

**HALFMOON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**MARCH 14, 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); 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.

Absent: Supervisor Chuck Beck

Residents & others in attendance (In-person): Dan & Donna Hughes; Gina Motter Jeff Pogue, Port Matilda EMS Board of Directors (PMEMS BOD); Steve Kibe, PMEMS BOD; Jeff Spackman, PMEMS BOD; Cliff Neal, PMEMS BOD; Kathy & Fred Henry, Henry Surveys; Susan Person; Wayne & Lenore Foster; Bruce Helms; Donnan Stoicovy; Mark Lively, PMEMS BOD and Beck Brooks.

Residents & others in attendance (Zoom): Virginia Squier & Lorin Nauman.

**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**

Ms. Stoicovy stated she is serving as the interim Executive Director for Clearwater Conservancy. Ms. Stoicovy reported that Clearwater Conservancy 28<sup>th</sup> annual cleanup day will be held Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Ms. Stoicovy stated that 500 participants participated last year and encouraged citizens to participate in this year's cleanup. Ms. Stoicovy requested that if anyone was aware of a cleanup site within the township to contact Clearwater Conservancy or township staff.

Ms. Stoicovy stated the Climate Action & Sustainability Committee discussed the sustainability certification. Ms. Stoicovy reported that Halfmoon Township achieved a gold designation in 2018 and questioned whether the township wanted to be able look at being rated again. Ms. Majewski questioned what the benefit is for the designation. Mr. Laird stated the designation is beneficial when applying for some grants.

Ms. Perkins questioned whether an Executive Director has been hired for Clearwater Conservancy. Ms. Stoicovy confirmed that an Executive Director has been hired who will start May 1, 2024.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 8, 2024; Ms. Perkins seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.**

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

*a. 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.*

- i. Ratification of the Bills List for the period of 02/03/2023 to 02/16/2023 from the following funds:
  1. General Fund in the amount of \$41,600.85
  2. Open Space Preservation Fund in the amount of \$178.00
- ii. Ratification of the Bills List for the period of 02/17/2023 to 03/08/2023 from the following funds:
  1. General Fund in the amount of \$24,878.24
- iii. Reappointment of Brian Walker, PE to the Building and Housing Board of Appeals (Three-year term, April 1, 2024 – March 30, 2027) starting April 1, 2024.
- iv. Appointment of Heather Fink, R.A. to the Building and Housing Board of Appeals (Three-year term, April 1, 2024 – March 30, 2024) starting April 1, 2024.

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v. Riff Raff Days – Friday, May 17th 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. & Saturday, May 18th 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

vi. Designate April 20, 2024 as Watershed Cleanup Day.

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

6. ELLENBERGER/WALTERS LOT ADDITION FINAL PLAN

Ms. Smith provided a memo from the Planning Commission recommending approval of the lot addition. Staff review comments, all minor in nature, have been addressed.

- **MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to approve the Final Plan dated January 30, 2024 for a Lot Addition to Lands of Robert L. Ellenberger and Gloria J. Ellenberger from Lands of David S. Walters and Barbara E. Walters; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 3-0-1; Ms. Perkins, yea; Ms. Hartle, yea; Mr. Servello, yea; No Nays; Mr. Piper abstaining due to affiliation with Henry Surveys; Motion Carried.**

7. PORT MATILDA EMS (PRESENTATION BY PORT MATILDA EMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS – PMEMS BOD)

Mr. Kibe stated the PMEMS BOD has members that have expertise in attendance. Mr. Kibe stated PMEMS is doing great but there are staffing issues, employees working overtime and they want to avoid burnout. Mr. Kibe requested that member municipalities continue writing support letters to the State & Local Representatives to encourage them to take a hard look at the EMS crisis particularly with insurance and Medicare issues. Mr. Kibe encouraged citizens to also write letters too. Mr. Servello stated that he attended the Legislature breakfast along with Ms. Hartle and he believes the legislatures heard them loud and clear and this is a clear bipartisan issue. Mr. Servello added that there needs to be state laws to help the Emergency Medical Services.

Mr. Pogue stated the 2023 actuals, 2024 budget and January end of month was provided. Mr. Pogue commented that the budget starts very conservative, and they beat the projected memberships. Mr. Pogue added that extra grant monies go toward operating, and the capital reserves are offset by insurance reimbursements. Mr. Pogue commented that the biggest nut to crack is the transport business, and the biggest expense is payroll. Ms. Hartle clarified that the Port Matilda EMS EMT's \$14.00 an hour with no benefits. Mr. Pogue confirmed that the EMT's make \$14.00 an hour with no benefits but the captain position is a salaried position with benefits that is exempt from overtime.

Dr. Neal stated that many EMS providers provide benefits, but insurance is a big expense. Dr. Neal stated they also provide incentives such as gifts to help with employee retention based on call volumes. Dr. Neal commented that Centre Life Link offers better pay, a full benefits package and they have a high reimbursement rate. Ms. Perkins questioned if there is a group plan for EMS agencies. Mr. Kibe commented that they are independent groups. Dr. Neal stated that he has called a lot of agencies to inquire about insurance benefits and they are basically about \$8,000+ per person. Dr. Neal commented that EMT's are just not ambulance drivers, they go through a lot of training and need to get paid appropriately with respectable benefits. Mr. Servello questioned if there is any consideration in a co-op. Dr. Neal stated there was one formed, but he does not know how it ended. Dr. Neal complimented Ms. Susan Person who is the grant writer for PMEMS. Ms. Person is very successful in writing and getting grants awarded to the PMEMS and is continually seeking more grants. Dr. Neal added that the grants have been used to purchase a new HVAC system that is needed for equipment and medical supplies, cameras, door locking system, building repairs & maintenance, and are waiting to hear on two grants for a new transport van and powerlift stretcher. Dr. Neal commented that grants can't be used for payroll. Ms. Perkins explained to the audience that grants are a one-time thing and can't be used for bonuses.

Mr. Kibe stated a monthly dashboard is provided to the municipalities that provides call volumes and other information.

Dr. Neal discussed the different types of transport systems; urgent transport, done by ambulance; less than urgent; from hospital to another care facility and non-emergency, home to doctor appointment. Dr. Neal stated the Mr. Wayne Foster does the scheduling for the transport van and they are starting to build up business and have received about \$20,000 from transport van assistance. Dr. Neal stated that drivers can select days they are available, they can volunteer or receive a minimal amount of reimbursement to drive the van. Dr. Neal

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commented that they still need more drivers. Dr. Neal stated this is a clear-cut payment using this service and the PMEMS does not have to deal with the insurance companies. Mr. Servello questioned whether there was only one person needed to transport in the van. Dr. Neal confirmed only the driver was needed but needed to be CPR certified. Dr. Neal stated they have five volunteers and added another today. Anyone interested in driving the transportation van can contact Wayne Foster. Mr. Kibe added that the minimum pay that is paid to the drivers who request it is paid out of the van service and not the EMS budget. Mr. Servello questioned if there is any advertising being done to increase the volunteer driving positions. Mr. Foster commented that he is grateful to the volunteers that are sitting in the room and to all the volunteers. Ms. Person stated the PMEMS is a member of Volunteers of Centre County, and she can request drivers through that organization.

Mr. Spackman commented that the station is aging, and it will need improvements, so a new second bunk room was added, applied new flooring, received new furniture and received a vacuum cleaner all from donations. Mr. Piper questioned what the next big-ticket items would be. Mr. Spackman stated they will need a new kitchen stove, rescue gear, more flooring and better furniture.

Mr. Piper thanked the PMEMS BOD for their attendance and efforts in reviving the PMEMS.

Mr. Kibe stated they are looking for volunteers to drive the transport van, fundraising or even just to donate their time to clean the building.

Mr. Foster stated they were working with Centre County Paws and will be holding a Rabies Clinic that will also offer distemper vaccines, Bordetella vaccines and microchipping on April 13<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Ms. Perkins suggested re-naming the event so that citizens were aware it was more than just a rabies clinic.

**8. PORT MATILDA EMS AGREEMENT**

Mr. Laird stated that he spoke to board members separately and there was some interest in going back to agreements with emergency services and he invited the Port Matilda EMS to the meeting to open this discussion and will invite the fire companies in June. Mr. Laird stated this is a standard agreement that states that Halfmoon Township will contribute .56 mils of our assessed value and as the assessed value grows, that allows the funding to grow. Mr. Laird stated this is set up as a one-year rolling contract and will remain in effect as long as both parties are satisfied. Mr. Laird stated all he is looking for tonight is approval from the board to accept as it is written, and it will then be forwarded to the PMEMS for their review and comments.

- ***MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to approve the agreement between Halfmoon Township and the Port Matilda EMS; Ms. Perkins seconded; Ms. Perkins questioned whether the PMEMS has seen this agreement; Mr. Laird stated he wanted the board's approval of the draft agreement prior to forwarding it to the PMEMS; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.***

**9. PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE 2024 PAVING PROJECTS**

Mr. Beck stated that there were various road resurfacing projects that were planned and budgeted for 2024. Mr. Beck reported that he consulted with the Township Engineer, PennDot Representative and staff and it was determined that these projects will be awarded to the lowest overall bidder with a legally completed bid packet. Mr. Beck commented that the estimated budgeted amount for these projects is \$310,000 from the ARPA funds. Mr. Beck stated the following roads are included in the 2024 road projects: Portion of Autumn Circle that is owned and maintained by the township; Saddle Ridge Road; Trail Run; Harness Downs Road; Bridle Path Court and portion of Municipal Lane that is owned and maintained by the township.

Ms. Hughes commented that these projects are being done using ARPA funds and those funds were meant for health care costs due to COVID and instead are being used 100% for road projects. Mr. Piper stated that the ARPA fund guidelines were expanded.

- ***MOTION: Mr. Servello moved to approve advertising for the solicitation of bids for the 2024 road resurfacing projects; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.***

**10. OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION BOARD SOLICITOR REVIEW RECOMMENDATION REQUEST**

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- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to direct staff to seek a determination from the Township Solicitor on title insurance and subordination agreements and provide any amendment recommendations; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.*

**11. HIRING PART-TIME SEASONAL PUBLIC WORKS LABORER**

Mr. Beck stated he would like to hire Westley Layton as a part-time seasonal public works laborer at the rate of \$20.00 an hour to assist with flagging, mowing, and trimming.

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to approve the hiring of Westley Layton as a part-time seasonal public works laborer at the rate of \$20.00 an hour; Ms. Perkins seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.*

**12. TOWNSHIP REPORTS**

Staff reports were provided and had no additional comments.

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

Ms. Perkins reported that she attended the Finance Committee meeting today and they worked on a better timeline for the budget and capital improvement timeline for the budgeting process. Ms. Perkins questioned if the fire companies will be invited for the same discussion that was had with the Port Matilda EMS. Mr. Laird verified that they will be invited to the June meeting.

Ms. Perkins questioned if the Port Matilda EMS Board of Directors had approached other municipalities for agreements.

Mr. Kibe stated he was unaware an agreement was being drafted and hoped to be able to take the agreement once finalized to the other municipalities. Mr. Kibe added the Port Matilda EMS Board of Directors would most likely not pass the agreement as is, since the payments were being sent to Upper Bald Eagle-Halfmoon COG, and the Board of Directors preferred the payments be sent to the Port Matilda EMS directly.

Mr. Hughes questioned if there were any requirements that the Port Matilda Fire Company payments had to be sent to the Upper Bald Eagle-Halfmoon COG. Mr. Piper stated there was an agreement between the municipalities and the fire company due to past issues.

Ms. Hughes encouraged citizens to attend the Upper Bald Eagle-Halfmoon COG meetings because she felt the Port Matilda Fire Company's Fire Chief & President were being harassed over their expenses.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

- **MOTION:** *Mr. Servello moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.; Ms. Perkins stated she felt uncomfortable adjourning the meeting when it gives the appearance that the board is sweeping citizen concerns under the rug; Mr. Servello stated the adjournment was about decorum as the concerns were about the fire company and that was not an agenda item; Ms. Hughes questioned if Mr. Servello thought her questions were inappropriate. Mr. Servello stated that there is a time for citizens' comments, and it is at the beginning of the meeting, and it did not follow the rules of order; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion Carried.*

Respectfully submitted,



Amy M. Smith,  
Township Secretary

