

HALFMOON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 24TH, 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); Patti Hartle (present at Community Center); Chuck Beck (present at Community Center) and Ron Servello (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).

Residents & others in attendance (In-person): Lenore & Wayne Foster, Tammy Perkins, Karen Miller & David Allegier.

Residents & others in attendance (Zoom): Brian Hoffman.

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. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 13, 2023; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.**

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items listed on the Consent Agenda portion of the agenda may be approved with a single motion by a member or if a member of the public requests that an item be removed from the Consent Agenda for a question or further discussion.

a. Ratification of the Bills List for the period of 07/08/2023 to 07/21/2023 from the following funds:

- General Fund in the amount of \$17,655.76
- Open Space Preservation Fund in the amount of \$101,221.40

b. Ratification of the Bills List for the period of 07/22/2023 to 08/04/2023 from the following funds:

- General Fund in the amount of \$68,106.54
- Open Space Preservation Fund in the amount of \$668.20

c. Ratification of the Bills List for the period of 08/05/2023 to 08/18/2023 from the following funds:

- General Fund in the amount of \$273,228.90
- State Highway Liquid Fuels Fund in the amount of \$166,756.59

d. Recognize Suicide Prevention Month (September) & September 10th Suicide Prevention & Awareness Day

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

6. **RESOLUTION 2023-21 PERSONNEL POLICY**

- **MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to approve Resolution 2023-21; A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Halfmoon Township, Centre County, PA, adopting Personnel Policies and Regulations; Mr. Beck seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.**

7. **RESOLUTION 2023-22 EMS FUNDING FORMULA UPDATE**

Mr. Foster questioned why the formula is being updated.

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Mr. Piper explained that there were revised numbers from Ferguson Township's coverage area and Taylor Township was assumed at 100% under the old formula so the formula was revised to account for this information.

Mr. Servello stated the formula provides for proper distribution.

Ms. Hartle commented that staff received a map of the actual coverage areas that included information that we had not had available to us before, so the original formula assumed that Port Matilda EMS covered 100% of Halfmoon Township. Ms. Hartle stated in actuality Centre Life Link covers a small portion of the eastern end of Halfmoon Township and Ferguson Township's coverage is larger than originally thought.

Mr. Servello clarified that the Port Matilda EMS Board of Directors stated that they are in contact with Ferguson Township to discuss funding.

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to approve Resolution 2023-22; A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Halfmoon Township, Centre County Pennsylvania, approving a percentage formula for contributing to the Port Matilda EMS for Emergency Medical Services within Halfmoon Township; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*

8. PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE NUISANCE ORDINANCE

Ms. Smith requested that the board direct staff to advertise to hold a public hearing on September 14th, 2023 for the amendments to the Nuisance Ordinance. Ms. Smith stated there were minor amendments to clean up the language and stronger language was added to make the ordinance enforceable. In response to Ms. Hartle, Ms. Smith stated Solicitor Otto revised and amended the Nuisance Ordinance.

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to direct staff to advertise for a public hearing on September 14th, 2023 for the Nuisance Ordinance amendments; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*

9. MUNICIPAL BUILDING ROOF REPLACEMENT PLAN APPROVAL

Public Works Lead Beck reviewed the proposed roof repair estimate and requested that \$10,000 be allotted for the project to cover any extra repairs after the roof material is removed.

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to approve up to \$10,000 for the roof repair and replacement project; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*

10. 2023 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS CHANGE ORDER APPROVAL

Public Works Lead Beck reviewed the overages on the road projects.

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to approve the 2023 road improvement projects change orders; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*

11. FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACTS OR RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Servello stated that the Port Matilda Fire Company (PMFC) contract has expired but it continues until one or the other party ends it. Mr. Servello stated that although the board has not had this discussion, he thinks that most want to end the contract and go with a Resolution using the funding formula. Mr. Servello commented that once a budget has been set and approved the monies that were budgeted are what they get for that year and in essence is a contract for the year. Mr. Servello added that it does not mean that if something was to come up that the board can't allocate additional funding. Mr. Servello stated that the PMFC would have to report how they spent the money that was budgeted to them, and we must keep track of it so if there is an issue it must be addressed, and it is addressed by them coming to tell us and the solution is gained from both the PMFC and all five UBEH COG municipalities.

Mr. Servello stated as is the case with Centre Life Link, Alpha Fire Company also has a coverage area in Halfmoon Township, so consideration needs to be given to them too.

Mr. Servello commented that the formula is based on coverage area and weighting factors.

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Mr. Servello complimented Mr. Laird on his work creating these formulas and is confident that they will work how they are supposed to work.

Mr. Foster questioned whether Halfmoon Township was dictating what other municipalities pay.

Mr. Servello stated that we are not beholding to other governments, we are independent municipalities, and we must determine how much we should be paying, and the other municipalities have the same responsibility.

Mr. Servello responded to Mr. Foster by stating that the formula is based on a percentage of the budget that the board agrees to and approves of and will apply our percentage to it and the other municipalities will have to do the same. Mr. Servello stated the other municipalities will have to determine the amount that they are going to pay based on that formula. Mr. Servello explained that it is not a matter of them getting to spend X amount of dollars and whatever is left is put on Halfmoon Township, we are not going to do that anymore.

Mr. Servello stated this has been discussed at the Upper Bald Eagle Halfmoon COG.

Mr. Servello stated there are three fire companies that have coverage areas within Halfmoon Township, which includes Alpha Fire Company and like Centre Life Link, should be compensated for providing backup coverage.

Ms. Hartle stated that the capital reserves need to be incorporated into the budget so when the board reviews and approves the budget to formulate the budget allocation it is included in the initial budgeted line item.

Mr. Servello commented that other sources of income should also be included such as donations, memberships, insurance reimbursements and fireman's relief.

There was discussion on the purpose of the Fireman's Relief Association, how funds are allocated, who serves on the association, where fireman's relief funds come from, the by-laws and audit findings.

Mr. Piper stated the Port Matilda EMS has eleven employees and the new Board of Directors and operations is doing a fantastic job.

Mr. Foster stated the PMEMS is looking for volunteers to drive the van for non-emergency transport.

- ***MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to approve funding by Resolution using the funding formula for each fire company; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***

12. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

Public Works Lead Beck stated the left turns and cross traffic sign lights at State Route 550 and Ira Lane are inoperable due to a shorted wire and he would like to know whether the board would like it repaired or would like to look at other available control devices. In response to Ms. Perkins, Public Works Lead Beck stated that the township can request signage or control devices but because they are PennDOT roads they provide the approval, but the township is responsible for maintaining those devices. Public Works Lead Beck stated the estimated cost to repair the lights would be \$200-\$300.00.

- ***MOTION: Ms. Hartle moved to direct staff to repair the lights and bring back other options/devices for consideration; Mr. Servello seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***

Public Works Lead Beck reported that the roots of the large pine tree that is located along the fence of the parking lot and park are causing a tripping hazard and there are concerns that the tree may fall due to the roots being so close to the ground surface. Public Works Lead Beck questioned whether the board would like to remove the tree. Public Works Lead Beck stated he is getting estimates for stump removal within the park and can get a quote for this tree removal if the board would like this information. Mr. Piper requested that Public Works Lead Beck get a written estimate to remove the tree.

13. AUTHORITY, BOARD, AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Piper stated that all reports are available online by using the links within the individual meeting agendas.

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14. DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

There was no report.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.; Mr. Beck seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*

Respectfully submitted,



Amy M. Smith,
Township Secretary

