

HALFMOON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 12TH, 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); and Ron Servello (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).

Absent: Chuck Beck

Residents & others in attendance (In-person): Lenore & Wayne Foster, Gina Motter, Mark Lively, PMEMS Board of Directors; Virginia Squier, Karen Miller, John Witherite III, PMFC Chief; Adam Houtz, PMFC; Andy & Chris Merritt, Reed Moyer, Tammy Perkins, Bruce Helms & Barb Fleischer.

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

2. **OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

More information is available on the website: [www.halfmoontwp.us](http://www.halfmoontwp.us).

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

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Merritt thanked Mr. Witherite, Port Matilda Fire Company (PMFC) Chief and the other members of the PMFC and requested the board support the PMFC and PMEMS.

Ms. Squier requested an update on the Resolution and letter that was sent to Pennsylvania State Representatives requesting an amendment of the Pennsylvania Quality Health Care Accountability and Protection Act. Ms. Smith stated that she had not heard from any Representatives except for Senator Casey. Ms. Smith added that there were other Centre County Municipalities that passed the same Resolution and forwarded letters to the Pennsylvania State Representatives.

Mr. Lively, a member of the PMEMS Board of Directors, stated he was in attendance to answer any questions. The board had no questions. Mr. Piper stated the PMEMS Board of Directors have been doing a great job. Mr. Lively commented that the Port Matilda Borough held a special meeting to set their tax rates for 2024 and they are dedicating 1 mil to the Port Matilda EMS and 2 mils to the Port Matilda Fire Company.

Ms. Merritt requested the board fully fund and support the Port Matilda Fire Company.

Mr. Moyer commented that he thought the job descriptions needed improvement and requested that before the board accepts them there should be some changes made to clarify roles. Mr. Moyer expressed concerns over the suggested firm for local planning services.

Ms. Foster stated that until the PMEMS is fully funded, the EMS is successfully fundraising. Ms. Foster added that they have Flamingo Flocking, wreath sales and will be at Stoney Bottom selling raffle tickets and wreaths. Ms. Foster reminded citizens they will be holding the Election Day Soup and Sandwich Sale.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 25, 2023 & September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 4-0-0; 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 09/23/2023 to 10/06/2023 from the following funds:

- i. General Fund in the amount of \$67,805.82
- ii. Open Space Preservation Fund in the amount of \$289.00

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- **MOTION:** *Ms. Hartle moved to approve the consent agenda; Mr. Servello seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.*

**6. PORT MATILDA EMS GRANT RESOLUTION**

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to approve Resolution 2023-31; A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Halfmoon, Centre County, PA, authorizing an official to apply for a DCED Local Statewide Grant on behalf of the Port Matilda Emergency Medical Service; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.*

**7. BRENT & ERICK SHOFFNER OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION LEASE AMENDMENT**

Mr. Piper stated this Resolution is correcting an error that was made on the original lease.

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to approve Resolution 2023-32; A Resolution of the Township of Halfmoon, Centre County, Pennsylvania, approving an amendment of an Open Space Preservation Conservation Lease Agreement between Halfmoon Township and Brent W. & Erika A. Shoffner held on property 17-4-6; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.*

**8. CENTRE COUNTY LIQUID FUELS GRANT**

Mr. Beck stated he would like to apply for a grant to overlay and pave Autumn Circle. Mr. Beck stated the total project cost is \$73,825.42. Mr. Beck stated if no grant is received, the project will be paid for out of liquid fuels. Mr. Piper stated that since a grant was received this year, a grant will most likely not be awarded for next year.

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to approve applying for a grant for the Autumn Circle project; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.*

**9. FOREIGN FIRE RELIEF DISTRIBUTION**

Mr. Laird recommended the board use the new coverage map for the disbursement of the Foreign Fire Relief funds. Using the new coverage map the breakdown in distribution equates to Port Matilda Fire Company 58%; Warriors Mark Franklin Fire Company 25% and Alpha Fire Company 17%.

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to approve the distribution of the Foreign Fire Relief funds as recommended using the new coverage map breakdown; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 3-1-0; Mr. Servello, yea; Mr. Piper, yea; Ms. Hoover, yea; Ms. Hartle, nay; No abstentions; Motion Carried.*

**10. DISTRIBUTION OF \$25,000 ADDITIONAL FIRE FUNDING - TABLED**

Mr. Piper stated he would like to have this discussion with the full board.

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to table further discussion and action until the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.*

**11. TREASURER & SECRETARY JOB DESCRIPTIONS - TABLED**

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to table further discussion and action for the Treasurer and Secretary job descriptions until the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.*

**12. DIRECT STAFF TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE TO WITHDRAW FROM CENTRE REGION COG LOCAL PLANNING SERVICES FOR 2025**

Mr. Servello commented that the Centre Region Planning Agency is having difficulty hiring planners, so Halfmoon Township, Harris Township and Patton Township have all decreased their percentage of local planning time due to the vacant positions. Ms. Smith stated that the last local planner has resigned. Mr. Servello stated Halfmoon Township intends to stay in regional planning services but has reduced local planning services for 2024 to 15% and will terminate local planning services in 2025.

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- **MOTION:** Mr. Servello moved to direct staff to advertise for a public hearing on an Ordinance to withdraw from Centre Region COG Local Planning services for 2025; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.

**13. ZONING OFFICER & PLANNER PROPOSAL**

- **MOTION:** Mr. Servello moved to approve the proposal from JHA Companies for Zoning Officer & Planner services for FY 2024; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.

**14. CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS LAND ACQUISITION**

Mr. Piper stated the Centre Region COG is considering the purchase of land for additional facilities use.

Ms. Hartle explained that currently the Centre Region COG leases other spaces to house staff and the idea of purchasing the land and building another facility is to have a campus-like effect. Ms. Hartle stated the Facilities Committee recommended to the General Forum that the first steps be taken to get an appraisal and an environmental study. Ms. Hartle stated this recommendation will go to the General Forum at the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Mr. Servello stated that a feasibility study should be done to see if an occupied building with parking could fit on a two-acre lot. Mr. Servello added that a new building is very expensive, and you could lease it for a long time for the same cost.

Ms. Hoover questioned how it benefits Halfmoon Township.

Ms. Hartle stated we would not be paying the leases.

Ms. Hoover commented that we would still be paying for a building.

Ms. Hartle stated it would only be at 4.11% of the cost.

**15. TOWNSHIP REPORTS**

There were no additional comments or reporting.

**16. AUTHORITY, BOARD, AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

**17. DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION**

Ms. Squier stated in light of the antisemitic literature that was distributed around the State College area, she felt it was pertinent to highlight events happening in the community related to the Jewish faith. Ms. Squier stated the Pasquerilla Spiritual Center was holding various events between now and the end of October and for more information citizens could visit their website. Mr. Squier added that on October 30<sup>th</sup>, Dina Kraft, author of My Friend Anne Frank would be at Schlow Library for an author visit. Ms. Squier concluded that on November 5<sup>th</sup> the State College Choral Society was performing Voices of the Holocaust, which was an arrangement of music written by the Jewish community during the 1940's.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

- **MOTION:** Mr. Servello moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.; Ms. Hoover seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy M. Smith,  
Township Secretary



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