

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mark Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Other Supervisors present were Danelle Del Corso, Andy Merritt, Todd Kirsten and Barb Spencer. Staff present were Susan Steele, Township Manager and Amy Smith Township Clerk. Residents & others in attendance: Chris Goedtel, Ron Hoover, Open Space Preservation Board, Sarah Rafacz, Centre Daily Times.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

4. **MINUTES**

- ***MOTION: Ms. Del Corso moved to approve the minutes for October 13th, 2016 & October 17th, 2016; Mr. Merritt seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***

5. **REVISION OF MINUTE OF 10/13/16 REGARDING EXTENSION OF LEASE AT 1948 HALFMOON VALLEY ROAD**

Ms. Steele explained that after the Board approved the monthly rental fee of \$750.00 at the October 13th meeting she learned it had increased to \$768.75 per month so the Board needed to make a new motion to approve the new monthly rental fee.

- ***MOTION: Mr. Merritt moved to approve extending lease at 1948 Halfmoon Valley Road for Township Offices from 1/1/17 through 12/31/17 for one year to renew at the rental rate of \$768.75 per month; Mr. Kirsten seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***

6. **MUNICIPAL BUILDING UPDATE**

Ms. Steele reviewed the status of the building repairs. Ms. Steele commented it has been discovered that the roof is leaking where screws were not screwed into anything so this must be repaired by moving those screws and sealing the holes.

Ms. Steele stated there would not be a staff member present to turn off the ball field lights after the Election Board is completed for the evening. Ms. Del Corso volunteered to turn the ball field lighting off in the park when the Election Board was done for the evening so the lights could be used while the polls were open for better lighting.

Ms. Steele stated the Public Works Department will be installing the fencing in the parking lot for easier parking. Mr. Kirsten requested that the Public Works Department use fluorescent paint on the posts in the parking lot to make them easier to see at night.

7. **REVISED BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS – USING 10/17/16 BUDGET DRAFT**

Ms. Steele reviewed the budget numbers that were updated and increased due to municipal building repair additions and at the request of Mr. Kirsten for an increase to the Port Matilda EMS and leaving the same budgeted number for the Easter party and movie night same as 2016.

Mr. Goedtel commented that he that the Board did a good job with the budget as there was no increase but has concerns that amount of money spent on Centre Region Cog and Schlow Library. Mr. Goedtel stated between those increases and the School District tax increases it is getting to be where you can't afford to live here. Mr. Goedtel commented that he had concerns with the pension plan and health insurance for staff but COG and Schlow Library are his main concern. Mr. Stevenson stated he plans on addressing the library under new business but commented the formula is driven by the # of checkouts and if the amount of those decrease or increase. Ms. Spencer explained that in 2006 Halfmoon Township provided a donation to Schlow Library but there was an outcry from the citizens so that is why we are a member again. Mr. Goedtel stated the amount of money is exuberant considering what is available online without the Library and if these fees keep going up there

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is going to have to be a tax increase and he just can't afford that. Mr. Merritt commented there is a list of what services Halfmoon Township participates in with Centre Region COG and what each service does for the Township.

Mr. Goedel stated he paid the \$35.00 walk over inspection fee and then paid an additional \$10.00 administrative fee on top of that. The Board requested staff look into this issue. Ms. Steele stated the sewer management fees are not paid with tax payer monies. Mr. Kirsten stated DEP mandated when septic's needs to be pumped. Mr. Goedel questioned how many employees are in the Centre Region COG and asked if the Board felt like they were getting the biggest bang for their buck. Mr. Goedel stated the inflation rates have stayed flat and the COG has gone up 15%. Ms. Steele commented that the Board plans on holding a townhall meeting to get an idea of services the citizens want.

Ms. Steele explained to Mr. Goedel that if the Township employees were in the Obama exchange for health insurance then the Township would have to give more towards the subsidies to the employees and if would more expensive than what they are paying now for insurance. Ms. Steele also explained that in 2008 the Supervisors approved a defined pension plan for the employees and they can't just diminish the program but what they can do for any new full time employees is do a 401K plan.

Ms. Steele explained the parks reserve are applied towards financing that we have to supply for matching funds for parks grants. Mr. Stevenson stated they are leveraging to get four times the amount for the grants.

Mr. Stevenson commented that the Township has great employees and feels it is the least the Board can do is offer health insurance and pension plans since they don't receive the same pay the public sector.

8. MANAGER REPORT

The Steering Committee letters were mailed out to property owners.

Mr. Fralick sent an email questioning whether the Township wanted a free CATA bus shelter. The Board stated they would have to get the permission of the landowner when they decide where they would like it placed. The Board questioned why Mr. Fralick was contacting the Township on behalf of CATA. The Board requested Ms. Steele get more information.

Ms. Steele stated she will meet with Rick Shuetter, Director of PML, to discuss ideas on breakouts for the PML Conference.

Ms. Steele stated she will be working on the budget in publishable form from home next week.

9. SUPERVISORS' REPORT

Mr. Kirsten reminded residents that Trick or Treat night is Monday from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Mr. Kirsten stated he hopes everyone is safe and bountiful Halloween and reminded residents to drivers to be safe while driving around. Mr. Kirsten commented if Trick or Treating in Centre Region they will be Monday as well from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Kirsten provided some statistics from General Forum reporting regarding the number of housing units built in Halfmoon Township. Mr. Kirsten stated in 2016 there were 6 single family units constructed year to date, totaling \$2,272,000.00 and year to date for 2015 there were 14 units totaling \$4,978,000. and some change.

Mr. Stevenson requested that new business be placed on the agenda prior to Supervisors reports.

Mr. Merritt reminded citizens to vote. Mr. Merritt commented that he stands by the integrity of the Election Officials and Election Officers and Centre County is lucky to have Joyce McKinley and the County Commissioners overseeing the Election process and rejects any notion of a rigged Election to believe any other way impugns the integrity and intelligence of our citizens who spend all day preparing for and spending long hours on Election Day ensuring the honesty of our process.

10. NEW OTHER BUSINESS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Stevenson provided a report showing year to year increases in the percentages of contributions of the overall Regional budget but most notably the Library contribution. Mr. Stevenson commented that other than Harris Township the other Centre Region municipalities are not a noticeable difference.

Mr. Stevenson commented there is a whip saw effect on Halfmoon Township and Harris Township. Mr. Stevenson stated with this in mind, he is suggesting a Steering Committee with one Library Representative, one member from the HMT Board of Supervisors, Cathy Alloway, Joe Viginlone and break open the formula. Mr. Stevenson stated the formula is driven by checkouts and the way it is being manifested in the budget is different than how it is being manifested in everyone else's budget. Mr. Stevenson stated he would like to get deeper into the formula. Mr. Stevenson suggested that perhaps the COG formula should become the core of the library budget and then checkouts come in but not have the big effects as the current formula.

Mr. Stevenson questioned whether we are sure the Halfmoon Township citizens with a 16870 zip code are being tracked differently than the citizens in Patton Township with a 16870 zip code. Mr. Stevenson also questioned how they are being tracked if they move.

Mr. Stevenson stated he would like to crack the formula open, not in an adversarial way, but be able to understand what is going on and it may change what is happening to everyone as far as year in year out budgeting without the wild swings.

Mr. Stevenson commented that the Library is a valuable public service to Halfmoon Township and the Region and feels it should be supported but feels what makes the Board of Supervisors antsy sometimes is he feeling of lack of control over the change in that budget line item as it swings from year to year.

Mr. Stevenson questioned whether the Board supports a Steering Committee. The Board supports this.

Ms. Del Corso commented that perhaps they could get a report on the usage for residents and get raw numbers on how the numbers translates into the numbers Halfmoon Township sees for budgeting.

Mr. Stevenson stated he would like to see that addressed in this working group. Mr. Stevenson stated he would like to see apples to apples and apples to oranges comparisons.

Ms. Del Corso commented that the State College Borough would have a higher usage within the physical location of the Library than our citizens would use.

Mr. Goedel volunteered to serve on the Committee.

Mr. Stevenson requested staff send out a doodle poll and confirm they are interested in serving on the Committee. Ms. Steele verified this was not for this budget season.

Mr. Kirsten stated he requested Mr. Vigilone provide monetary figures to the percentages. Mr. Kirsten commented in 2008 we were paying \$40,489 – 2009 we were paying \$40,000 + change – 2010 we were paying \$37,712 so we have been paying roughly \$40,000 since 2008. Mr. Kirsten commented he was surprised to see that the Township was paying more in 2008 than it did last year.

Mr. Kirsten stated he thought there was an annual Library card verification in place and requested staff to verify this information. Mr. Kirsten commented this would hopefully capture the movement in and out of municipalities.

Mr. Kirsten commented that as far as looking into the formula, one thing he stated from the beginning is that capturing services may be a tough thing to do but you do have to figure that State College Borough residents are using physical Library services more than Halfmoon Township residents. Mr. Kirsten stated he supports the Library and shares concerns about the contributions as it relates to the budget and will continue to support the Library, as long as the formula is fair based upon use. Mr. Kirsten stated he feels this is a proactive step forward in finding if there are areas that aren't necessarily being calculated fairly or equitably among the municipalities.

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Mr. Kirsten commented that Steve Miller commented at the General Forum that when asked these kinds of questions be prepared to get an answer you don't want and it may be once the formula is looked at we may end paying more. Mr. Kirsten commented that he is willing to take that chance.

Mr. Kirsten stated that Ferguson Township paid almost the same or about the same as a non-member so they have not grossly underpaid.

Mr. Stevenson requested Mr. Kirsten forward the figures and any comments along with the rest of the Board to either himself or Mr. Merritt.

Mr. Stevenson requested staff invite Ms. Squire, Schlow Library Representative for Halfmoon Township to serve on the Committee as well.

Mr. Kirsten stated the Board of Supervisors appreciates that Mr. Goedel attends the meetings even though there may be disagreements of where he stands on certain budget items but he spends time and looks at the budget and attends and asks questions. Mr. Kirsten commented that the Board respects the amount of time that he puts in and the attention that is paid to the budget because it is extremely important to have that kind of engagement from the citizens that the Board represents. Mr. Kirsten commented that he likes nothing better than to hear from the citizens that the Board represents and just wanted to say thank you.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

- ***MOTION: Ms. Del Corso moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.; Ms. Spencer seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***