

**HALFMOON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 23RD, 2023
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1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair David Piper called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. (present at Community Center). Other Supervisors present were Rose Ann Hoover (present at Community Center) and Patti Hartle (present at Community Center). Staff present were Amy Smith, Township Secretary (present at Community Center) and Chuck Beck, Public Works Lead (present at Community Center).

Absent: Supervisor Beck & Supervisor Servello

Residents & others in attendance (In-person): Jim Smith; Wayne & Lenore Foster; Jim Saylor, Centre Region Principal Transportation Planner; Anne Messner, Centre Region Senior Transportation Planner; Dr. Cliff Neal; Donnan Stoicovy; Scott Rawson, Centre Life Link Director; Donna Hughes; David Crow; Karen Miller; Becky Brooks; Tammy Perkins; David Allgeier and Sharon Rovanseck.

Residents & other in attendance (Zoom): Reed Moyer; Susan Person; Cheryl Barr; Bruce Helms; Jeff Pogue; Connie Jones; Virginia Squier; Hyeseon Kim.

2. OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

More information is available on the website: www.halfmoontwp.us.

- This evening's meeting is being LIVE recorded on C-NET's YouTube channel.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Foster stated he was dismayed that there was no Port Matilda EMS (PMEMS) update on the agenda. Mr. Foster stated he attended the Port Matilda EMS board meeting on February 16, 2023 and provided an overview of that meeting.

Ms. Miller read a statement that addressed her concerns with the lack of an immediate response from the board to fund the PMEMS with the budgeted monies and ARPA funds. Ms. Miller also recognized the volunteers who are stepping up to help the PMEMS.

Dr. Neal stated that voluntary funds will not support the PMEMS and clarified that Centre Life Link has no intention of putting an ambulance here. Dr. Neal commented that if the ambulance did come out, the cost would be high. Dr. Neal stated that if the PMEMS closes then there would have to be some type of mutual aid fee in place. Dr. Neal commented that 38% of the PMEMS calls are being covered by Centre Life Link. Dr. Neal stated there are other EMS providers that are failing due to voluntary membership funding, and some will stop assisting other areas around them. Dr. Neal shared that in the Pittsburgh area a coalition was formed, and fees are collected from residents and businesses to fund the EMS provider.

Ms. Foster read a statement that also encouraged the board to use ARPA funds to financially help both the Port Matilda EMS and Port Matilda Fire Company. Ms. Foster added that the PMEMS should be a higher priority than the roads. Ms. Foster also recognized the volunteers who have stepped up to help the PMEMS.

Ms. Hughes stated that she proposes that the UBEH COG Subcommittee should include one citizen member from each member municipality. Ms. Hughes reviewed the ARPA funds each municipality received within the UBEH COG and stated to meet the \$135,435 shortfall for the PMEMS that each municipality needs to give 20% of their ARPA funds. Ms. Hughes stated the municipalities should also give 20% of their ARPA funds to the Port Matilda Fire Company to go towards the purchase of a new rescue engine. Ms. Hughes commented that the municipalities could provide 40% of their ARPA funds towards the new rescue engine and still have 40% of the ARPA funds for roads.

Mr. Crow commented he also would like to see the board use ARPA funds to help the Port Matilda EMS & Port Matilda Fire Company because they are in a unique opportunity to help. Mr. Crow added that the Fire Company will be impacted if there is no Emergency Medical Service (EMS). Mr. Crow commented that all Fire Company members are volunteers and there are no Halfmoon Township residents that are fire fighters so as a community we should help and not just by funding but by supporting.

Mr. Rawson stated Centre Life Links personnel and crew are being stretched and they are hoping the Port Matilda EMS can stay in service. Mr. Rawson commented they lend an ambulance to the PMEMS if they have one go down.

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Mr. Piper commented that he did not want people to think the board is not concerned but there is a lack of trained EMS personnel and questioned whether Mr. Rawson had any ideas on how to get EMT staff without poaching from other local EMS providers. Mr. Rawson stated there are three training opportunities to try to get more EMT's trained.

Dr. Neal added there is also a Venture & Explorer Program that can get interest from young ages but there needs to be a long-term solution.

Mr. Piper stated he would like to try to come at this from all directions but would like to discuss this further with a full board.

Mr. Rawson commented that training could be conducted in the township.

Ms. Perkins questioned when citizens would get an official update on the PMEMS funding status.

Mr. Piper stated he does not have the details of the committee and Mr. Servello was not able to attend the meeting this evening but did talk to a Solicitor regarding the ARPA funds and without more information is not willing to cut any monies loose.

Ms. Perkins questioned whether the board was in favor of using ARPA funds. Mr. Piper stated he was in favor of spending some of it. Ms. Hartle stated she was in favor of using ARPA funds. Ms. Hoover stated the committee is still in discussions and she has been attending all the meetings on the other side of the mountain and she is hearing different things.

Dr. Neal commented that a portion of people are not going to send in their membership because they think the EMS is going to fold and it is difficult to recruit when they do not know whether they are going to fold, and they will need a transfusion of money to make it work.

Mr. Piper stated neither the PMEMS or PMFC is going to go down and added that even if funds are covered by taxes, it does not mean they are going to get staff.

Ms. Hughes commented that Ms. Hoover would not vote to give the PMEMS their budgeted money.

Ms. Hoover stated they should have about \$100,000 right now and she trusts that the committee will come together and come up with some ideas.

Ms. Stoicovy read a statement requesting that the board provide ARPA funding to both the PMEMS and PMFC to help keep the PMEMS in operations and to help the PMFC purchase a new (used) rescue engine.

Mr. Piper stated he had concerns that the new (used) rescue engine was not properly inspected and did not want to run into the same situation that the PMFC currently has with the rescue truck that has not been paid off yet.

Ms. Hughes commented that it why the board should provide more money so they can purchase a good rescue engine.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- **MOTION:** Ms. Hartle moved to approve the agenda; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 3-0-0; Motion Carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. December 8, 2022 - Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes (Amended)
- b. January 26, 2023 – Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

- **MOTION:** Ms. Hartle moved to approve the amended regular meeting minutes for the December 8, 2022 and regular meeting minutes for January 26, 2023; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 3-0-0; Motion Carried.

6. SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT PLANS OR CONDITIONAL USES AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**a. *Public Hearing*** – Planning Commission Ordinance

Mr. Piper opened the public hearing at 7:57 p.m. Mr. Piper provided an explanation that this Ordinance will change the number of members from a sliding scale of 5-7 members to a 5-member board with two alternates to meet the MPC requirements. There were no comments. Mr. Piper closed the public hearing at 8:02 p.m.

- ***MOTION: Ms. Hoover moved to approve Ordinance 2023-01; An Ordinance of Halfmoon Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania, amending Chapter 48 of the Code of the Township of Halfmoon establishing the number of Planning Commission members for Halfmoon Township in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC); Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 3-0-0; Motion Carried.***

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve payment of the Bills List for the period of 01/14/2023 to 02/03/2023 from the following funds:
 - i. General Fund in the amount of \$76,501.58
 - ii. Open Space Preservation Fund in the amount of \$1,624.30
 - b. Approve payment of the Bills List for the period of 02/04/2023 to 02/17/2023 from the following funds:
 - i. General Fund in the amount of \$8,405.09
 - c. Acceptance of 2022 Disclosure Statement as required by Chapter 7-A of Act 44 of 2009, the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act
 - d. Appoint Donnan Stoicovy to the Centre Region Climate Action & Sustainability Committee
- ***MOTION: Ms. Hartle moved to approve the consent agenda; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 3-0-0; Motion Carried.***

8. CCMPO ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND LRTP UPDATE

Ms. Messner & Mr. Saylor reviewed a power point that discussed the responsibilities of the Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) and the Active Transportation Plan & Long-Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Saylor commented that the CCMPO identifies the issues and needs for the Long-Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Saylor stated he and Ms. Messner met with staff and two board members to identify issues within Halfmoon Township. Mr. Saylor commented that the issues identified included drainage and maintenance along the rights-of-way and property lines along SR 550. Mr. Saylor questioned whether the board had any other road or corridor concerns either along SR 550 or township roads.

Lack of bike paths and shoulders along SR 550 were identified as a concern as well as concerns with road widths along Smith Road, Marengo Road and Loveville Road. Mr. Beck stated he has a meeting with the district 2 PennDOT Representative to discuss the widening of Smith Road. Mr. Piper addressed rights-of-way and eminent domain. Mr. Saylor requested that he or Ms. Messner be contacted if there were any questions or if anyone wanted to provide more suggestions.

9. RESOLUTION 2023-11 – SUPPORT TO AMEND THE PENNSYLVANIA QUALITY HEALTH CARE ACCOUNTABILITY AND PROTECTION ACT

Mr. Piper read a statement from the Resolution that recaps the purpose of this Resolution. Mr. Piper read the following: The Halfmoon Township Board of Supervisors, of Centre County, Pennsylvania hereby formally and wholeheartedly urges its Pennsylvania State Representatives, Senators, and all other State Legislators to amend the Pennsylvania Quality Health Care Accountability and Protection Act to authorize emergency medical service providers to seek and receive reimbursement for medical services provided to patients directly from the patient's insurance company or managed care plan.

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- **MOTION:** *Ms. Hartle moved to approve Resolution 2023-11; A Resolution supporting the amendment to the Pennsylvania Quality Health Care Accountability and Protection Act; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 3-0-0; Motion Carried.*

10. CLEARWATER CONSERVANCY WATERSHED CLEANUP DAY

Ms. Stoicovy requested that the roadcrew or board members provide any areas within the township that need cleaned up for the 27th annual Watershed Cleanup event. Ms. Stoicovy stated Ms. Vallejera will lead Ms. Gina Motter and Ms. Lenore Foster, who will rally people to cleanup these designated areas. Ms. Stoicovy commented that anyone who knows of an area or would like to help with the cleanup can contact Ms. Smith and she can forward the information to Ms. Vallejera.

11. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

a. 2019 Western Star Truck Payoff

- **MOTION:** *Ms. Hoover moved to approve the 2019 Western Star Truck payoff; Mr. Piper seconded; Vote 3-0-0; Motion Carried.*

b. Possible Owl 3 Purchase

Ms. Hartle stated she would like to purchase this item so it can be used when C-NET is not present to make it a better experience for anyone who attends remotely. Ms. Hartle explained that anyone who attends remotely can only hear participants by Ms. Smith's computer microphone and can not see the participants. Ms. Hartle stated that the extra computer can be used to hook into the owl for meetings. Ms. Hoover stated she thought this purchase was budgeted only if C-NET was going to be no longer used. Ms. Hartle commented that the intent was to use it for other meetings where C-NET is not present.

- **MOTION:** *Ms. Hartle moved to purchase the Owl 3 to improve meeting quality; Mr. Piper seconded; Vote 3-0-0; Motion Carried.*

c. Lawn Mowing Job Description

Mr. Beck stated this position would be more of a park maintenance position if the roadcrew was busy doing road maintenance. Mr. Beck added the person who fills this position should be flexible. Mr. Beck stated Mr. Laird ran some numbers and out of the seasonal public works budget figured that this could be a \$12.00 an hour position for 480 hours that equates to about 16 hours a week. Mr. Beck stated staff is requesting that this position be advertised and that he will interview the applicants along with two Supervisors.

- **MOTION:** *Ms. Hoover moved to direct staff to advertise for this position; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 3-0-0; Motion Carried.*

12. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The department reports were provided.

Ms. Rovansek read a report provided by Hyeseon Kim. Ms. Kim attended the Centre Region Parks & Recreation Special Governance Committee and reported that the Centre Region Parks & Recreation Director has left the position. Ms. Kim reported that after the organization meeting, they discussed options for the meeting and the possibility to have a meeting facilitator and continued work with the committee members. Ms. Rovansek will verify if Ms. Kim will be leaving this appointed position.

13. SUPERVISORS' REPORTS

Centre Region Facilities Committee - Ms. Hartle stated there was discussion on the Solar Power Purchase Agreement (SPPA) and the recommendation was that 75% of the COG facilities electricity demand be considered for the SPPA. Ms. Hartle commented that the board will need to discuss the percentage recommendation for the township at the March 9th meeting.

CCMPO Technical Committee – Ms. Hoover stated they discussed safety maintenance with PennDOT and CATA safety projects.

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Centre Region LUCI Committee – Ms. Hoover stated they discussed the Calder Way and Atherton Street sewer main replacement.

Centre Region HR Committee – Ms. Hoover reported this meeting was cancelled.

Centre Region Public Safety Committee – Ms. Hoover stated they discussed moving positions around in the Alpha Fire Company.

14. GOOD & WELFARE

There was nothing reported.

15. DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Ms. Squier thanked the board for having this as a dedicated agenda item and added that it means the board is open to considering the best ways to meet the needs of all the citizens in Halfmoon Township. Ms. Squier stated that one aspect is recognizing the needs is that 20% of the citizens are either retired or close to retirement age and with aging our citizens will experience more issues with mobility and health emergencies. Ms. Squier commented that supporting the PMEMS is part of DEI by ensuring that all citizens have access to important resources and allows them the ability to continue to live in the township as they age. Ms. Squier stated that on-going support of C-NET is a part of DEI as it allows them to attend the meeting virtually and express their opinions. Ms. Squier thanked the board and urged them to continue to support the PMEMS and PMFC services.

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

- **MOTION:** Ms. Hoover moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 3-0-0; Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy M. Smith,
Township Secretary

