

Centre Documenters

Meeting: Halfmoon Township Board of Supervisors

Township: Halfmoon Township

Documenter names: Mackenzie Bruns and Madelyn Woodley

Date: Jan. 25, 2024

Start Time: 7:00 p.m.

End Time: 7:27 p.m.

Board members in-attendance:

- Brett G. Laird – Treasurer (present)
 - Patti Hartle – Supervisor (present)
 - Amy M. Smith – Secretary (present)
 - David Piper – Supervisor (present)
 - Tammy Perkins – Supervisor (present)
 - Ronald Servello - Supervisor (attended via Zoom)
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Meeting Notes

- Started meeting at 7 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance
- Public comments ensued; council members opened the floor to community members. Due to the weather, documenters missed half of this discussion, but listened to local resident, Linda Foster, address Jan. 24 the International Day of Education and stated that education plays a critical role in changing people's lives and bettering society.
- Another community member, Wayne Foster, had recently attended the Port Matilda Emergency Medical Services(EMS) meeting and updated the board on the happenings of their department. Foster stated that their total membership revenue is currently \$69,670 which is significantly less than last year. He urged community members to begin attending their local EMS meetings, which are now open to the public, and occur on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m.
- Board members then opened the meeting by approving minutes for the January 2nd, 2024, Board of Supervisors Organizational Meeting as well as the Jan. 2, 2024 Board of Supervisors Regular meeting.
- Treasurer Brett G. Laird presented an issue to the board regarding The Keystone Water Resource Center and their “request” for \$1,054. Supervisor Ronald Servello informed the board and public that the center's request had been

received in the form of an invoice, and board members seemed to be generally dissatisfied with this invoice. Supervisor David Piper suggested that a member of The Keystone Water Resource Center visit the township and provide a presentation on why they still require/deserve the funds. The board agreed unanimously to this decision.

- The Board of Supervisors received a request from the State College Area School District to invite a representative from Halfmoon Township to join a focus group to evaluate current school buildings with a primary focus on the Park Forest Middle School's athletic facilities and playgrounds. Supervisor Piper suggested Supervisor Servello for the role, and it was agreed unanimously.
- The General Forum will receive a recommendation to authorize that a Recruitment and Screening Committee be formed with a representative from each of the COG (Centre Region Council of Governments) member municipalities to recruit an Executive Director for the Centre Region Council of Governments. In this case, Supervisor Servello suggested Supervisor Piper for the role, and it was agreed unanimously.
- There were no comments regarding the Treasurer's Report, Secretary's Report, or the Roadmaster's Report.
- Additionally, there were no comments on any of the committee reports.
- The last topic of discussion was brought to the table by Supervisor Ronald Servello, who attended via Zoom, and focused on the controversy behind funding for EMS. According to Servello, Ferguson township allocated only \$3,000 to Port Matilda County, an amount he called "almost laughable". It was generally agreed that the size of Ferguson County, and the coverage they receive, is far greater than the financial support they provide. Supervisor David Piper suggested this issue be readdressed at the meeting on March 8, 2024, in order for the members to have time to investigate the situation to which all Board members agreed.
- Finally, a community member asked if the Open Space meeting, scheduled for February 14th, would be available on Zoom. It was confirmed to be available by Treasurer Laird.
- Supervisor David Piper made a movement to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. and that movement was passed unanimously.

Three important summary statements from your Documenters

- 1.) Halfmoon Township is planning to request a presentation from The Keystone Water Resource Center in order to understand how their funds are allocated so they can best decide whether or not to keep donating the money, which amounts to \$1,054.
- The State College Area School District is looking to reevaluate their Park Forest Middle School facilities, especially their playgrounds and athletic sites. The district is also planning to look into sustainability in their facilities and transportation system.
- No further discussion was held about the committees, but active community members used the opportunity to comment about Ferguson County's contribution or donation to Port Matilda regarding Emergency Medical Services. As this was not on the agenda, many members participated in relevant discourse that sparked conversation among all board members. They plan to revisit this topic in early March once all board members have had a chance to research the situation.

Follow-Up Questions from your Documenters

- I stayed after the adjournment to verify the amount requested from The Keystone Water Resource Center.

Top Quote selected by your Documenter

"I mean, it's almost laughable." – Supervisor Ronald Servello regarding Ferguson county's financial allotment for Emergency Medical Services.