

HALFMOON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 28TH, 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 Brett Laird, Township Treasurer (present at Community Center) and Chuck Beck, Public Works Lead (present at Community Center).

Residents & others in attendance (In-person): Lenore & Wayne Foster, Gina Motter, Mark Lively, Steve Kibe, Cliff Neal, Lorin Nauman, Virginia Squier, Karen Miller, Dan & Donna Hughes & Jim Andrews.

Residents & others in attendance (Zoom): Steve Travis, Connie Jones, Cheryl Barr & Jeff Pogue.

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

Ms. Foster stated the Port Matilda EMS was holding a joint event with Way Fruit Farm on Saturday, September 30th with giveaways and tours. Ms. Foster added the newest fundraiser for the Port Matilda EMS is a Christmas wreath sale and more information would be provided at the joint event.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 24, 2023; Ms. Hartle 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 08/19/2023 to 09/08/2023 from the following funds:
 - i. General Fund in the amount of \$33,618.27
 - b. Approval of the Bills List for the period of 09/09/2023 to 09/22/2023 from the following funds:
 - i. General Fund in the amount of \$12,917.55
- **MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to approve the consent agenda; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.**

6. SPRING CREEK WATERSHED COMMISSION BUDGET

- **MOTION: Ms. Hartle moved to approve the 2024 Spring Creek Watershed Commission Report; Mr. Beck seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.**

7. PORT MATILDA EMS BUDGET

Mr. Kibe & Mr. Neal presented the 2024 Port Matilda EMS budget. Mr. Kibe stated the municipal contribution request was based on a half mil tax rate. Therefore, the EMS is requesting \$42,688.89 from Halfmoon Township.

Mr. Piper questioned if Ferguson Township would be included for funding. Mr. Kibe stated the EMS had plans to attend a Ferguson Township meeting and request a \$5,000.00 donation.

Mr. Piper questioned how operations were going recently. Mr. Neal stated the EMS is currently purchasing a Sprinter style ambulance as well as working with Halfmoon's staff to obtain grant funding for a new wheelchair transport van. Mr. Neal added to date the EMS has 11 part-time employees and 3 volunteers.

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Mr. Piper thanked the PMEMS and commended the new Board of Directors for being able to turn the operations around in a short period of time.

8. ORDINANCE 2023-05 NUISANCE ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Piper opened the public hearing at 7:11 p.m. Mr. Andrews questioned who would be enforcing the nuisance ordinance. Mr. Piper stated that it is possible the Zoning Officer would show up and handle the complaint. Mr. Laird stated that in the current contract the Patton Township Zoning Officer is not the Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Laird added that the Code Enforcement Officer position is currently vacant. Ms. Hughes questioned that given past complaints if there was anything regarding noise or partying issues within the ordinance. Mr. Servello stated he believed there was a section pertaining to noise. Mr. Laird confirmed there was a section regarding noise. Mr. Foster questioned what the enforcement process was, as he was unfamiliar with the ordinance and did not have time to read it. Mr. Laird stated the process begins with a written notice and could eventually lead to recovery of costs via the court systems. Ms. Squier questioned how many different nuisances were defined by the ordinance. Mr. Laird stated there were 12 separate category sections with some subsections. Ms. Hughes questioned if the ordinance was enforceable on farmers. Mr. Piper stated that most farming equipment and other farming circumstances may not be enforceable due to legal limitations. Mr. Piper closed the public hearing at 7:18 p.m.

- ***MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to approve Ordinance 2023-05; An Ordinance of the Township of Halfmoon, Centre County, Pennsylvania, to amend and restate section 154-6 of Chapter 154, nuisances, of the code of the Township of Halfmoon; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***

9. APPOINTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREA (ASA) COMMITTEE

- ***MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to appoint Ms. Hoover to the Agricultural Security Area Committee to serve as Chair; Mr. Piper seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***

10. PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FY 2024 BUDGET MEETING

- ***MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to direct staff to advertise for the 2024 budget meetings; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***

11. RESOLUTION 2023-23 PORT MATILDA FIRE COMPANY FUNDING

- ***MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to approve Resolution 2023-23; A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Halfmoon Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania, approving a percentage formula for contributing to the Port Matilda Fire Company for Fire Protection services within a portion of Halfmoon Township; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***

12. RESOLUTION 2023-24 WARRIORS MARK FIRE COMPANY FUNDING

- ***MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to approve Resolution 2023-24; A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Halfmoon Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania, approving a percentage formula for contributing to the Warriors Mark Fire Company for Fire Protection services within a portion of Halfmoon Township; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***

13. RESOLUTION 2023-25 ALPHA FIRE COMPANY FUNDING

- ***MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to approve Resolution 2023-25; A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Halfmoon Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania, approving a percentage formula for contributing to the Alpha Fire Company for Fire Protection services within a portion of Halfmoon Township; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.***

14. RESOLUTION 2023-26 ROAD MAINTENANCE & REPAIR POLICY

- *MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to approve Resolution 2023-26; A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Halfmoon Township, Centre County, PA, adopting Road Maintenance & Repair Policies and Regulations; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*

15. RESOLUTION 2023-27 BUILDING MAINTENANCE & REPAIR POLICY

- *MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to approve Resolution 2023-27; A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Halfmoon Township, Centre County, PA, adopting Building Maintenance & Repair Policies and Regulations; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*

16. RESOLUTION 2023-28 CONSERVATION LEASE AGREEMENT BURNS 17-4-9 HALFMOON TOWNSHIP

- *MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to approve Resolution 2023-28; A Resolution amending the Conservation Lease Agreement for Marlin D. & Patricia L. Burns; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*

17. RESOLUTION 2023-29 CONSERVATION LEASE AGREEMENT BURNS 17-4-9D HALFMOON TOWNSHIP

- *MOTION: Ms. Hartle moved to approve Resolution 2023-29; A Resolution amending the Conservation Lease Agreement for Marlin D. & Patricia L. Burns; Mr. Servello seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*

18. RESOLUTION 2023-30 CONSERVATION LEASE AGREEMENT WEAVER 17-4-9C HALFMOON TOWNSHIP

- *MOTION: Ms. Hartle moved to approve Resolution 2023-30; A Resolution amending the Conservation Lease Agreement for the Weaver Family Farm; Mr. Beck seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*

19. CENTRE REGION PLANNING AGENCY – LOCAL PLANNING

Mr. Laird stated that Ms. Smith and the regional municipal managers met with Mr. Jim May, Centre Region Planning Agency Director, and Mr. Eric Norenberg, Centre Region Council of Governments Executive Director to discuss the future of the Planning Department. The discussion was primarily due to the departure of Mr. Mark Boeckel and the continuance of hiring issues the Centre Region Planning Agency had been experiencing. Mr. Laird stated based on the meeting it was requested that each municipality that utilizes local planning confer with their board and decide how they want to act in accordance with the situation. Mr. Laird added that in response Patton Township had decided to reduce the percentage and inform the Centre Region COG that they would be withdrawing from local planning services in 2025. Mr. Laird added that Harris Township informally followed suit but did not want to officially act until Mr. Boeckel had time to adjust in his new role as Harris Township Manager. Mr. Laird stated a decision needed to be made tonight on how Halfmoon Township wanted to respond so that information could be passed along to Mr. May and Mr. Norenberg as soon as possible.

Mr. Servello questioned if staff had a recommendation of the amount of time Halfmoon Township would utilize for local planning.

Mr. Laird stated that due to the lack of subdivision plans over the past five years, staff feels 15% of local planning time would be sufficient. This would equate to an average of five hours a week.

- *MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to reduce the local planning percentage from 33% down to 15% and direct staff to provide proper notice of Halfmoon Township's intent to withdraw from the Local Planning Services in 2025; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*

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20. MUNICIPAL PARK TREE REMOVAL QUOTE

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to approve the quote from C.S. Daughenbaugh in the amount of \$2,400.00 to remove the tree from the Municipal Lane parking lot; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*

21. SPONGY MOTH SPRAYING

Mr. Laird stated the office had received some complaints regarding spongy moth activity within the township. Mr. Laird added in response to the complaints staff contacted Centre County to investigate if any plan of action was going to be implemented by the County and were told not at the current time. Mr. Laird requested the board take a formal stance on where they stand, so staff knows what to tell citizens when they call into the office.

Ms. Barr commented that her neighborhood has had a terrible impact by the spongy moth population, rendering it impossible to sit outside in the summertime.

Mr. Piper stated he personally did not see a spongy moth issue and felt perhaps the issue was not township wide but neighborhood specific and would be best handled by the private citizens.

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to not act on the Spongy Moth Spraying at this time and directed staff to stay in contact with Centre County to see if the County changes its stance; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*

22. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

Mr. Laird stated that at their September 27th meeting the Patton Township Board of Supervisors voted not renew the Zoning Officer contract. Therefore, the township would need a new Zoning Officer beginning January 1, 2024. Mr. Laird added staff had contacted JHA Companies for a proposal and will bring any proposals in front of the board at their October 12th meeting.

23. AUTHORITY, BOARD, AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

24. DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Ms. Squier requested the board look and consider adding a website like the website of the Highlands Civic Association as a feature to the existing township website. Ms. Squier added that she would like to be the administrator of the new website and if that is not possible the board could give someone else permission to operate the new website.

Ms. Foster stated that Oct. 9th was Indigenous Peoples Day and pointed out many special events held around the area to support the rich heritage of our original inhabitants.

25. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.; Mr. Beck seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*

Respectfully submitted,



Amy M. Smith,
Township Secretary

