

HALFMOON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 8, 2024
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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 Tammy Perkins (present at Community Center); Patti Hartle (present at the Community Center); Chuck Beck (present at Community Center) and Ron Servello (present by Zoom). Staff present were Amy Smith, Township Secretary (present at Community Center); Brett Laird, Township Treasurer (present at Community Center) and Chuck Beck, Township Roadmaster.

Residents & others in attendance (In-person): Dan & Donna Hughes; Diane Servello; Mark Hartle; Virginia Squier; Karen Miller; Sharon Rovansek; Gina Motter and Lexie Orr, Water Resources Specialist, Keystone Water Resources Center.

Residents & others in attendance (Zoom): Dave Crow.

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. Rovansek stated she was invited to the State College Borough and was presented with a Lunar New Year Proclamation. Ms. Rovansek read the proclamation aloud and commented that this was a time of celebration and encouraged citizens to attend the festivities in the State College Borough.

Ms. Miller questioned whether the Board of Supervisors were going to consult the residents about whether they support being a member of the Schlow Library.

Ms. Miller questioned whether the municipalities that are serviced by the Port Matilda EMS have met and discussed a way to fund the PMEMS so citizens in all municipalities are paying equally. Ms. Miller added she would also like to see some sort of help in promoting the memberships. Mr. Servello commented that every municipality has their own governance and Halfmoon Township can't determine what they will pay for emergency services. Ms. Perkins stated there will be a discussion with the Port Matilda EMS Board of Directors on March 14th to discuss future funding.

Ms. Hughes stated she is concerned for the reputation of Halfmoon Township and the representation at the Upper Bald Eagle Halfmoon COG meeting. Ms. Hughes commented at the November 14, 2023 meeting, the representative provided a list of serious allegations and requested that they be entered into the minutes.

Mr. Hughes questioned what the status of internet service was in Halfmoon Township and if there was a franchise agreement. Mr. Servello stated there is a franchise agreement. Mr. Hughes questioned that if there is a franchise agreement then should the internet be required to be free. Mr. Piper suggested that Mr. Hughes look into getting StarLink for internet service.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 25, 2024; Mr. Beck 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.
 - Ratification of the Bills List for the period of 01/20/2024 to 02/03/2024 from the following funds:
 - General Fund in the amount of \$29,013.40
 - State Highway Liquid Fuels Fund in the amount of \$6,502.56
 - Appoint Jonathan Risley as the Centre Region Emergency Management Coordinator
 - Appoint Derek Hoover as the Centre Region Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator

- iii. Appoint Patti Hartle as the Halfmoon Township Representative to the Centre Region COG Land Use and Community Infrastructure Committee (LUCI)
 - iv. Appoint Dave Piper as the Halfmoon Township Alternate to Centre Region COG Land Use and Community Infrastructure Committee (LUCI)
- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to approve the consent agenda; Ms. Perkins seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*
- 6. SPRING CREEK WATER RESOURCE MONITORING PROJECT (WRMP) (PRESENTATION BY LEXIE ORR)**
Ms. Orr provided a power point presentation that reviewed the history of the project, who uses the data, why monitoring is completed and monitoring methods.
- **MOTION:** *Ms. Hartle moved to approve the donation of \$1,054.00 to the Keystone Water Resources Center for its Monitoring Project of the Spring Creek Watershed; Ms. Perkins seconded; Ms. Perkins stated this is valuable & beneficial to continue to collect the data; Mr. Servello stated that it is not valuable to Halfmoon Township since there is very little of Spring Creek in Halfmoon Township; Mr. Servello added that 99.5% of Halfmoon Township is in the Spruce Creek Watershed and the Upper Halfmoon Water Company ground water goes into the big springs and he can't justify the cost to the tax payers; Mr. Servello clarified that Halfmoon Township has not funded this project since 2020 so there must have been a reason the former manager stopped funding this project; Ms. Hartle stated the funding was cut due to COVID and she was trying to cut expenses not knowing what was going to happen to the economy; Ms. Perkins stated that it benefits the greater region; Mr. Servello questioned whether those that use the data help fund the project; Ms. Orr commented that they do receive funding from most of the users but they also collaborate to share information or services; Mr. Servello stated the state agencies have an responsibility to collect this data; Ms. Hartle stated that these agencies rely on the base-line data; There was discussion on the budget for this project; Mr. Servello stated he sees no direct benefit and is uncomfortable with this and does not support this request; Mr. Piper stated he did not have an issue supporting this request; Vote 4-1-0; Mr. Beck, yea; Mr. Piper, yea; Ms. Perkins, yea; Ms. Hartle, yea; Mr. Servello, nay; No abstentions; Motion Carried.*
- 7. RESOLUTION 2024-09: UNFREEZING DEFINED BENEFITS PLAN**
Mr. Laird explained that currently an audit is being completed from 2019-present on the pension plans and it was determined that when the 401(a)-pension plan was set up it was not set up with what the board's intentions were for the plan. Mr. Laird added that it was recommended that the Defined Benefit Non-Uniform Pension Plan be unfrozen for the current employees and abolish the 401 (a) pension. Ms. Perkins thanked Mr. Laird for making this right for the employees.
- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to approve Resolution 2024-09; A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Halfmoon Township, Centre County; Pennsylvania, to unfreeze and reinstate participation of eligible employees in the Defined Benefit Non-Uniform Pension Plan; Ms. Perkins seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*
- 8. RESOLUTION 2024-10: ABOLISHING DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN**
- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to approve Resolution 2024-10; A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Halfmoon Township, Centre County; Pennsylvania, to abolish the Halfmoon Township, Centre County 401(a) Qualified Retirement Plan; Ms. Perkins seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*
- 9. RESOLUTION 2024-11: TERMINATION OF QUALIFIED RETIREMENT PLAN**
- **MOTION:** *Ms. Hartle moved to approve Resolution 2024-11; A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Halfmoon Township, Centre County; Pennsylvania, consenting to the termination of a Qualified Retirement Plan; Ms. Perkins seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*

10. RESOLUTION 2024-12: APPOINTMENT OF DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN ADMINISTRATOR

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to approve Resolution 2024-12; Appointing the Township Treasurer, Brett G. Laird, as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Halfmoon Township Defined Benefit Non-Uniform Pension Plan; Ms. Perkins seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*

11. RESOLUTION 2024-13: PERSONNEL POLICY ADOPTION

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to approve Resolution 2024-13; A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of Halfmoon Township, Centre County; Pennsylvania, adopting Personnel Policies and Regulations; Ms. Perkins seconded; Ms. Perkins clarified that this is only a revision to the Personnel Policy regarding the pension; Mr. Laird verified that it is only revise pension language to eliminate the 401 (a) plan; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*

12. TOWNSHIP REPORTS

Mr. Piper questioned whether Mr. Beck expected snow. Ms. Perkins questioned what had been determined to be put on the new truck, recognizing it as a Halfmoon Township vehicle. Mr. Beck stated the block lettering was recommended by the consensus of the board.

13. AUTHORITY, BOARD, AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no additional comments.

14. ADJOURNMENT

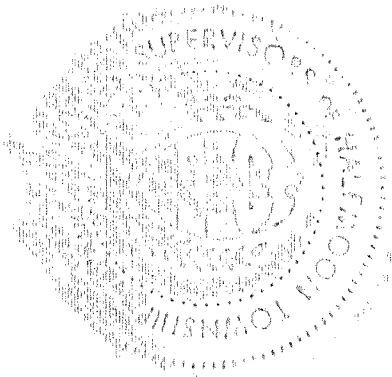
There being no further business before the board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.; Mr. Beck seconded; Vote 5-0-0; Motion Carried.*

Respectfully submitted,



Amy M. Smith,
Township Secretary



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