

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); Patti Hartle (present at Community Center); Ron Servello (present at Community Center) and Chuck Beck (present at Community Center). Staff present were Amy Smith, Township Secretary (present at Community Center); Brett Laird, Township Treasurer (present at Community Center) and Chuck Beck, Public Works Lead (present at Community Center).

Residents & others in attendance (In-person): Jim Smith; Wayne & Lenore Foster; Donnan Stoicovy; Donna Hughes; David Crow; Karen Miller; Becky Brooks; Tammy Perkins; Sharon Rovanseck; Brian Zorger, State College Little League; Jeff Pogue; Dan Hughes; Andy Merritt; John Devlin and Maureen Devlin.

Residents & others in attendance (Zoom): Reed Moyer; Susan Person; Cheryl Barr; Bruce Helms; Virginia Squier; Hyeseon Kim; Herbert Motter; Dave Allegier; and Connie Jones.

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

Ms. Hughes read a letter regarding the impact that the development proposed by Half Moon Acres LLC could potentially have on the adjacent historic Gray's Cemetery.

Mr. Foster stated he appreciates that Halfmoon Township provides linked documentation for agenda items and does not feel that the same awareness is promoted by the members of the UBEH COG. Mr. Foster commented that there was an EMS committee meeting held that was not open to the public and questioned whether future meetings would be open to the public. Mr. Foster added that it is important to keep the citizens engaged.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Piper stated he would like to amend the agenda to move State College Little League up as the next agenda item.

- **MOTION:** Ms. Hartle moved to amend the agenda and move State College Little League to the next agenda item; Mr. Beck seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.

5. STATE COLLEGE LITTLE LEAGUE

Mr. Zorger provided a power point presentation to the board and discussed field needs for Little League. Mr. Piper requested Mr. Zorger identify what expertise the SCLL can provide and what the required field standards are for Little League and come back to the board for further dialogue and see if there can be a compromise on an agreement.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 23, 2023- Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
- February 27, 2023 – Special Meeting Minutes

- **MOTION:** Mr. Servello moved to approve the meeting minutes for February 23, 2023 and special meeting minutes for February 27, 2023; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- Approve payment of the Bills List for the period of 02/18/2023 to 03/03/2023 from the following funds:
 - General Fund in the amount of \$51,793.81
- Riff Raff Days – Friday, May 19th 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. & Saturday, May 20th 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Centre Region Code Board of Appeals – Reappointments
Jonathan P. Peno, PE (Three-year term, April 1, 2023 – March 30, 2026)
J. Michael Leakey, R.A. (Three-year term, April 1, 2023 – March 30, 2026)

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to approve the consent agenda; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*

8. PORT MATILDA EMS UPDATE

Mr. Servello stated the \$150,000 grant was completed and is awaiting approval & release of the funds.

Mr. Servello commented that the Upper Bald Eagle Halfmoon COG (UBEH COG) EMS Committee discussed EMS issues, but no decisions were made. Mr. Servello stated they discussed the distribution of funding and the need to understand funding requirements and funding sources. Mr. Servello stated he has a personal concern about where some of the mailings went and the nature and quality of the mailing list. Mr. Servello added it may help if the memberships were getting to the proper households in the service area. Mr. Servello stated the UBEH COG EMS Committee will be putting together a funding formula, but it should not be based on 100% taxation.

Mr. Servello commented that the PMEMS is establishing a new Board of Directors.

Mr. Servello stated he attended an EMS Legislative breakfast with Ms. Hoover and Ms. Hartle and funding issues were discussed and noted that it was interesting to see the different funding models. Mr. Servello commented that Medicaid and Medicare do not update insurance reimbursements and there is a disconnect between the patient and service provider.

Ms. Hartle commented that Medicare has been denying more claims than past practices. Ms. Hartle stated that there are more municipalities and regions coming together to fund emergency services.

Mr. Servello stated he provided a weighted funding model to the UBEH COG for consideration and compromise.

Mr. Merritt requested the board set a guaranteed levy for the PMFC and added that volunteers should not have to fundraise to stay in business. Mr. Merritt requested the board put a 2-mil tax in place for the PMFC and a .5 mil tax for the PMEMS.

Mr. Pogue stated he got involved in the PMEMS to help and agrees that tax rolls should be used as a source of membership drives and there needs to be improvements made with the insurance companies and service providers. Mr. Pogue commented that he will update the 2023 budget numbers and a 2024 budget will be prepared and provided. Mr. Pogue stated there are some volunteers working on grants, updating the mailing lists and insurance reimbursements.

Ms. Hughes questioned what the weighted funding model was based on and who has to compromise. Mr. Servello stated the weighted model was based on age, population, household, and poverty per the 2020 census. Mr. Laird stated this is just one example of a possible model to be considered. Mr. Servello added that the municipalities need to compromise on the distribution to get to a level that is affordable for all five municipalities. Ms. Hughes stated she would like to see Halfmoon Township take a leadership role.

Mr. Devlin shared his concern that the PMEMS is not properly funded and of the outcome if the PMEMS would close.

Ms. Devlin emergency services is not a luxury and is not the same as fixing roads and suggested the number of calls to each municipality should be taken into consideration on the funding formula.

Ms. Rovanseck shared that she has a severe peanut allergy so she has concerns that the PMEMS may fold and questioned whether there was a guarantee that it won't fold.

Mr. Servello stated there is no guarantee for anything. Mr. Servello commented that the UBEH COG can't fix the staffing issues because the PMEMS needs to have people interested in working for them.

Ms. Miller questioned whether the board has discussed what they are going to do if there is no compromise with the UBEH COG.

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Mr. Servello commented that it is in the best interest for everyone involved to work out a compromise and would be cost prohibited not to work something out.

Ms. Hartle stated the funding formula would be set for the 2024 budget so the compromise will be made by September/October of this year.

Mr. Servello stated between the \$87,000 in membership funds, municipal funds, and the earmarked grant funds the PMEMS is looking at approximately \$295,000 for 2023 which is almost the funding Mr. Bonsell stated they would need at full staff. Mr. Servello commented that the board never saw an itemized budget.

Mr. Servello stated when the grant funds are received it will come with guidelines on how the fund can be spent.

Ms. Foster commented that everyone is putting a lot of faith in six trainees who can't run without a qualified EMT. Ms. Foster thanked Ms. Harter for sharing the invitation from Senator Langerholc regarding grants. Ms. Foster stated that the PMFC has to come up with money to hire someone to write grants and Halfmoon Township should have a staff member to help the PMEMS and PMFC write grants.

Ms. Hughes questioned why the board is reluctant to use ARPA funds. Mr. Piper stated that if the ARPA funds are used then there is no reserve cash at the end of the year should it be needed. Mr. Servello commented that a permanent solution needs to be determined and spending one time money on a problem is not the solution. The solution needs to have long term viability for the PMEMS. Mr. Servello stated the board has a responsibility to the citizens and this will be taken care of and funds will have to be provided no matter where they come from and there are a lot of things to consider.

Ms. Squier commented that one way to guarantee that they will be funded is to reimplement the tax. Ms. Squier added that this is not a huge burden on taxpayers.

Mr. Crow stated that the board is not funding the PMEMS and is paying \$12,000 - \$14,000 a year and we should be paying four times as much. Mr. Crow added that the PMFC is not having issues, but they have a fire truck that failed. Mr. Crow stated the PMFC is not equipped to make a \$400,000 truck purchase. Mr. Crow questioned why the UBEH COG would make them get a loan at 5.5% interest and questioned what constitutes as an emergency.

Mr. Servello stated the PMFC is not paying the loan, the municipalities are paying the loan. Mr. Servello added that the fire tax was not removed, and funding is still provided to the PMFC through the general fund account.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Appoint Chuck Beck as a working Supervisor at a rate of \$16.00 an hour as set by the Elected Auditors at their January 4, 2023, organization meeting.
 - **MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to appoint Mr. Beck as a working Supervisor at a rate of \$16.00 an hour as set by the Elected Auditors on January 4, 2023; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 4-0-1; Mr. Piper, yea; Mr. Servello, yea; Ms. Hartle, yea; Ms. Hoover, yea; No Nays; Mr. Beck abstains; Motion Carried.**

10. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

- a. Port Matilda EMT Training Funding

Mr. Servello stated there were two private individuals who have offered and agreed to fund two training sessions. Mr. Servello added that Worth Township, Huston Township, and the Port Matilda Borough agreed to fund three training sessions. Mr. Servello requested the board consider funding the sixth training session.

 - **MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to fund one EMT training session; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.**
- b. Centre Region COG 2024 Budget Priorities

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Mr. Piper requested that the board provide their comments to Ms. Smith to forward to Mr. Norenberg.

c. Solar Power Purchase Agreement

Ms. Hartle stated that the kwh usage rates are low compared to the others in the group. Ms. Hartle added that while we would save some money, it would not warrant the effort from a financial perspective and suggested that Halfmoon Township withdraw from the group.

Ms. Servello stated he is concerned about a fifteen-year contract that is based on projections. Mr. Servello questioned how you project cost savings when you don't understand all the costs. Mr. Servello added there are uncertainties regarding the costs and benefits.

- ***MOTION: Ms. Hartle moved to withdraw from the Solar Purchase Power Agreement Group; Mr. Beck seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***

d. Centre Region COG (CRCOG) Committee meeting proposal

Mr. Servello commented that the Centre Region COG committees meet too frequently and would like to propose that the committees meet bi-monthly or explore consolidating committees.

Ms. Hartle stated this could not be done across the board and suggested that maybe the Centre Region COG could provide longer lead times for information review.

The board agreed that Mr. Servello could approach the CRCOG with his suggestions to take back to the committees for discussion.

e. Validation of Statistics

Mr. Servello commented that he wanted to explain that the Centre Region Planning Agency provided a document regarding Selected Demographic Data for the Centre Region 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates is based on a small survey sample. Mr. Servello added since it is based on a small survey sample the numbers look skewed. Mr. Servello stated this is not a detailed survey to use for planning purposes.

11. QUARTERLY REPORTS

C-NET Report – Ms. Miller stated the 2022 budget came in under budget and the 2023 budget is on track. Ms. Miller reported there were video reviews. These reviews are for Centre County residents to express their opinion about issues facing residents in Centre County. This initiative is called "My Two Cents". Ms. Miller reported that the Windstream cable franchise is discontinued. Ms. Miller stated that the State College Borough and Ferguson Township have a franchise agreement with Shenandoah Telecommunications (Shentel Cable). Ms. Miller commented that Shentel Cable will be approaching Patton Township, College Township and Harris Township to work out a franchise agreement.

Schlow Library – Ms. Rovansek provided usage and return statistics as of January 31, 2023 and 2022 statistics. Ms. Rovansek stated in 2022 there were 92 volunteers which had doubled from 2021 due to COVID. Ms. Rovansek commented that there was a nursing & lactation space added. Ms. Rovansek reviewed some of the services offered, that is a cost savings for patrons. Ms. Rovansek stated some of these services include Flipster (magazines), Canopy (movies), Audible books and Hoopla (movies). Ms. Rovansek stated she would like to attend more than on a quarterly basis. Mr. Piper stated if there was something she needed to report on before the quarterly report she should contact Ms. Smith to be added to the agenda.

12. PARK IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL DISCUSSION

Lead Beck stated he would like to replace the fence that borders a portion of the Municipal parking lot. Lead Beck stated the fence is beyond repair and there are funds in the park fund account that could be used to replace the fence. Lead Beck stated he would like the board to approve spending up to \$2,500 for this replacement.

- ***MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to approve spending up to \$2,500 to replace the fence; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***

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13. SUPERVISORS' REPORTS

Finance Committee – Mr. Servello reported that this committee discussed the Solar Purchase Power Agreement (SPPA) and budget guidelines and timelines.

Executive Committee – Mr. Servello reported there was discussion on the amendment to the Act 537 plan for the Calder Way Special Study, Solar Power Purchase Agreement, and budget prioritization. Mr. Servello stated there was also discussion on the Millbrook Marsh boardwalk feasibility study.

General Forum – Mr. Servello reported there was a discussion on the SPPA and COG budget priorities. Mr. Servello stated there was a unit vote that passed to approve the amendment to the Act 537 Plan for the Calder Way Special Study.

Human Resources – Ms. Hoover reported that Mr. Kauffman presented draft job descriptions for an Equipment/Maintenance Technician and for an Assistant Chief: Special Operations. Ms. Hoover added that there was a consultant hired to do a classification and compensation study.

LUCI Committee – Ms. Hoover reported that the Smith Road and Tow Hill Road drainage projects were mentioned at this meeting.

Facilities Committee – Ms. Hartle reported this meeting was moved to the following week.

Open Space Preservation Board – Ms. Hartle reported this meeting was cancelled.

14. GOOD & WELFARE

Mr. Servello stated he was passed again on Smith Road and is still interested in the consideration of reducing the speed on Smith Road. Mr. Servello commented that he would like to see more police presence.

Ms. Hughes suggested that staff call the state police every couple of months to address speeding issues. Mr. Piper encouraged anyone to call the state police if they witness speeding. Ms. Squier added that speeding is also an issue on Loveville Road. Ms. Perkins stated if you are able to get the license plate number the state police will follow up on the complaint.

15. DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Ms. Squier stated the State College Borough and Ferguson Township passed an anti-discrimination ordinance and if all the Centre Region municipalities passed a similar ordinance it would be the largest in the state. Ms. Squier commented that March is Woman's History month and yesterday was International Women's Day. Ms. Squier stated that Ms. Halie Kines from the Centre Daily Times wrote an article identifying and recognizing the roles women play in Centre County and where we can do better at being more inclusive. Ms. Squier recognized Ms. Smith as the only woman employed by Halfmoon Township.

16. ADJOURNMENT

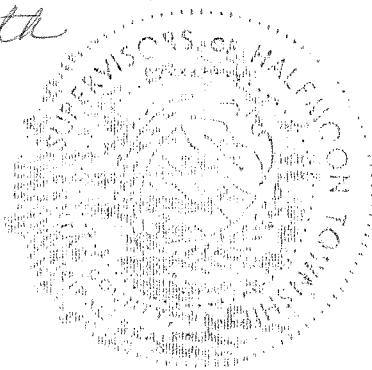
There being no further business before the board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

- **MOTION:** Mr. Servello moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 p.m.; Mr. Beck seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy M. Smith,
Township Secretary



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