

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mark Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Other Supervisors present were Todd Kirsten, Andy Merritt and Barbara Spencer. Staff present were Susan Steele, Manager; Amy Smith, Township Clerk and D.J. Liggett, CRPA. Residents & others in attendance: Danelle DelCorso, Bob Eberhart, Grace Gorenflo, Jim Andrews and Chris Goedel.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Ms. Liggett provided draft Centre Region Comp Plan documents and requested the Board have any comments back to Mr. Steff by March 1st, 2013.

4. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

MOTION: Mr. Kirsten moved to approve the Treasurer's Report dated December 13th, 2012; Ms. Spencer seconded; Vote 4-0-0-; Motion Carried.

5. **BILLS LIST**

MOTION: Ms. Spencer moved to approve the Bills List dated December 13th, 2012; Mr. Merritt seconded; Vote 4-0-0-; Motion Carried.

6. **MINUTES**

MOTION: Mr. Kirsten moved to approve the regular meeting minutes dated November 18th, 2012 with one correction – deleting the last sentence in agenda item #9; Ms. Spencer seconded; Vote 4-0-0-; Motion Carried.

7. **PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED 2013 BUDGET**

A. Open Public Hearing

Mr. Stevenson opened the public hearing at 7:08 p.m. and stated the Board would entertain comments from citizens. Mr. Stevenson stated, "What we ask you to do, is if you have a comment, please come to the podium, introduce yourself and feel free to address the board. So, do we have any citizens that would like to make a comment?"

B. Comments

Mr. Goedel introduced himself and stated he lived on Doe Drive. He stated he has been a citizen of Port Matilda or Stormstown, since 2007. Mr. Goedel provided to the supervisors and manager written concerns of some of the budget items in the drafted FY 2013. These concerns are attached to these minutes. .

Mr. Goedel stated it seemed to him that there are some significant items in the budget with significant increases, not a lot of dollar impact, but significant increases over current spending levels. Mr. Goedel stated he would like those to be, maybe, revisited. One item he forgot to include was the assumption to bill the unemployment taxes for 2013. Mr. Goedel explained that the spending, according to the budget in 2012, is roughly seventeen and a half thousand dollars, the Boards want to budget twenty-two thousand for unemployment taxes. Mr. Goedel stated unless Uncle Sam has told you there is going to be a 35% increase in those taxes next year, or we're adding new employees, I don't see much of a change in that number. Obviously one of the assumptions I'm challenging. There's also some significant items that were paid for and I don't know if we're legally obligated to pay for them or if they're things that we think the citizens want to have or what. Mr. Goedel highlighted a couple; one of them is the Catabus service. Mr. Goedel stated when that service first started, about three years ago; he recalled that budget line item being about five thousand dollars. Mr. Goedel stated he spoke to the then town manager about it, and was told it was an experiment. Well, that experiment's gone on for three years. We're now paying almost 50% more for that service and I don't think we're providing it to many people. Mr. Goedel doesn't think the bang for the dollar is there. Mr. Goedel commented that he passed the bus today at noon time, there

was nobody on it. This was coming at the intersection of Marengo and 550, heading back to State College. Mr. Goedtel stated he doesn't know what the ridership is, I don't know if they give you numbers for that, but this is a rural community. In my opinion, buses are downtown items; they're not, they're not built and scheduled to service a rural community. They get here three times a day, morning, noon, and evening I guess, if they're scheduled. So I question whether we need to pay eight thousand dollars for that service. Mr. Goedtel stated he had no idea the Township had to pay for Schlow library. Mr. Goedtel questioned whether the thirty-three thousand dollars the Township gives Schlow is a committed obligation that we're stuck with, or is that a donation we give them, or what exactly is that?

Mr. Merritt stated it's a sign-up, usage. It's based on usage of our residents of the facility.

Mr. Kirsten stated that currently it's an expense that we actually have to take on as part of a participating member of COGS Library Program. If we weren't a participating member, then I believe what we give to the library would be at our discretion. But currently that number is given to us by COG being a participating member.

Mr. Goedtel questioned how many residents is that for? I mean we have five thousand people here.

Mr. Merritt stated it's based on circulation. There are a lot of people that use that service.

Mr. Goedtel requested that he rephrase the question then. How does it compare to other municipalities in the area of our size? I mean thirty-three thousand dollars for a library, just seems to be a lot of money. A tremendous amount of money, we could build our own library, I would think, for less than that.

Ms. Spencer commented that it's a bill that came about because of the building of the new library and so it's paying for that, is what it is. And so each year it's determined by our readership, how much we will have to pay as a member of COG.

Mr. Goedtel questioned whether the Board receives reports back from the library that you can verify their numbers?

Mr. Spencer stated they do.

Mr. Stevenson stated that we have a citizen from the township on the library board.

Mr. Goedtel questioned if the Board was satisfied with those numbers? And you're satisfied with the rate?

Ms. Spencer stated it's paying for the building of the library.

Mr. Stevenson commented it is also paying for the operation of the library, currently.

Mr. Goedtel stated he thinks that's really exorbitant. Ok, so you have that one, so now what about three and a half thousand dollars for the Centre County Library? Do we need two? That's on here also.

Mr. Kirsten stated the Centre County Library provides the Bookmobile, which actually has seen an increase in usage over the past year, now that they've started to come out to Way's Fruit Farm. I actually think that the Centre County Library is worth that investment. The Schlow library, I actually think that there is room for discussion, regarding that matter.

Mr. Goedtel commented that he would take that. Mr. Goedtel questioned why the expense of C-NET TV, twelve thousand dollars a year? Come on now.

Ms. Spencer stated that actually C-NET has been a huge lifesaver for the Board because, prior to that, we were getting a handful of people coming to the meetings and there were people on an e-mailing list and they would just get the word of the person giving the e-mails and since we've had C-NET we've had much more open communication. The community has been made much more aware of what's going on here, rather than through the word of somebody passing out an e-mail.

Mr. Goedtel questioned whether there could be an alternative and couldn't the township record the meetings and put it on our webpage?

Ms. Spencer stated that not everybody gets internet.

Mr. Goedtel questioned if Ms. Spencer was insinuating that not everybody has a computer?

Ms. Spencer stated that's exactly what I'm saying.

Mr. Merritt commented that it's also a connection. C-NET's also our connection to the other communities, municipalities. We're able to see what Ferguson's doing, we're able to see what Patton's doing and they are able to see what we're doing, very open. That is not necessarily done via computer but it's, it's easier I think for communities to communicate.

Mr. Goedtel stated he understands it being easier. But you're taking the money out of my pocket to do that, to make it a little easier and I'm just thinking, is there another way. In this day and age of technology, I'd assume that there could be a better and less expensive way to do it.

Ms. Spencer questioned whether Mr. Goedtel knew how many people actually say that they see us on C-NET. A lot of people watch C-NET, from not just this community.

Mr. Goedtel stated he was not arguing that and didn't even know it existed. I don't even know what channel it is on my cable service, but that's neither here nor there. I just think it's a lot of money.

Mr. Goedtel stated that there are all these reserve transfers down at the, in the bottom of the budget. I assume that those transfers were to account for the amount of cash on hand coming into the year. I mean, there's a

hundred and thirty-one thousand, it's uncommitted and unencumbered, then there's, you want to put twenty-seven thousand into parks, another twenty-eight thousand into a basketball court. I assume that's all to come back to the cash balance that you open the year with. And if I made that assumption correctly that's going to total two hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars worth of cash reserves. We're opening the year with, two, you're budgeting two forty-five, and I'm suggesting maybe we take it back to two twenty-five, which is the 2012 balance. I think that two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollar general fund reserve for a community of this size, on top of these other reserves I just found out about tonight sounds to me to be a heck of a lot of money in reserve to do with what you may want to do with respect to building parks and other things in the community.

Mr. Stevenson stated that a lot of the reserve funds are more sinking funds. They're replacement, they're budgeting a little bit every year to replace the facilities that we have, the park facilities here and the request we've had to increase the park facilities at Autumn Meadow.

Mr. Goedtel stated he could understand a little bit. I don't consider twenty-eight thousand dollars to the park a little bit. I don't consider an additional twenty-seven thousand dollars for basketball courts for a total of fifty-six to be a little bit of money.

Mr. Stevenson commented that municipal owned basketball court costs are not the same as privately owned courts.

Mr. Goedtel questioned if there was a need for one right now?

Mr. Stevenson stated the township does need one.

Mr. Goedtel questioned why there are two line items for this project.

Mr. Stevenson explained that 28,000 is for the court, the 27,000 is, I believe, is for the replacement of other, the eventual replacement of other children's playground equipment out here, other facilities that we built out, once you build something, you have to reserve money to replace it or repair it as it ages.

Mr. Goedtel commented that part he understands but I don't think, we don't have to reserve it in one year. I just think that's a tremendous amount of money.

Mr. Goedtel questioned whether it could be stretched out over a few years?

Mr. Stevenson stated that was discussed. The Board discussed whether they wanted to do .15-.20 mils each year for the next few years or do we want to look at what we know is coming down the pike and address the issue all at once.

Mr. Goedtel questioned why this can't be done within the existing budget, within your existing means? I'm saying you can. I've identified, unless there's some things in here you can't take, I've identified almost a hundred and twenty thousand dollars in savings just challenging assumptions, to build a budget.

Ms. Spencer commented that some of this too is what we're looking at down the road. How much more things are going to cost as well. Much of this has been a request made by quite a few members of the community to do this.

Mr. Goedtel questioned to do what?

Ms. Spencer stated to develop the, the Autumn Meadow Park, and to put in a basketball court. I mean there are quite a few people that support parks programs and want parks programs.

Mr. Goedtel questioned if there had been a survey on this?

Ms. Spencer commented that there was.

Mr. Stevenson stated there was a social survey with an open house back in March.

Mr. Goedtel questioned whether there was anything out on the web about it? Because he saw nothing about it.

Ms. Spencer stated it was on the website.

Mr. Merritt commented that it was on C-NET, it was on the web a number of times, it was on the update numerous times.

Mr. Goedtel stated he didn't get those. But again I'm challenging.

Mr. Goedtel commented that if people want them, people are going to use them, why don't they have fundraisers to help offset the cost, I mean, I just, I know, I'm just coming from the fact that we are looking at a 45% increase in taxes. I'm going to admit it's not a tremendous amount of money but when you are on a fixed income, like me, it is. It just keeps going up and up and up and up, I don't see it coming down at all and I see you holding a tremendous cash reserve here, if things go according to way over here, you're going to end up with thirty thousand dollars more in cash than you're starting the year with. Alright, that means that's my money. That's our money. So why don't you give it back to us?

Mr. Goedtel stated he has got a note here that says from 2007, when I got here to 2012, taxes have gone up 11.7%

Ms. Steele stated taxes have not increased since 2007.

Mr. Goedtel stated he was looking at his Halfmoon Township county tax bill.

Ms. Steele commented that that real estate tax bills also include county taxes. The bill is not all for Halfmoon Township.

Mr. Stevenson questioned if the county adjusts 1% every year, based on property value? And then that affects the taxes. It's not actually raising the rate, that's just the assessment.

Mr. Goedtel questioned whether they were saying this is not Halfmoon's? That's what you're telling me.

Ms. Steele stated the tax bill you get includes the county, and I can show you sir, if you show it to me.

Mr. Goedtel stated he sees the county general is county government debt on his real estate bill.

Ms. Steele stated yes. You have the county general, the county debt, you'll have the township, if we had a debt, there'd be a township debt and then in July you get the school district bill.

Ms. Steele commented that as far as our real estate state tax levies, we have been 4.02 mills since fiscal year 2007.

Mr. Kirsten stated he had asked the same question as you right now when I look at my tax bill and are trying to figure out how this affects the township tax and then didn't account initially for the county taxes being part of that.

Mr. Goedtel stated okay then I guess that maybe, I don't know if you can answer these, this just raised a couple more questions I have, if I may. Under the county general, which is really outrageous knowing how it works, isn't the Schlow library included in that?

Ms. Steele stated that it is not.

Mr. Goedtel - It is not, okay. Alright, fine then that answers that question then.

Ms. Steele- I asked the same thing

Mr. Goedtel - Okay, that's fine. You went through these cash reserve balances just now which totaled \$695,000.00. There was Open Space; there was the general fund, what is the open space fund?

Ms. Steele- I can explain some of that for you, if you don't mind. The general fund had 285,000 as our working fund, that's our discretionary, open space fund, which is the 2 mil levy, it's on there, is a special levy that was put into place by the voters in 1999 towards keeping open space, preservation for conservation purposes. So we have a 99 year lease program that eligible landowners can take part in and then we pay them an annual lease payment to keep their land undeveloped.

Mr. Goedtel - Okay and so how many landowners are we paying currently?

Ms. Steele- We have preserved about 2,000 acres in the township. Township consists of 14,000 acres.

Ms. Steele commented that was from a separate levy that was passed by referendum back in 1999.

Mr. Goedtel- At that time I wasn't here then. Where I'm headed with this is the fund is growing, are the expenses growing or have we reached a plateau?

Ms. Steele- You mean in Open Space?

Mr. Goedtel- Yes.

Ms. Steele- We have at this point, we are funding it as a plateau. I mean, you know, what we take in is what we take out. Is that what you're asking?

Mr. Goedtel - Well what you take in is what you, how do you have a balance in there then?

Ms. Steele- That's just a balance to rollover for next year.

Mr. Goedtel - Well then you're not spending what you take in.

Mr. Stevenson- the open space program currently allows for multi-year advances if people apply for them and we approve them.

Mr. Goedtel.- So this, in sense, is a 99 year tax.

Mr. Stevenson- It's a 99 year, yea, because you enter into a lease contract with people we are obligated to pay those leases and we have to fund that somehow.

Mr. Goedtel- Okay. And then what are we doing with those open lands?

Mr. Stevenson- Nothing, that's the point.

Ms. Spencer- Well, there's the Wildlife Corridor, which is one thing that we also got and that is open to the public.

Mr. Stevenson- And that's not a lease, that is owned, we own the development rights.

Ms. Steele- We have an easement, a conservation easement.

Mr. Goedtel- That was a high tax. I'll just get back to the general fund.

Ms. Steele- And that is, just to get back to that, going back to that, that is a special levy so we can't use any of those funds for general use. Same thing with the state fund that I talked about, that is, we can only use it for road maintenance.

Mr. Goedtel- What is used for?

Ms. Steele- Road maintenance. And then, the reserve funds were for the park reserve, and we have an operating reserve, what we call, for emergencies, which we have like six thousand dollars and then we also have equipment, for any equipment we have to replace, as well as, for a new building and building improvements here.

Mr. Goedtel- Okay and then I assume as money is put into those reserves, you have rules that they can only be used for that.

Ms. Steele- Yes

Mr. Goedtel- So if a true emergency came up of, I don't know what, and we needed money you wouldn't be able to take those monies out of there.

Ms. Steele- Yes you can with a unanimous vote from the supervisors.

Mr. Goedtel- Okay so you can remove them, okay. That's what I was curious about. Those are fine. I guess I've hit about everything. I'd just like, the big thing I said in there, is I'm challenging many assumptions. I think the assumptions are off, I believe if they were to be revisited, maybe incorporating some of what I've commented on here you can get this budget down to what it should be so there would be virtually no increase or at least bring it down so that what the increase is according to Uncle Sam for next year. Our Social Security payments are only going to be increased 1.7%, alright. That's the cost of living increase we're getting in Social Security come January 1 because that's what he said the cost of living increase was for this year, not 45 and a half percent.

Mr. Goedtel- Alright, thank you.

Mr. Stevenson- Thank you Mr. Goedtel.

Mr. Stevenson- Any other comments from the public or from supervisors and staff?

Ms. Spencer- Well I know I just want to say for the record I know Jim will remember this, that when the Schlow Library issue came to this board we did not support it. We gave only a donation. The community was in an uproar over that. There were quite a few people that were very upset over it, some people saw, some supervisors did not get re-elected because of it. That's how strongly the people felt about it. I am one that's had a real hard time with that bill and when I came back on as Supervisor I realized that we finally had taken it on as an obligation. So, I mean, to the members of COG it's one of those, one of those things that we share the responsibility with the other members, municipalities, but it has been an ongoing issue with different townships. So it's just it's one of those, it's just something that, it's to help pay for the building and also help to run it. Fortunately, this year was less than it was last year, so-

Mr. Goedtel- Just seems to me that, I still don't know how many citizens we have here, but I don't think it's five thousand. It just seems to me that they get an awfully, very exorbitant number when you consider not all 2600 go. Speaking of COG, I did have another, don't we pay COG a fee, 70 some thousand dollars?

Faint, unclear voice

Mr. Goedtel- Okay, do we have to be a member?

Mr. Stevenson- We don't have to be a member but we would have to hire staff to replace what the COG does for us, particularly on the planning side. Just, you know, on some of the emergency management services that they provide us, we

Mr. Goedtel- They're a pretty big price tag.

Ms. Spencer- Yep, but we get a lot of outstanding expertise to help us do the right thing?

Mr. Goedtel- That's fine, I didn't bring that one up, I'm just, you know, I said, the way I challenge the assumptions I believe we could go back and revisit them unless there's something I don't know about the assumptions and I think you can cut 60,000 dollars out of this budget. Thus eliminating the increase that you want and make a whole lot of people happy.

Mr. Kirsten- I just want to put the library into context and everything into perspective because I asked the same exact question numerous times. I've only been a supervisor for a year and I've really tried to look over a lot of this with a fresh pair of eyes and question everything. Ferguson Township is not a participating member but I believe that they donate about 300,000 dollars a year to the library and I believe that if they were a member their numbers would be somewhere closer to 350,000 possibly.

Mr. Stevenson- No, actually this year they are giving the amount that the formula would say that they would in 2013 they're going to actually contribute the amount the formula says they should contribute

Mr. Kirsten- And how much is that, about \$300,000?

Mr. Stevenson - It's about 316,027 dollars.

Mr. Kirsten- So, I mean Ferguson, much larger township, with a much bigger population, but I just wanted to put it into context. And I certainly appreciate that question; it's one that I have as well.

Ms. Spencer- I also wanted to say thank you for being here and showing an interest. I can, as you look around, there's not many people here, so, they've been given the budget in our webpage, the word is out in our e-mail contacts with people, and so on. Only two people show up. I really appreciate you showing an interest and going through the effort and the time to do this and challenge what's before you. So I commend you on that, thank you.

Mr. Goedtel- Thank you that was my job for 30 years.

Mr. Stevenson- I also want to say, I notice here you did say you'd like to reinstate the Christmas party. I wanted to make clear to you and to anyone watching this is not any kind of an anti-Christmas party thing; the park board recommended that we simply drop that but keep the Easter party because I think it was just an attendance thing. It just wasn't, we weren't getting the bang for the buck so to speak.

Mr. Kirsten- And also the fire company in Port Matilda does one

Mr. Stevenson- Yea, we get competition from them.

Mr. Kirsten- And this Saturday, December 15th is our holiday party this year, so it is happening this year, it is this coming Saturday from 3-5pm. I just want to put that plug in there for it, if I can.

Mr. Stevenson- And some of the legal fees Mr. Goedtel, that you raise. They are driven by stuff that's outside our control, I mean, one of the big reasons we have the increase in legal fees is because we do currently have litigation that involves the township. This litigation is currently in front of the zoning hearing board that we're anticipating may be appealed to court and we need to pay the attorney's fees for the zoning hearing board solicitor to represent the township's case.

Mr. Goedtel- Well, you know, I can understand that but I'll go back to my other comment, with my other thought, we're entering the year with a quarter of a million dollars in the bank. So you don't have to nickel and dime us for the fives and tens and that's why I said take the cash reserve down to two and a quarter, that's the recommendation I make and not build it up to 255 which is what this project-

Mr. Stevenson- Well the cash carryover, carries us through several months we don't have taxes, any revenue coming in, that's really what that reserve is or that hunk of change for that first three or four months of the year.

Ms. Steele- We don't get real estate taxes until May.

Mr. Goedtel- Well I understand that part but it still carries over. It's still cash in the bank.

Ms. Steele- We spend 60 grand a month on expenses.

Mr. Goedtel- Okay but in other words without the carryover we'd be broke in March.

Mr. Stevenson- Yea

Mr. Goedtel- What I'm saying is we don't have to build it.

Mr. Stevenson- Well I would respectfully disagree, I think we do have to build it and I know it seems like a big increase percentage wise but about 60% of that increase, by my calculation is to go to the capital reserve deficits to essentially fund things that we maintain and replace of existing capital stock throughout the township, not including the roads. I would say about another 20-25% of that is what I would think is the reduction in some of the income that we're getting. Just because we do have less growth in the township than we had from say like 1999-2007 that it was able to organically build up some balances that we use for certain projects, that people wanted to fund like the lights for the little league field and things like that. That growth is gone, it may come back again. But for now to be able to maintain the stock and maintain services and pay salaries we need to replace some of that decline in the income. We also have people because we don't have new families moving in the way we did, we have a lot of people moving into retirement state who don't get the EIT, the earned income tax, from a number of residents, we've had a lot of foreclosures in the township, of people moving out and homes sitting vacant, we don't have the transfer taxes anymore, so we've reduced our volume of where we collect taxes. Real estate taxes are the only place where we have control that we have any room to move, so we increase the real estate assessment. The final 15% I would say or 15-20% is to fund new projects, primarily in the parks realm, that people have expressed a significant interest in over the last few years and in terms of eventually building more out on the Autumn Meadow park side. A great number of families live in the neighborhoods around Autumn Meadow and on the South side of SR 550, but all the playground equipment is over here. They'd like to see something built over there, like basketball courts, like playground equipment and we have a parks board that is actively working on that and we need to give them some capital so they are able to fulfill those citizen's expressed wishes. And they're more than wishes, I think. I consider them needs. You have to have recreation in a township that is growing. We used to be a much more rural township and a lot of ways we still are. I don't consider us a suburban township. I see us more of a sub-rural township. We're in this transition mode so we try to accommodate both sets of citizens within our township. So I thought, every penny of this increase, the reason it is not a full mil and only .96 of a mil, was because every penny that's increased, in my mind, is tied to something that is legitimate within this budget. This building that we're sitting in is, has got many, many issues. To repair this building alone, it would cost probably at least half a million, 600,000 dollars, so just to keep the building and to repair it and replace vital parts. There's mold in these walls that we had to mitigate with equipment last year. To do all this takes money year after year to be set aside. We have statutory debt borrowing limits we can't go beyond, so we have to put, you know, a good number of dollars from our current tax base into a reserve towards a building. So it's just capital stock that just wears out, that needs replaced, and that's the bulk of this increase.

Mr. Goedtel- Well, you've just made a couple of interesting comments because I think you may have contradicted yourself. Number one, your budgeting for revenues to increase over 2012 by just under 100,000, that is the tax increase your proposing, so there's 40,000 dollars in here, that's an increase not a decrease you just told me was happening, you're losing revenue, it's not in these numbers. You indicated the population was going down then you made a statement we have to work towards the growing population while it's either going down or going up, it can't go down and then up.

Mr. Stevenson- Well, what I meant is that we have a growing part of the population that begs more services from the government and we have to be able to meet those needs.

Secretary

Mr. Goedtel- I'm just saying you're, granted you set aside a significant dollar increase, however, I'm one that's on a fixed income and 60 bucks is my money, alright, I don't want to give it to the government, alright, that's why I'm here making my case.

Mr. Stevenson- I appreciate it

Mr. Goedtel- And I think some of these items that are in reserve are too rich. I think a park expanding off of a park right next to it is too rich. You have to redo the building, fine, put some more money into that reserve. We don't need to expand our own park. I don't know that you need 20,000 dollars to replace playground equipment this year, put 10,000 in there, alright and give us 15,000, 14,000 dollars back, rethink some of the assumptions.

Mrs. Spencer- Well you know somebody with a whole pile of kids in their home, and all their neighbors with children, aren't going to agree with you. There's a lot of young families in this area that do have kids and there are a lot of families whose kids are becoming teenagers and we need to also make sure that we got things out there to, you know. We had some issues this last summer with some vandalism and I think a lot of it is because there's nothing for them to do, you know, I think it'd be nice to have some things to do there that are going to keep them involved.

Mr. Goedtel- I know, but do you need to make this, like all of a sudden a light bulb's come on, we've got to pay for it now.

Ms. Spencer- Well it's now or next year, I mean what-

Mr. Goedtel- But you build toward it, can't you just start putting some money aside now to have it done in a couple years

Mr. Stevenson- Well that's what 27,000 is, that 27,000 is the accumulation, Susan jump in if I'm miss-stating but that's the accumulation of all of the various equipment that we own, one of which I think is near the end of its useful life, and we are going to have to replace that one relatively soon, it's the one piece of equipment out here, so that's probably the bulk of that moving this year but everything else you see out here and other parks and the back stops everything, benches all that stuff, wears out and needs replaced and you need to reserve a small portion of all those items every year and that's something we haven't been doing effectively. Every year we've been falling about 40,000 dollars short and because of the growth in the township we had a surplus enough that we could milk that down but now that's gone. That surplus is gone to replace and maintain equipment we need to build reserves, this is the one lever we have to do that now.

Mr. Goedtel- Well I guess maybe it's just the way this budget is presented because the items I see are transferred parks reserve that was not budgeted in 2012 that's 27,000 and then you want to do the basketball courts that's 28,000. I mean I'm looking at your presentation to come up with how I looked at the assumptions. Now if you're saying there's actually money there in 2012 I don't see that here. All I'm saying is that all of a sudden, wham, you want to put 58,000 dollars into parks.

Mr. Stevenson- Well we depleted the park reserve, I think, last year for the tennis court and the ice rink, is that correct?

Ms. Steele-- Right.

Mr. Kirsten- I'll just, the last comment I wanted to make was I, as Barbara said, I appreciate you coming in and actually voicing your opinion

Mr. Goedtel- I mean, obviously you'll do what you want to do and we'll get an increase but I just think the increase is outrageous, hasn't been thought through as much as you say it has and I don't think some of the assumptions are incorrect, highly incorrect.

Ms. Spencer- We had discussions and budget sessions this year. This is the longest budget session that I've been ever part of. Trying to make it all work and-

Mr. Goedtel- Obviously it didn't work. Well we got to look at almost a mil increase in our taxes. Okay, I'm sorry but it didn't work and I still say some of the assumptions are invalid, especially the taxes, the unemployment taxes. But anyway, you'll do what you got to do and if it's a done deal, it's a done deal. I'll just keep fighting my fight I guess until you up the taxes or make it work.

Mr. Stevenson- Okay, well thank you much for your time.

Mr. Goedtel- Thank you

Mr. Stevenson- Any additional comments on the budget?

Ms. Steele- Mr. Goedtel was the only one.

Mr. Stevenson- So only one written objection. Well, alright with that I will close the public hearing and we'll have a discussion and a possible motion to approve resolution 2012-23.

C. Close Public Hearing

Mr. Stevenson closed the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.

MOTION: *Mr. Kirsten moved to approve Resolution 2012-23; A Resolution of Halfmoon Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania, adopting the Township's FY 2013 Budget; Mr. Merritt seconded; Vote 4-0-0-; Motion Carried.*

MOTION: *Mr. Merritt moved to table items 20,21 & 22 on the agenda; Mr. Kirsten seconded; Vote 4-0-0-; Motion Carried.*

Mr. Stevenson commented that an average home in Halfmoon Township based on the market value of the home valued between \$300,000-\$400,000 and \$150,000 - \$200,000 residents are looking at a \$140 - \$185 increase per year. If the property is in clean and green it would be half of that. Ms. Steele commented that 75% of the Township properties are in the Clean and Green program.

8. RESOLUTION 2012-24 – FY 2013 REAL ESTATE TAX LEVY

MOTION: *Mr. Kirsten moved to approve Resolution 2012-24; A Resolution of Halfmoon Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania, adopting the Township's FY 2013 Real Estate Tax Levy of 2.98 mils for General Fund and 2.00 mils for Open Space Fund; Mr. Merritt seconded; Vote 4-0-0-; Motion Carried.*

9. RESOLUTION 2012-25 – FY 2013 CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BUDGET

MOTION: *Ms. Spencer moved to approve Resolution 2012-25; A Resolution of Halfmoon Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania, to approve the FY 2013 Centre Region Council of Governments Budget; Mr. Merritt seconded; Vote 4-0-0-; Motion Carried.*

Mr. Stevenson stated that he also wanted to state that the Centre Region COG Agency Directors and staff does a great job staying within a minimal increase or having no increases.

10. RESOLUTION 2012- 26 – FY 2013 CNET DUES

MOTION: *Ms. Spencer moved to approve Resolution 2012-26; A Resolution of Halfmoon Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania, to approve the FY 2013 C-NET dues of \$11,292.00; Mr. Merritt seconded; Vote 4-0-0-; Motion Carried.*

Mr. Kirsten commented that it was a minimal increase and Ms. Hahn did an excellent job keeping costs down.

11. RESOLUTION 2012-27 – FY 2013 PORT MATILDA EMS CONTRIBUTION

MOTION: *Mr. Merritt moved to approve Resolution 2012-27; A Resolution of Halfmoon Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania, to approve the FY 2013 the sum of \$4,600 as its FY 2013 contribution to the Port Matilda EMS; Mr. Kirsten seconded; Vote 4-0-0-; Motion Carried.*

Mr. Stevenson stated he wishes the Township could give them more for their services. Mr. Stevenson reminded everyone that membership information should be arriving soon and encouraged residents to become members. Mr. Stevenson stated residents may receive information from the Port Matilda EMS and Centre Life Link and reminded them that Port Matilda EMS provides primary coverage for Halfmoon Township and Centre Life Link is used as a back up.

12. RESOLUTION 2012-28 – FY 2013 PORT MATILDA FIRE COMPANY CONTRIBUTION

MOTION: *Mr. Merritt moved to approve Resolution 2012-28; A Resolution of Halfmoon Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania, to approve the FY 2013 a contribution in the amount of \$41,832.82 to be paid to the Port Matilda Fire Company and directing Township staff to begin letter agreements negotiations, on behalf of the Township, between the Township and Port Matilda Fire Company for fire protection services in the Township to begin in FY 2014, and submit same for Board of Supervisors approval; Mr. Kirsten seconded; Discussion on changing Solicitor to staff*

and have Ms. Steele negotiate with the Fire Company on behalf of the Township; Motion withdrawn.

MOTION: Mr. Merritt moved to amend his motion to delete the word Solicitor and insert the word staff to begin letter agreement negotiations; Mr. Kirsten seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.

MOTION: Mr. Merritt moved to approve Resolution 2012-28; A Resolution of Halfmoon Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania, to approve the FY 2013 a contribution in the amount of \$41,832.82 to be paid to the Port Matilda Fire Company and directing Township staff to begin letter agreement negotiations, on behalf of the Township, between the Township and Port Matilda Fire Company for fire protection services in the Township to begin in FY 2014, and submit same for Board of Supervisors approval; Mr. Kirsten seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.

13. RESOLUTION 2012-29 – FY 2013 WARRIORS MARK FIRE COMPANY CONTRIBUTION

MOTION: Mr. Merritt moved to approve Resolution 2012-29; A Resolution of Halfmoon Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania, to approve the FY 2013 a contribution in the amount of \$17,928.35 to be paid to the Warriors Mark Company and directing Township staff to begin letter agreement negotiations, on behalf of the Township, between the Township and Warriors Mark-Franklin Fire Company for fire protection services in the Township to begin in FY 2014, and submit same for Board of Supervisors approval; Ms. Spencer seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.

14. APPROVAL OF ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR BITUMINOUS, AGGREGATES & MACHINERY FY 2013

MOTION: Mr. Kirsten moved to approve advertising the taking of bids for bituminous, aggregate and machinery FY 2013; Mr. Merritt seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.

15. 2013 OFFICE HOURS

There was discussion whether the lunches would be staggered so there was minimal closure during lunches. Ms. Steele stated the office staff had been trying to do this for some time but it didn't work. Due to the fact that many times she is gone to work through lunch at meetings on regional matters, which leaves Amy at the office here by herself needing to work the lunch hour. Mr. Stevenson explained that staff is very limited and is accumulating a large number of comp and flex time hours. This could be a financial liability. So this is a way to alleviate some of those hours. Mr. Merritt commended staff and stated the Township is very well served.

MOTION: Mr. Kirsten moved to approve new office hours beginning on January 1, 2012 as follows: Municipal Building: opening at 9:00 a.m., closed for lunch from noon to 1:00 p.m., and closing at 4:30 p.m., and Maintenance Building: opening at 7:30 a.m., closed for lunch from noon to 1:00 p.m., and closing at 3:00 p.m.; Mr. Merritt seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.

16. REORGANIZATION MEETING APPROVAL

MOTION: Mr. Kirsten moved to approve the advertisement for the reorganization meeting for Monday, January 7th, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.; Mr. Merritt seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.

17. RESIGNATION OF JASON A. FRALICK FROM PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

MOTION: Ms. Spencer moved to accept the resignation of Jason A. Fralick from the Parks and Recreation Board effective 12/31/2012 ; Mr. Merritt seconded; Mr. Kirsten thanked Mr. Fralick for his service and commitment while serving on the Parks and Recreation Board; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.

18. PRESENTATION BY MOUNT NITTANY MEDICAL CENTER

Ms. Gorenflo stated she is working as a consultant with Mount Nittany Center on the Community Health needs assessment and is requesting two things from the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Gorenflo is requesting that the township help distribute a link for a survey they are conducting. The Board requested Ms. Smith post the link to the website and include it in the update several times. Ms. Gorenflo also requested the Board send someone to attend a summit that will be held at the Mount Nittany Center on January 14th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ms. Gorenflo stated the Community Health needs assessment is part of the Affordable Care Act that requires the IRS to require that all non-profit hospitals conduct this assessment which includes a plan to address any gaps. This needs to be completed every 3 years. Ms. Gorenflo added that Mount Nittany Center is taking a very proactive approach because they want the assessment to be an ongoing effort. There will be a report they can track every 3 years. The assessment takes a good hard look at data levels to see what people think. Ms. Gorenflo stated they will be launching a survey in about a week and will run until the end of February. Mr. Stevenson commented that the township is well connected to the community and they read more updates than look at the website. Ms. Gorenflo stated it is important to hear from the community, to hear a voice. Ms. Gorenflo stated she encourages more than one person attend to ensure the township voice is heard. Ms. Gorenflo commented this is a first of an ongoing series that will take place every 6 months. Ms. Gorenflo explained that Mount Nittany Center is holding the series but it is being hosted by the Counties Partnership for Community Health. Ms. Gorenflo stated those attending should RSVP by January 5th, 2013. Ms. Gorenflo stated the purpose is to present the data so far and prioritize issues identified that play out in the community, contributing factors and solutions. Ms. Gorenflo stated this is a broad plan to collect data and encourage collaborative actions. Mr. Stevenson questioned whether the survey results will be shared. Ms. Gorenflo stated that may take a while since the report is not due to the IRS until July 1st so it may not be released until then. Mr. Stevenson commented that people who take part in surveys like to see the results. Mr. Stevenson stated that the Board will discuss this as an agenda item for the next meeting to determine who is able to attend.

19. PRESENTATION OF PROS AND CONS PREPARED BY OPEN SPACE BOARD OF OPEN SPACE PROGRAM REMAINING A LEASE PROGRAM OR TRANSITIONING THE PROGRAM TO A LEASE PURCHASE OR PURCHASE PROGRAM

This agenda item was tabled.

20. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION TO APPROVE TO DIRECT STAFF TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING THE TOWNSHIP'S REVISED OFFICIAL MAP FOR JANUARY 24TH, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.

This agenda item was tabled.

21. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION TO APPROVE DIRECTING TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR TO DRAFT A REVISED SHARED DRIVEWAY AND PRIVATE ROAD ORDINANCE FOR SUPERVISORS' REVIEW

This agenda item was tabled.

22. ORDINANCE 2013-1; APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON JANUARY 24TH, 2013 REPEALING THE ZONING OFFICER SHARING AGREEMENT WITH WARRIORS MARK TOWNSHIP

Ms. Steele explained when the Township had a full time Zoning Officer that there was an agreement in place with Warriors Mark Township to use his services for a fee which was paid to the Township. The current Zoning Officer is part time and although he works with Warriors Mark Township he does it on his own time so the Ordinance in place is no longer being practiced.

MOTION: Mr. Merritt moved to approve to direct staff to advertise for public hearing on January 24th, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.; Ordinance 2013-0 as drafted by the Township Solicitor which repeals the Zoning Officer sharing agreement with Warriors Mark as presently set out in the Township's Code; Mr. Kirsten seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.

23. MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Steele stated there was a request for a streetlight to be placed at the corner of Ira Lane and S.R. 550. The request comes from a citizen concern that when it is dark the children getting off the late bus are not being seen. Ms. Steele did some preliminary research and stated in the early 1990's the township enacted a Stormstown Streetlight District. Ms. Steele stated the district was put in place as the result of a citizen petition. The present monthly cost is \$12.00 per month, per light. Ms. Steele requested Ms. Yurchak look into this matter and answer three succinct questions. Is the township only allowed to put streetlights within this Streetlight District; if so, is this lot within the district and are there procedures to expand the district if the Supervisors so wish. Ms. Steele stated once she has those answers she can proceed with contacting West Penn. Ms. Steele stated the property owner

on the corner of SR 550 and Ira Lane did not request the lighting. Mr. Kirsten commented that there is no lighting at the recycling area and it is extremely dark in that area. Mr. Andrews questioned how this type of lighting fits into the Lighting Ordinance. Ms. Steele stated it would not be consistent with the Lighting Ordinance. Mr. Stevenson questioned whether the township would be exempt. There was further discussion regarding the Lighting Ordinance. Ms. Spencer questioned whether the township could place a light near the recycling area. Mr. Kirsten stated the township would still need an exemption. Mr. Stevenson thanked Mr. Andrews for asking a good question. Mr. Kirsten questioned if the township knew where the district ended. The Board requested Ms. Steele contact the affected neighbors to see how they would feel about this light before proceeding with this matter any further.

Ms. Steele commented that the ball lights are still being used without reservations. Mr. Steele contacted Mr. Hawbaker who stated he did not know who was playing football there but was having a meeting with Little League officers and would talk about the lease and lighting. Mr. Hawbaker indicated that the coaches were supposed to turn in the keys at the end of the season but that is not happening. Ms. Steele stated when she came to the office to see who was using the lights on Monday evening she found that the Boy Scouts were using the lights. Ms. Steele requested Mr. Brown contact Mr. Simpson and inquire who has access to the keys and who has keys. Mr. Simpson responded that all the Little League coaches had keys and other parties. Ms. Steele questioned if the Board would like to do anything. Ms. Steele stated the Park Board has a field and rental agreement ready to be viewed by the Board of Supervisors at their next meeting to be implemented January 1st, 2013. There was discussion on whether the lock could be changed, although in changing the lock it did not ensure that copies of the key would not be duplicated again. Mr. Stevenson suggested placing signs on the box and fields stating that use of these facilities must be authorized and reserved through the township office. Mr. Kirsten stated in Centre Region they have signs that say these facilities are under reservation system and must be leased or reserved. Mr. Stevenson stated the fields and lighting are public property and opened for use by other residents. Ms. Steele will provide some sample language for signs at both parks regarding leasing and reserving policies for the Supervisor's 12/20/12 meeting.

The Code software implementation/planning and training discussion was tabled. Mr. Stevenson would like to have Mr. Pisoni present for this discussion.

Ms. Steele stated that due to Ms. Smith attending the code software meeting she was unable to download the latest speed information from the radar sign and compile that information. Ms. Steele stated she is suggesting placing the radar sign in stealth mode to see what kind of impact the sandwich boards had on the speeds. Ms. Steele stated Mr. Brown did not place the radar sign near the sandwich boards prior to the sandwich boards to record the speeds. Ms. Steele apologized to the Board that she had stated the speed sensor was placed on the speed limit sign near Halfmoon Towing as she had requested, but Mr. Brown told her later he had forgotten when she asked him. Mr. Stevenson suggested placing the radar sign close to the crosswalks prior to placing the sandwich boards, during, and after. Ms. Steele stated Mr. Pisoni would like to place the radar sign on the CATA sign at the intersection of SR 550 and Municipal Lane. Ms. Steele stated she has been told that that is not possible. Ms. Steele will inquire again of Mr. Franson and Mr. Brown.

Ms. Steele stated the ice rink is being installed by the Public Works Department. Ms. Steele commented the rules and regulations have been moved to the fencing around the ice rink. Ms. Steele stated Mr. Brown has the contact information for Pat Gallagher who volunteered to help maintain the ice rink and Mr. Brown will be in contact with him.

Ms. Steele stated the Zoning Hearing Board met to hear the Houtz Application and the meeting was very focused. Ms. Steele commented she thought the ZHB was ready to render a decision but Mr. Glantz wanted to file a brief prior to any decision. Ms. Steele stated the township has ten days to respond to the brief. There was discussion on what the next steps would be in the event that Mr. Houtz or the Nittany Greyhounds do not like the decision.

Ms. Steele stated she was not present when the Centre Region Code Software program was approved by the General Forum. Nor has she seen the contract. But Mr. Kirsten commented there was an early termination clause. Ms. Steele stated if the township would leave the code program than a fee would apply toward the cost of the software depending on what year that would happen. Mr. Kirsten stated the termination fee on the software program is in place for five years. Ms. Steele commented that Mr. Steff stated that if code was not doing the code inspections than they would no longer want to do the borehole/well inspections or the sewage inspections as required by Act 537. Ms. Steele stated that since the board has committed to the software program and the early

termination fee, she questions whether the Board is still interested in looking at other alternatives. It was questioned whether a resident has the right to use whatever code inspection agency they choose. Ms. Steele explained that since the township had a contract with COG, citizens can only use them for building and sewage inspections. Ms. Liggett commented that the sewage management program is wrapped up in the Act 537 plan but it could be amended by the COG municipalities. Ms. Liggett explained that DEP had been reimbursing Centre Region Code for on-lot inspection costs, but no longer reimburses, so the resident is paying 50% of that cost and the Code office is paying the other 50%. The Code office is willing to pay this fee because of the other services they supply. Mr. Kirsten reminded the Board that it would take a unanimous vote by all municipalities to change the Act 537 plan. Ms. Liggett explained the Code office comes out to the township for more than just new constructions and the township should receive a report from the Code office. Ms. Steele stated she believed this is given to Mr. Pisoni as at the COG Public Safety Committee meetings. Mr. Stevenson stated he feels if it is not broke, don't fix it. Mr. Merritt agreed. Ms. Spencer stated she wished the code office would come down on their pricing. Mr. Stevenson provided a report that showed the services the Code office provides to its member municipalities, which lists about 30 services. Mr. Stevenson stated you have to compare apples to apples on pricing costs and would like to be better informed before making any decision.

Ms. Steele commented that she attended a reception hosted by the CCBIC at Toftrees. The meeting was to solicit monies from the business community for economic development job creation endeavors. Ms. Steele reviewed what donations have been made and from which business or municipality and recommended that Halfmoon Township consider investing around \$5,000 in this endeavor for next years budget.

Ms. Steele stated staff has reserved the Halfmoon Grange on Friday, January 18th to host the ABC end of year party. The Township will provide Lasagna, salad and bread for the main dish and requested everyone bring a side to share.

Ms. Steele provided information on an expert in open space issues. Ms. Steele also provided some phasing options for a scope of services the board may want to consider depending on the direction the Board wishes the program to go.

Ms. Steele stated road widening will be an item of discussion in March and will have all the experts attend to answer questions and provide information to the supervisors. Ms. Steele stated the Township's District 2 Penn Dot Representative stated that anything wider than a 2 foot berm would not be covered under liquid fuels monies. Ms. Steele commented that one reason is due to liability. Ms. Spencer shared the concern about wider berms inviting vehicles to travel berms due to texting distractions.

24. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

MOTION: Ms. Spencer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.; Mr. Merritt seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.