

**HARRIS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2024**

Board Members in Attendance: Nigel Wilson, Chairman
Frank Harden
Bruce Lord
Tracey Moriarty

Staff in Attendance: Mark Boeckel, Township Manager
Todd Shea, Zoning/Ordinance Enforcement Officer
Debbie Lang, Administrative Secretary

Public in Attendance: Eric Norenberg, COG Executive Director
Lori Miller, CATA
Kristy Owens, Centre Region Park & Recreation Director
Barbara Headley
Edie Binkley
Lisa Collens, Schlow Centre Region Library
Robin Brouse
Sarah Jaslow
JoAnne Ventrurino
David Rishel, CATA

**Public in Attendance
via Zoom:** Rob Watts, McCormick Taylor

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Wilson called the May 13, 2024 regular meeting of the Harris Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:02 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Supervisor Moriarty moved to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2024, regular meeting. Supervisor Harden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Barbara Headley from Linden Hall Road said she was having some issues with her IP address and accessing the Township's website. She said she brought this to Mr. Boeckel's attention and he assured her he would check into this. She said the email she did receive regarding tonight's meeting prompted her to remember there were open items with Kaywood North Estates subdivision. She said she is an adjacent property owner to that property and last fall, at a meeting

to which she was not alerted of the Township Supervisors approved a plan for that. She said there was a huge discussion with Mr. Hameister about the responsibility of the developers, the equitable owners, and the owners of the property as to the stormwater facilities management system. She said it comes down between 1050 and 1150 Linden Hall Road. She said it is a very large system. She said her understanding is that that stormwater system handles now, if not all, most of the stormwater for Kaywood, Kaywood North and Kaywood North Estates. She said with the rain this week, there was water in the basin. She said there was supposed to be an agreement between the developers and the landowners and the Township that they are to maintain that entire stormwater system. That entire stormwater system is for sale on Lot 1RRR of that subdivision.

She said she would like to know, because she is a landowner, what is the status of the agreements in that as much as PennDOT requires this. She said that is what the agreement that night came to the Board and the developers when they gave approval that because of the fiasco that occurred on Atherton Street with all the facilities not being maintained for 50 some years and all the rights-of-way and easements that weren't there.

She said this is a big project out there and it also goes into the floodplain. She said Mr. Hameister also pointed this out. She asked if the Township could give her an update on the status of this and if not, she asked to please be updated via email with whatever agreements are pending and how we are going to handle this. She said in as much as right now, you have given approval to a landowner who is trying to sell a piece of property where a promise was made that they would give the Township official agreements to maintain a stormwater system. She said the system that is on Lot 1RRR is not just the one basin that is new. She said the other basin is on the northwest side of Kaywood North and there is a huge basin out there as well. She said there is also a smaller basin at the former Montclair/Andrea Way intersection that has to be maintained as well.

She said she also has a water line that comes down across there that is shown on all the plans. She said that is in and of itself another thing for her to be considering when that property is sold. However, she said for those adjacent landowners and taxpayers, there is an expense here that is going to be brought to bear in the future if the Township doesn't do something now that is required by the State. She said she knows the State district office has had a lot of changes as far as personnel is concerned, so she just wants to be sure everything was in place before any sales are permitted to protect the interests of Harris Township and the taxpayers. She asked if the agenda item on the Parkland completes this project, because if it does, the Township still has things that need to be addressed officially and legally. Easy to get overlooked in our busy lives.

Mr. Boeckel said he received Ms. Hubbard's email late this afternoon and he did not get a chance to speak with the Township Engineer to find out the status. He said as far as he is aware, all of the agreements that were acquired last year have been taken care of but that is something he wants to verify, and he will follow up with an email. He said the parkland item that is an item later on in the agenda is simply something that was required of the property owner. He said it is a very small sliver of land that is less than a half of a tenth of an acre. He showed a map showing the piece of land that is being accepted later this evening and said it is 0.055 acres. He said this

sliver is part of the Kaywood North Estates plan and will be basically a walking path so people can just walk straight across from the road to the park.

Ms. Hubbard said the Board and Staff knows her concerns and she would like to see those documents. Mr. Boeckel said he would follow up with her hopefully tomorrow. She said she could come over and look at them. She said she would also like to have copies of whatever has been drafted. She thanked the Board and Staff for their time.

4. NEW AGENDA ITEMS:

Pennsylvania Act 65 requires the posting of agendas on the Township website 24 hours before a meeting. Only emergency and de minimus items, and items for discussion only, can be added to the agenda by a majority vote of the Board of Supervisors.

If the Board has any items they wish to add to the agenda, they should discuss them at this time.

There were no items to add to the agenda.

5. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS:

a. PROCLAMATION HONORING THE CENTRE AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY:

Chairman Wilson said the Centre Area Transportation Authority will celebrate its 50th anniversary on May 17, 2024. The Township will issue a proclamation honoring this milestone. He read the Proclamation and presented it to Lori Miller of CATA. Ms. Miller thanked the Board for this proclamation. She said CATA is very excited about this celebration and as part of the celebration, on May 20th from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM they will be hosting a community event at CATA's headquarters. She said they have Bus 1, which is one of the first buses used by CATA and that bus is functioning and will be running laps around the block. Chairman Wilson said when he was in college, he drove Bus 1 for CATA.

b. RESOLUTION 24-06: ADOPTING THE CATA LOCAL MATCH SHARE:

Mr. Boeckel said CATA's member municipalities are required to provide local matching funds related to financial assistance provided by the State. Over the past year, CATA and the Centre Region municipal managers met to determine an updated formula for the local match share. The previous formula was based on fixed route service and did not take CATAGO into consideration.

The agreed upon funding formula is based on the percentage of the total population for the member municipalities. With this formula, the Township would pay 6.3% of the proposed local match.

A resolution for the Township's local match was included with the agenda, along with details on how the local match was allocated amongst the municipal members. Based upon the proposed local match, the Township will pay \$42,478 in operating funds and \$4,536 in capital funds.

Mr. Dave Rishel from CATA gave a brief power point presentation. He said this has been a year of rebuilding for CATA. He reviewed several changes in CATA and the launch of the new CATAGO mobile app. He said they have stabilized their driver force and mentioned the new summer program kickoff of the Youthpass Campaign. He said another change CATA has made is that they will now approach the municipalities prior to making any service changes. He updated the Board on the Bellefonte/Benner/Spring situation. He reminded the Board that the services in those areas are provided under contract by CATA. He said a little over a year ago, Spring Township decided they were going to leave the CATA system as of July 1st. He said Bellefonte and Benner Township are still in the program and CATA has talked to them about their contribution amounts. They were not providing enough support for the services CATA was providing, so CATA is cutting service to that area by almost 90 percent as of July 1st. He said this will not impact people in Harris Township who want to go over to Bellefonte.

Mr. Rishel reviewed CATA's fiscal year 2024/2025 proposed budget. He discussed changes in fiscal year 2025, reduction of the deficit, reduction of the budget, increase in ridership, increase in the Apartment Pass program and increase of more than 8 percent to the PSU contract.

Mr. Rishel said they had a review by PennDOT and they reported that CATA is the most cost-effective system in Pennsylvania. Mr. Rishel also reviewed the comparison between the P * B bus routes that were provided to Harris Township during FY2018-19 and CATAGO during FY2022-2023. He said this comparison showed that CATA is spending less money to provide a lot more service to the Township. He also reviewed the 2024-2025 service change highlights in Harris Township. He said they are starting an experimental pilot program based on feedback from riders who want to go from the Township into town directly versus going to campus. To save them from having to connect with the bus at Hills Plaza, they are going to start limited service directly into the library on Beaver Avenue. He noted the fixed route connection at Hills Plaza will remain.

Mr. Rishel explained the new approach to local match. He said CATA worked with municipal Managers on an updated approach. He said the apportionment follows other subsidy programs and is population based on the population of each municipality. He said campus residents are addressed through Penn State contributions. He said CATA's benefits are not just to riders, they reduce regional traffic, have an impact on the regional environment and reduce the need for parking regionally. Mr. Rishel said every dollar of local match Harris Township gives to CATA brings in \$26.10 of other funding.

Supervisor Lord asked for clarification that the software CATA is using now allows people to identify the bus route they are interested in connecting to and then get an optimal CATAGO connection. Mr. Rishel said that it will. He said they are working on that now and hopefully be available by the end of summer or early fall. Supervisor Lord mentioned he remembers that the

conversation with CATA last year was a little confrontational and what he sees this year is pretty straightforward, direct, and fair and he applauds CATA for that.

Supervisor Moriarty asked if Mr. Rishel is saying our Township has become more efficient in their use and thereby lowering the cost of CATA. Mr. Rishel said the services they provide here are far more efficient as they get busier. He said, ironically, the services they provide here in Harris Township are more expensive than any of the five member municipalities because all the service here is microtransit. Supervisor Moriarty said the microtransit is not the Township's fault because of the decrease in routes. Mr. Rishel said that is absolutely true and he wasn't meaning to imply that. He said they put microtransit here because it is the most cost-effective way to serve the most number of people. Mr. Rishel said they are always looking at ridership to determine the most cost-effective way to provide their services.

Supervisor Harden said he agrees with Supervisor Lord that there is a vast improvement over last year and he is happy to see that we are going to Schlow Library, and he thinks that is a plus. He said he still has to come back to the funding formula. He said he is looking at our number versus Bellefonte. He said we have 5,900 people and he knows Bellefonte has a lot more than 5,900 people yet they are at \$30,000 and we are at \$42,400. He said he wonders if we should contract for these things CATA is giving us or do we move on. He said he thinks the formula still needs some work. He said he would look at the assets. He said if 90 percent of the assets are used for students, and 90 percent of the operators are used for students, it seems to him that 90 percent of the costs should come from that use. Mr. Rishel said that is very reasonable.

Supervisor Harden moved to approve Resolution 24-06, approving the local match share for the 2024-2025 CATA Budget. Supervisor Lord seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. CENTRE REGION COG 2025-2029 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP):

Mr. Boeckel said the COG Executive Committee recently forwarded the 2025-2029 COG Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to the Centre Region municipalities for review and comment. The information contained in the 2025 to 2029 COG Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is based on recommendations from the facility condition assessments, age/condition of equipment, and new or replacement vehicles/equipment needed. The recommendations in the CIP will be included in the 2025 COG Program Plan.

Staff contacted Kimberlee MacMullen, COG Finance Director, for clarification on the proposed increase in municipal shares. Ms. MacMullen clarified that the estimated municipal shares line graph on page 4 includes regional parks but the historic municipal shares line graph on page 5 does not. The Township's municipal shares for capital improvements including those in regional parks would increase by \$6,500, or 3.92%, between 2024 and 2025.

A copy of the CIP was included with the agenda. Municipal comments related to the CIP are due to the COG Executive Director and Finance Director by noon on May 16th.

Eric Norenberg, COG Executive Director, is here to discuss the proposed CIP and address any questions.

Mr. Norenberg showed some slides from the CIP showing a comparison of the estimated municipal shares over the past few years and the estimated municipal shares from 2025 to 2029 and actual shares by municipalities for capital improvements from 2020-2024.

Supervisor Harden said what strikes him on this is that we are getting a Christmas list, and we can't say no. He said one of the things he looked at was the AV system in the meeting room. He said that meeting room is so high-tech. He said if an elected official is having problems zooming in, they should attend the meeting in person. He said when he was on the Facilities Committee, they talked about the parking lot. He said he is not sure the parking lot needs to be repaved yet. It may need to be sealed, but not repaved. He said he also sees a line item for new furniture. He said the current furniture can be cleaned and fixed up. He said COG needs to maintain what they have. He said it seems that everything we do has to be top shelf. He said we have to step back because the well is drying up. He said this could be the year that we say, instead of this budget, here is how much money you are getting, you make it work. He said he doesn't want to have to get to that point, but that is where we are heading. He said he can go through this budget and pick a lot of the things that are really not essential. He said they are nice to have, but we are funding too many niceties. He said until we get a drawing and finalize this is what we are going to do, Millbrook Marsh should be removed from the budget. Supervisor Harden said we need to clean this up and he feels the budget should be cut in half.

Supervisor Moriarty said 23 percent of our budget goes to COG. She said it seems to her that we need to readjust. She said we can't seem to maintain what we need to do in our own Township. She said we are a government entity not a business.

Supervisor Lord said he essentially agrees with Supervisor Harden that we can't do everything. He said it all sounds good until you add it all up. He said we raised taxes last year and we will probably have to raise taxes again this year. He said he is not sure we can sustain that. Raising taxes every year because of a wish list. He said he would like to see more prioritization.

Chairman Wilson said he agrees with everything that has been said. He said this is a wish list. He said the life of things can be extended. He said he realizes there is maintenance involved when you do that, but this budget is a vast increase. He said from numbers he has seen Harris Township is going to have to continue to increase taxes year after year after year and he does not like to see that happen.

Supervisor Harden said we have things we want to improve for our residents and COG is where everything is going right now. He said we can't keep supporting COG. He said we pay all this money for parks, and he can honestly say the park behind his house isn't that well-kept. He said it gets mowed, but that is about it. He wondered if it was better for us to hire our own parks maintenance person. He said these are the kinds of decisions we are going to have to make. We have to cut funds somewhere.

Supervisor Moriarty said maybe we are going to have to figure out a more equitable way of divvying up the shares.

Supervisor Harden said one of the things we have to keep in mind is that the COG was put together by the townships to save money and it is becoming a burden on us. He said we did that so we could pool our resources and save money and instead it has become a burden. He said it could come down to us sitting in a room and saying, this year, here's how much we are giving to COG. That's all we can afford and give it to them and let them deal with it. He said that is what it is coming to. We are not going to be able to continue raising taxes and just keep throwing more money in there. Somebody needs to get control of it. We are going to have to take a hard stance.

Mr. Norenberg said the Finance Committee, past and present, have asked the COG to use the five-year Capital Improvement Program as a way to identify anticipated needs in particular years. He said that is the reason for the five years. It is a five-year forecast. He said as things appear in later years and start working their way forward, they look at the items when they are a year out and they say maybe they can get another year out of it, or it is actually failing, and we need to replace it on schedule. He said if they think they can get another year out of something, it does get pushed back. He said they are also trying to be responsible with the dollars and not wasteful and not come to the municipalities in the middle of the budget cycle and say they missed something. He said they are trying to be careful about planning for the future.

Supervisor Harden asked where COG stands on a Facilities Director. Mr. Norenberg said they were scheduled to replace that position in the spring but that will be delayed until after the new Executive Director is hired so the new Executive Director can be part of the recruitment and hiring of that position. Supervisor Harden said he thinks we do need a Facilities Director.

d. PROPOSED ORDINANCE 364: AMENDING SEVERAL SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 8, MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, INCLUDING REDUCING THE SPEED LIMIT ON BOALSBURG PIKE TO 25 MPH:

Chairman Wilson said a public hearing was held on this matter earlier in the evening. He said there was no reason to re-read the verbiage.

Supervisor Harden moved to approve Proposed Ordinance 364, amending several sections of Chapter 8, Motor Vehicles and Traffic. Supervisor Lord seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

e. GRASS WEEDS AND OTHER REVEGETATION REWRITE:

Mr. Shea said at the April Board meeting, Staff proposed to rewrite the section of the Harris Township Ordinance that regulates grass and weed growth. The section is 46 years old and has seen few modifications through the years. The Board directed Staff to present a draft rewrite at this meeting.

Staff reviewed the ordinances from the other Centre Region municipalities and some other outside sources in composing the revised section. The major changes to the existing ordinance

include:

- Deleting the Findings and purposes and Restrictions sections.
- Adding a Definitions section.
- Adding a section titled Unlawful Growth of Noxious Vegetation.
- Amending the Exceptions section to clarify where the regulations will not be enforced.
- Clarifying who is responsible for maintaining grass, weeds, and other vegetation on properties.
- Adding a recommendation that the height limit on grass, weeds, and other vegetation be reduced from 12 inches to 8 inches.
- Adding a section that creates regulations for Managed Alternate Planting Areas, sections of otherwise regulated properties that are designed and maintained in a more natural manner as rain gardens, meadow vegetation, pollinators, or ornamental gardens.
- Adding a recommendation to reduce the penalties for a violation of the section from a \$1,000 fine and/or 90 days in jail to \$250 fine and/or 10 days in jail.

Staff has discussed this draft internally and has communicated with the local District Justice for some guidance on legal procedures. Additionally, Staff intends to work with the Township Solicitor to determine if different alternatives exist for providing notifications for those properties that habitually fail to comply with the regulations; if an alternative exists to address the situation that a property owner pays the fine for a citation but does not bring the property into compliance other than the Township mowing or paying for the mowing of the property; if the collection of costs for Township involvement in requiring compliance can be in a form other than or in addition to liens.

Mr. Shea said we had a preliminary discussion with our Solicitor and he recommends keeping the fine at \$1,000 but he didn't feel as strongly about the 90 days in jail. Mr. Shea said his rationale was that if they don't mow the grass and they pay the fine, if the fine is escalating, and it gets to the point where it's a maximum fine, that is probably more of an impetus for the property owner to mow the grass than \$250.00. He said at this point, Staff would recommend we stick with the \$1,000 maximum fine but reduce the jail time to 10 days or whatever the Board feels comfortable with.

The Board should discuss the proposed changes and provide input on such. Staff can prepare a final version, pending completion of discussions with the Township Solicitor, for adoption at the June meeting.

In response to a question from Supervisor Harden, Mr. Shea said this is pretty close to what we are proposing. He said this is sort of a conglomeration of the Centre Region municipalities. It got rid of some of the things that just don't mean anything anymore and it is more modern. It takes into account things that people are actually regulating in the 2020s. And it does so in a more concise manner.

Supervisor Harden said he is happy with this. He said we haven't updated this for 46 years and it does bring us up to modern times. He likes that it addresses rain gardens, etc. He said if the Solicitor can get the verbiage right, we should move forward with it.

Supervisor Lord said overall, he likes this draft. He said he understands that a lot of this comes down to how we deal with individuals and being reasonable. He said he is in support of this, but wanted to add some caveats that we need to be reasonable and work with our community. Mr. Shea said he thinks we have been very successful in working out issues in 99.9 percent of all the cases where the grass and weed ordinance was applied through the years. There are always those one or two properties that we have issues with.

Supervisor Moriarty said she didn't think it was fair to Staff to have deal with those few properties that just don't feel like they need to comply. She said she would prefer a straight line that this is how it is going to be and that's the end of it.

Chairman Wilson said the one thing that bothers him is the natural area. He said if they have a natural area on their property that they want to just leave natural, all sorts of weird stuff can grow in that area. Yet, it is not a nuisance to anybody but under this ordinance, you can look at that and say you don't like that. He asked if he would have to apply to get a permit to have a section of yard left natural. Mr. Shea said there is no permit that will be issued. It is just a way to formalize people being allowed to preserve that kind of thing on their property rather than having to cut it down because the ordinance says you can't have something like that. It is a means of allowing things that we currently don't allow but people seem to want.

Mr. Shea said he mentioned at the last meeting that there are a couple properties in the Township where this has been done without an ordinance amendment to allow it and people have said this is what I want to do and how can I do it. He said he has asked them to provide him with something in writing with a drawing showing how it is planned and how it is going to be maintained. That is similar to the way it is explained in this ordinance. He said there are probably about four places in the Township where they are doing something similar to this now with the understanding that it is managed.

Chairman Wilson said stormwater facilities that aren't maintained can also be a problem especially if there is no way to get them maintained because there is no active Homeowners Association. Chairman Wilson said lawns are not good for the environment. He said reducing the amount of grass you have in your yard is actually a good thing. It requires energy to trim it down. He said other options would be nice. Chairman Wilson said if you have a lawn, sure, you need to keep it to a point but if you have a natural area, just let it go natural. Why should we bother enforcing anything about a natural area that is not completely intrusive.

Supervisor Harden said there is still some maintenance to rain gardens and natural areas to keep them from looking overgrown.

Chairman Wilson said he wishes there was a way to define what would be appropriate for a natural area to be from a property border. Mr. Shea said there is a distance listed in the proposed ordinance.

Supervisor Lord said he thinks we should move this forward. He said, as he said earlier, it falls on us to be reasonable. He said we also want people to be good neighbors.

f. ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION OF THE BOALSBURG PIKE BRIDGE:

Mr. Boeckel said in 2021, a routine inspection of the Boalsburg Pike bridge over Spring Creek identified several maintenance and rehabilitation tasks that should be completed to extend the lifespan of the bridge and improve overall safety. The report included recommendations that the bridge deck be waterproofed and that scour protection be added to the stream channel and bridge foundations. The Township plans to repave the portion of the Boalsburg Pike that includes the bridge this year, so some of the recommendations of the report should be completed prior to or in conjunction with the paving project. The 2024 budget includes \$80,000 for the bridge's maintenance and rehabilitation.

Stahl Sheaffer Engineering submitted a scope of work and fees to perform engineering services related to the recommended tasks from the bridge report. The scope breaks the engineering for recommendations in the report into separate tasks, allowing us to utilize their firm for specific portions of the project.

Township Engineer Jere Northridge recommends that the Township utilize Stahl Sheaffer Engineering to engineer the waterproofing membrane for the bridge deck at a cost not to exceed \$4,850. This will allow the membrane installation and paving work to be completed in order.

The firm's proposal also includes tasks related to engineering scour protection at a potential cost of \$11,900. Since the scour protection work can be delayed until later in the year, Staff intends to negotiate the need for these additional engineering services and request cost estimates from other firms.

The Township has advertised the Boalsburg Pike and Old Boalsburg Road paving projects, including an alternative for Boalsburg Pike bridge repairs, for bid. The Board will be asked to consider awarding a contract for this project at their June meeting.

Supervisor Harden moved that Township Staff work with Stahl Sheaffer Engineering to complete engineering for the waterproofing membrane for the bridge deck not to exceed \$4,850 and negotiate the need of other components of the project, not to exceed an additional \$11,900. Supervisor Lord seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Harden advised the Board that this item has already been put on the MPO agenda for consideration on the TIP.

g. RESOLUTION 24-07: ACCEPTING THE DEED OF DEDICATION FOR PARKLAND FOR KAYWOOD NORTH ESTATES:

Resolution 24-07 accepts the deed of dedication for parkland related to the Kaywood North Estates project. The land, which totals 0.055 acres is located adjacent to the Township's existing Kaywood Park and will provide a walkable connection from the park to Montclair Lane.

Supervisor Lord moved to approve Resolution 24-07, accepting the deed of dedication for the parkland for Kaywood North Estates. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

h. RESOLUTION 24-08: AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GREENWAYS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION PROGRAM GRANT FOR TUSSEY POND PARK:

The master plan for Tussey Pond Park includes the installation of two ADA accessible fishing piers around the pond. The piers would be accessed by a trail network that will be developed by Township Maintenance Staff and provide access from the nearby Calvary Baptist Church parking lot. Visitors regularly fish in the park and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has expressed some interest in helping to stock the pond.

The Township is applying for funding through DCED's Act 13 program to build the two ADA accessible fishing piers. Construction costs are estimated at \$56,000 for two piers and \$11,500 for engineering and design. Only a portion of engineering and design costs are eligible for reimbursement.

Staff recommends that the Township request \$62,000 in grant funding. Under the grant program, the Township is required to provide a 15% match which is \$9,300. The 2024 Budget includes \$30,000 from the Special Projects fund for master plan implementation in Tussey Pond Park, including the piers, pathways, and other improvements.

Supervisor Harden moved to approve Resolution 24-08, authorizing the submission of a Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program grant. Supervisor Lord seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

i. RESOLUTION 24-09: DESIGNATING MAY AS BIKE TO WORK MONTH:

Chairman Wilson said Centre Bike has asked the Board to consider designating May as Bike Month and May 13th through May 19th as Bike to Work Week and May 17th as Bike to Work Day and Centre Region Spring Bike Anywhere Friday.

Supervisor Moriarty moved to approve Resolution 24-09, designating May as Bike Month. Supervisor Lord seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

j. BOALSBURG FIRE COMPANY REQUEST TO USE FIRE POLICE:

The Boalsburg Fire Company is requesting authorization to use the Alpha, Centre Hall and Port Matilda Fire Police to assist with traffic control at the Fire Company Parade on May 25th.

Mr. Boeckel said this request should also include the Pleasant Gap Fire Company.

Supervisor Lord moved to approve the use of the Alpha, Centre Hall, Port Matilda and Pleasant Gap Fire Police for traffic control for the Fire Company Parade on May 25th.

Supervisor Harden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

k. REQUEST TO USE THE BOALSBURG FIRE POLICE:

The Pleasant Gap Fire Company is requesting the use of the Boalsburg Fire Police for their parade on June 20th at 4:30 PM.

Supervisor Harden moved to approve the use of the Boalsburg Fire Police for the Pleasant Gap Fire Company parade on June 20th. Supervisor Moriarty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

l. REQUEST TO USE THE BOALSBURG FIRE POLICE:

The Ironman 70.3 Pennsylvania Happy Valley triathlon is requesting use of the Boalsburg Fire Police for traffic control on June 30, 2024 from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. No streets will be closed for the race.

Supervisor Moriarty moved to approve the use of the Boalsburg Fire Police on June 30, 2024 for traffic control for the Ironman 70.3 Pennsylvania Happy Valley triathlon. Supervisor Lord seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

m. REQUEST TO USE THE BOALSBURG FIRE POLICE:

Tussey Mountain is requesting the use of the Boalsburg Fire Police for traffic control at their Wing Fest events on June 13th, June 20th, June 27th, July 11th, July 18th, July 25th, August 1st, and August 8th.

Supervisor Moriarty moved to approve the use of the Boalsburg Fire Police for the Wing Fest events at Tussey Mountain on June 13th, June 20th, July 11th, July 18th, August 1st, and August 8th. Supervisor Harden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Boeckel said he had a couple of things he wanted to mention that were not in his report.

He said he wanted to update the Board on the COG Executive Director Search Committee. He said they are hoping to have their first round of virtual interviews this week.

He said the Township will be holding an Arbor Day event on June 8th at Blue Spring Park starting at 11 AM. Tree seedlings provided by the Harris Township Lions Club will be handed out to the first 40 attendees. The event will feature a tree planting demonstration of a River Birch provided by Green Horizon Landscaping.

He also said as the Board is probably aware, the *Centre Daily Times* on June 17th will be transitioning to a two-day only print format. He said due to advertising requirements with this change, he wanted the Board to be aware that if any additional meetings are needed, it may be

problematic to schedule them due to the Sunshine Law requirements for advertising. In response to a question from the Board, he said both PML and PSATS are lobbying for changes to the advertising requirements.

He said item number four on his report is in regard to the Board of Supervisors receiving a request last month to consider installing speed humps on Academy Street to slow traffic. Since that time, Staff have received requests from residents in other areas of the Township asking about the potential for speed humps in their neighborhoods. If the Board is interested in considering speed humps and other traffic calming techniques, Staff recommends that the Township develop a Traffic Calming Policy that will identify a process to consider and evaluate traffic calming requests. Supervisor Moriarty said she would appreciate a Traffic Calming Policy very much.

Mr. Boeckel said item number seven on his report, said the Centre Regional Planning Agency asks that the Township indicate if it wishes to change the amount of local planning time that will be purchased in 2025. We currently support 25% of a position for local planning services. If the Board wishes to discuss this further, it can be added to the June agenda. Supervisor Harden said Halfmoon and Patton Townships are reconsidering staying with the Centre Region Planning Agency. It was the consensus of the Board that we stay at 25% for now and see what happens.

Supervisor Harden said with regard to item number four, he said we need to get on this problem of traffic calming. He said we need to investigate grants, etc. to make sure the items suggested in the Small Area Plan are put in place for Boal Avenue. He said we need to make it so that Boal Avenue isn't the fastest way to get to State College and surrounding areas. Supervisor Moriarty said it is also people coming off Route 45. She said she also mentioned before that there are no Reduced Speed signs along the Atherton Street corridor coming into Boalsburg. Mr. Boeckel said he has reached out to PennDOT regarding this and has not yet received any response from them. He said he is waiting for responses from PennDOT on several other issues and he will follow-up with them again to see if he can get some response.

7. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Supervisor Lord moved to approve voucher transmittal sheet No. 2024-04 in the amount of \$141,760.61. Supervisor Harden seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. COG COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: Chairman Wilson said this committee set the agenda for the General Forum.

Human Resources Committee: Chairman Wilson said this committee met May 1st and discussed the job description for the Fire and Life Safety Instruction/Firefighter, moved the COLA analysis to the General Forum and discussed preliminary 2025 personnel requests.

Climate Action and Sustainability Committee: Chairman Wilson said this committee did not meet.

Facilities Committee –Vice Chairman Hameister was not present to provide a report.

Land Use and Community Infrastructure Committee: Vice Chairman Hameister was not present to provide a report.

Solar Power Purchasing Agreement Committee: Vice Chairperson Hameister was not present to provide a report.

Parks Capital Committee: Supervisor Lord said this committee did not meet.

Parks Governance Committee: Supervisor Lord said this committee discussed ways to identify the best governance structure for the Authority to achieve its mission/purpose and is working on amending their by-laws. He said they are talking about the need for the Parks Authority to report regularly to the various municipalities. He said there also seems to be fairly strong support for taking the Parks Capital Committee and transitioning it to be a Parks Advisory Committee. He said it seems to him that that is the way that is headed.

Centre Region Parks Authority: Supervisor Lord said this committee is getting reports and getting ready for the spring/summer sports season. He said he will continue to ask for an almost activity-by-activity report on cost recovery. He said the programs that we do are not intended to be a for-profit enterprise, but we ought to be transparent about what proportion of the cost of running these activities are being picked up by the participants or advertisers or other outside support and what percent is being picked up by the municipal subsidies.

Finance Committee: Supervisor Harden said he is beginning to worry. He said it is becoming apparent to him that the process for coming up with the budget needs to change. He said he wanted to speak to the fact Chairman Wilson reported about the COLA being sent to the General Forum. He said how we determine COLAs is not the issue. He said he doesn't know how many times he has heard "the COLA is in the policy and you have to give COLAs". He said he read the policy and the first phrase in the policy says, "if funds are available, then you get COLA and merit increases". He said that is what they don't understand. He said right now, with the five percent COLA increase they are talking about and the one and one-half percent merit increase, we are at six and one-half percent increase already and that is before any of the programs. He said last year, the municipalities were within one vote of voting down the COG budget and it is possible that may happen this year. He said this budget needs to be revenue based. He said when elected officials are in committee meetings and they want to do a study, we need to make sure that study is going to earn money and not cost money. He said we should also put a moratorium on studies.

State College Area Connector Project: Supervisor Harden said there would probably be a public hearing in the next month or two on the results of the NEPA.

Centre County MPO: Supervisor Harden said this committee received a status report on the State College Area Connector Project, discussed the ARC Local Access Road program, discussed revisions to the 2023-2026 Centre County TIP, discussed the CCMPO Strategic Plan

and received status reports on the Active Transportation Plan and local construction projects. He said the new 2025-2029 TIP is out for public comment.

Public Safety Committee: Supervisor Moriarty said this committee did not meet.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Supervisors, Supervisor Lord moved to adjourn. Supervisor Harden seconded the motion and Chairman Wilson adjourned the meeting at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Boeckel, AICP
Township Manager