinklers are an option. Ms. Smith commented that the homeowner would sign off agreeing to or not agreeing to sprinklers. Mr. Stevenson questioned whether the township could notify a developer. Ms. Liggett stated this could be put on a plan or in a deed. Mr. Kirsten commented that he thought when a homeowner purchases homeowners insurance they would make the homeowner aware based upon policy application questions pertaining to fire surpression. Ms. Liggett stated the homeowner needs to be proactive on installing smoke detectors. Mr. Kibe stated if a fire man is going to get hurt it is because there are no smoke detectors or working detectors and they have to go in an save someone. Mr. Kirsten stated he has concerns with government intrusion. Ms. Liggett will take this back to the Planning Commission.

7. DISCUSSION AND FURTHER DIRECTION TO COG PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE ON SLAB CABIN ISSUE

Ms. Steele stated the Public Services and Environmental Committee is requesting that each municipality comment on the recommendation made by the PA Fish and Boat Commissions to make Slab Cabin Run a high quality stream. Ms. Liggett reviewed the concerns by UAJA, CRPA, SCBWA Trouts Unlimited and Clearwater Conservancy with this request. Mr. Stevenson commented that it is high quality because of the actions of UAJA. Mr. Stevenson questioned whether UAJA could still pump water to Centre Hills and Kissinger Meadow. Ms. Liggett explained that the Centre Hills and Kissinger Meadow projects would continue because they are already permitted. UAJA's concern that is those types of projects may not be permitted in the future if the designation of Slab Cabin Run is changed to High Quality.

The Board agreed that their comment would be to maintain the high quality of the stream without designating it HQ.

8. MANAGER'S REPORTS

Ms. Steele reviewed the Manager's report.

9. SUPERVISORS' REPORT

Mr. Pisoni commented that DEP allows 15 homes on a community system and if there are more than 15 homes DEP could come in and force those residents onto a public water system. Mr. Pisoni stated the Board needs to think of that when considering fire regulations.

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Mr. Stevenson reminded citizens that Election Day is coming up and he and Ms. Spencer are running for Supervisor and encouraged citizens to vote.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

- ***MOTION: Ms. Spencer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.; Mr. Kirsten seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.***