

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Danelle Del Corso called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m. Other Supervisors present were Bob Strouse, Patti Hartle, David Piper and Chuck Beck. Staff present were Amy Smith, Township Clerk and Brett Laird, Assistant Treasurer. Residents & others in attendance: Ron Servello, Larry Walker & Matt Barr, KBB Realty; Bruce & Jon Crocefoglia; Pam Adams, Centre Region COG; Brandi Robinson, Ferguson Twp. Climate Action Committee and Brent Armstrong.

2. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Mr. Servello stated he had concerns regarding the January 7th Auditor meeting where a mistake was made appointing a Chair and a Vice-Chair instead of a Chair and Secretary, which is required by Second Class Township Code. Mr. Servello stated he was disappointed and angry and felt this raised suspicion by the Township. Ms. Del Corso stated it was an innocent oversight and that nothing was done in dishonesty. Ms. Del Corso informed Mr. Servello with the addition of their new third member, the Auditors need to meet and appoint a Chair and Secretary. Mr. Servello stated he felt someone should be held responsible for the mistake. Mr. Strouse informed Mr. Servello it could go back decades. Mr. Servello again stated whomever made the mistake should be reprimanded. Ms. Del Corso re-stated with the addition of their new third member, the Auditors need to meet and appoint a Chair and Secretary and choose where to go from there.

Mr. Servello questioned when the new meeting would be. Ms. Smith stated she was waiting for a response from the Auditors of their availability. Mr. Servello stated he had a new email and would give it to Ms. Smith following the meeting.

3. **MINUTES**

- ***MOTION: Mr. Strouse moved to approve the minutes for February 13, 2020; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***

4. **ARMSTRONG WAIVER FOR VACANT LOT ON TOW HILL ROAD**

Ms. Del Corso stated she hoped the Board had read and was familiar with the waiver request. Ms. Del Corso read the following statement per the solicitor's memo:

"This Board in the past has granted waivers to allow access onto Tow Hill Road despite the excessive length of the cul-de-sac and the fact that there are already more than 16 lots on that street. The Board has based such waivers on the fact that the Township approved the subdivision that created the lots along that long cul-de-sac, reasoning that to hold otherwise now would deny the owner of such lots the reasonable access and use of their property. However, the Board has not in the past granted a waiver from the requirement that a new dwelling be fitted with an automatic sprinkler system where it is more than 750 feet away from Smith Road."

Ms. Del Corso stated the Board could approve the waiver in full or approve the waiver with conditions for fire suppression by any of the following means: sprinkler system, cistern or hydrant.

Ms. Del Corso asked Mr. Armstrong to please step to the podium and state any concerns or comments he had regarding the waiver. Mr. Armstrong stated he submitted the waiver a year ago and measured the hydrant to his property at roughly 760 feet. Mr. Armstrong stated his friend who is also his adjacent neighbor paid to have the water line extended and the decision was made then that the existing hydrant was sufficient. Mr. Armstrong stated there was an error in the Stover memo regarding the plot book not matching the deed. Ms. Del Corso requested staff look into the neighbor's information.

Mr. Piper stated he actually wrote the original ordinance and it was never intended to block existing lots from building because under Pennsylvania regulations once a lot is created an ordinance change cannot prohibit it from being built upon. Mr. Piper also stated he believes the fire regulations need to be looked into and possibly abolished because they were added in the past when Pennsylvania was looking into a state wide fire mandate that was never followed through. Mr. Piper continued he believed if he purchased a house, it should be his house, therefore he was in favor of approving the waiver in full without any conditions.

Secretary

Mr. Strouse questioned Mr. Armstrong if he understood that the extended length between the hydrant and his potential home would lead to a higher risk of his house not being saved. Mr. Armstrong confirmed he did understand the risk.

- **MOTION: Mr. Piper moved to approve the Armstrong waiver in full with no fire regulations included; Mr. Strouse seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.**

5. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS PRESENTATION – PRESENTED BY PAM ADAMS

Ms. Adams presented and reviewed a power point. Ms. Adams stated there have been observed regional changes due to Greenhouse Gas Emission; a 71% in extreme rain events since 1898 in State College, PennDot is spending 125.7 million extra dollars for flood and landslide infrastructure replacement in 2018 alone and farmers are experiencing crop damage. Ms. Adams commented that lime disease cases have tripled in the past 10 years and in 2018 there were 130 cases in Pennsylvania. Ms. Adams stated there have been observed extreme weather changes and it has doubled from 2004 to 2012. Ms. Adams commented that the objective is to identify pragmatic, fiscally responsible actions for local municipalities to consider in order to mitigate the region's contribution to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to changing climate conditions. Ms. Adams reviewed the climate action and adaption plan process. Ms. Adams stated the following are how GHG emissions are measured: use of electricity by the community, use of fuel in residential and commercial stationary combustion equipment, on-road passenger and freight motor vehicle travel, use of energy in potable water and wastewater treatment and distribution, generation of solid waste and agriculture – animal management and fertilizer use. Ms. Adams reported that there was a total of 815,107 MT CO₂e in 2016 emission which consisted of the following: 35 % residential energy; 33% commercial energy; 20% transportation & mobile sources; 5% solid waste; 5% agriculture and 2% water & wastewater. Ms. Adams explained that 815,107 MT CO₂e means that is 2,022,598,015 miles driven by an average passenger vehicle; 0.209 in coal-fired power plants in one year and 1,064,492 acres of U.S. forest in one year. Ms. Adams stated there was a decrease in residential emissions from 2006 to 2016.

Ms. Del Corso questioned if Halfmoon Township's role would be primarily in residential energy emissions. Ms. Adams stated that yes, Halfmoon's concern would primarily be residential.

Mr. Strouse questioned if the all the CATA bus fleet ran on natural gas. Ms. Adams stated that indeed all CATA buses ran on natural gas. Mr. Strouse added he believed that would be a significant cost savings. Ms. Adams stated that indeed it was a very good savings. Mr. Strouse questioned if Ms. Adams was aware of any farm equipment companies currently looking into the use of natural gas for their equipment in hopes to make equipment costs cheaper for the farmer. Ms. Adams stated she was unaware of anything at this time.

Ms. Adams stated this is a PA State initiative and the goal is to reduce GHG emission from 2005 by 26% by 2025 and 80% by 2050. Ms. Adams stated three Centre Region municipalities have passed resolutions. Ms. Adams stated the recommended GHG emissions reduction targets are the following: 45% reduction by 2030 based on 2010 levels, 80% reduction by 2050 based on 2010 levels and offset the remaining 20% of GHG emissions in 2050 with carbon offset projects to be carbon neutral in 2020. Ms. Adams explained there are residential programs, commercial programs and municipal projects to help reduce energy usage. Ms. Adams provided a map of the surrounding states that are Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Ms. Adams commented they would like the municipalities to promote public transportation and electric vehicle powering stations. Ms. Adams stated they hope to a 47% reduction of GHG Emissions by 2030 from 2010. Ms. Adams provided a timeline for a Climate Action and Adaption Plan.

Ms. Del Corso stated the information would be given to the newly hired manager, Denise Gembusia, to add to the Board's future strategic planning sessions, even if it was a 100% education route the Township chooses to take. Mr. Piper added the Board could talk about it but he personally was not buying it.

Ms. Adams stated there would be further discussion at the Public Services & Environmental Committee in April.

- **MOTION: Mr. Piper moved to approve Resolution 2020-08; FY 2020 Township Fee Schedule; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.**

6. RIFF RAFF DAYS

Secretary

Ms. Del Corso stated that the Board needed to approve Riff Raff dates and times which were schedule as such: Friday, May 15th from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. & Saturday, May 16th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Ms. Hartle questioned if Habitat for Humanity would be attending this year. Ms. Smith stated she was awaiting the official dates before reaching out to anyone but Good Will had already been in contact with her and showed interest in attending.

- **MOTION: Mr. Strouse moved to approve the dates and times for Riff Raff; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.**

7. PARKS & RECREATION REGIONAL PLAN COMMENTS

Ms. Del Corso stated Halfmoon Township is making comments on the Parks & Recreation Regional Plan because we helped pay for the study to come up with a Regional Park plan. Ms. Del Corso commented that although Halfmoon Township does not participate in the Parks Program we still contributed because our citizens do use regional parks and we may be able to use some of the information in planning for Municipal Park. Mr. Strouse commented that the plan was well done and he had no objections and found the plan to be a good resource. Ms. Hartle agreed with Mr. Strouse. There were no further comments.

8. LINE PAINTING CONTRACT

Ms. Del Corso stated that the line painting contract bid had recently came in \$228.09 over the budgeted amount of \$4,000.00. Ms. Del Corso informed the Board they had to make the decision to go \$228.09 over budget or eliminate the cross-walk painting and save \$211.50. Mr. Piper commented he was not for eliminating the cross-walks as they were for safety. Mr. Strouse added he was also for not eliminating the cross-walks but questioned where the extra money would come from. Mr. Laird stated that the extra money would come from the unencumbered account for future projects.

- **MOTION: Mr. Strouse moved to approve the line painting contract of \$4,228.09; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.**

9. APPOINTMENT TO CENTRE REGION BUILDING AND HOUSING BOARD OF APPEALS

Ms. Del Corso stated the General Forum forwarded the nomination of re-appointment of Ryan Solnosky, Ph. D., P.E. to the Centre Region Building and Housing Board of Appeals for a three-year term. Mr. Piper questioned the background of Mr. Solnosky, and stated it would have helped him be able to make a decision. Mr. Strouse stated Mr. Solnosky was a “known entity” seeking re-appointment. Ms. Del Corso reminded Mr. Piper he could have researched him prior to the meeting, if he had questions. Mr. Piper stated it was not his burden of proof to find out information about the appointee and that Centre Region should have submitted a brief biography on Mr. Solnosky. Mr. Piper continued until he knew anything about Mr. Solnosky, he would vote nay. Mr. Beck concurred with Mr. Piper sentiments and also stated he would be voting nay.

- **MOTION: Mr. Strouse moved to appoint Ryan Solnosky to the Centre Region Building and Housing Board of Appeals for a three-year term; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 3-2-0; Mr. Strouse, yea; Ms. Del Corso, yea; Ms. Hartle, yea; Mr. Piper, nay; Mr. Beck, nay; No abstentions; Motion Carried.**

10. MANAGER REPORT

Ms. Del Corso stated that the quote came in at \$1,800.00 for the Assistant Treasurer bond and a quote would shortly follow for the Treasurer, once she officially started. Ms. Del Corso reminded the Board the increase in fee was due to the needed increase in bond amounts for both positions.

Ms. Del Corso reported staff was currently looking into shredding costs and will report at a later date.

Ms. Del Corso provided information about the upcoming 2020 Census and stressed its importance. Mr. Strouse added that 2020 Census figures will have an incredible impact on funding for Halfmoon Township in the future. Ms. Del Corso stated that Ms. Gembusia will take this task on to promote it on social media.

11. NEW BUSINESS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There was no new business not on the agenda.

12. SUPERVISORS' REPORT

Executive Committee – Ms. Del Corso stated she attended the Executive Committee and they interviewed the final three candidates for the Executive Director position and the Committee made an offer to one of the three candidates which was accepted. Ms. Del Corso also informed the other members there possible will be a special General Forum meeting to speed along final hiring stages to have the new candidate begin before the retirement of Jim Steff in April. Mr. Piper questioned if the candidate was in-house. Ms. Del Corso stated the candidate was not in house.

Citizen Engagement Committee – Ms. Del Corso reported that Linda Franchock had recently completed a Facebook poll as to the interests of the Halfmoon Township citizens and it focused on three main categories: Food (Farmer's Markets), Arts & Crafts & Movement (ex. Yoga, hiking, walking, etc.) Ms. Del Corso stated that the project would be handed over to the newly hired manager, Ms. Gembusia, who is starting on March 2nd, Ms. Gembusia's goal will be to engage citizens and look for volunteers. Mr. Strouse questioned if this Committee will eventually lead to another Board being created. Ms. Del Corso stated she did not believe another Board would develop from this and considered the Committee brainstorming meetings complete and everyone would rent the building at the prices set by the fee schedule. Mr. Piper thanked Ms. Franchock for her service. The Board congratulated Ms. Franchock on a job well done.

Mr. Strouse reported he did not attend any meetings.

Ms. Hartle reported she did not attend any meetings.

Mr. Piper reported he did not attend any meetings. Mr. Piper stated he would like to have a future discussion on the greenhouse gas emissions presentation before the Board goes too far. Ms. Del Corso reminded Mr. Piper that the Municipalities are a small role in the state of Pennsylvania's efforts to lower greenhouse gases. Mr. Piper stated he was not against conserving energy but did not want to be entertained by ideas and did not want a regional ordinance to cross the desk of the Board regulating what citizens can do in their homes. Ms. Del Corso reminded Mr. Piper that the idea of passing an ordinance or not was strictly up to the Board, they did not have to pass an ordinance, it could be primarily educational. Mr. Strouse added he personally feels that he has a responsibility to his children and the future to leave the environment better than how he found it or at least no worse off. Mr. Piper again stated he would just like to talk about it further before anything else is decided. Ms. Del Corso stated she earlier had added it to the agenda items for the Board's future strategic planning meeting.

Mr. Beck had nothing to report.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.