

**BLAIR TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
375 CEDARCREST DRIVE  
DUNCANSVILLE, PA 16635**

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF OCTOBER 09, 2018**

Chairman Edward Silvetti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the assembly in the salute to the flag.

In attendance were: Chairman Silvetti and Supervisors Palmer Brown and Paul Amigh, II; Secretary/Treasurer Betty Robertson; Officer Nathan Hale; Building Code and Ordinance Enforcement Officer Donald Ott; Highway Foreman John Reed; Chris Dutrow, PE of Stiffler, McGraw & Associates; and Solicitor Michael Rouch.

Chairman Silvetti announced that due to the Primary Election schedule, the Blair Township Planning Commission would hold its November Monthly Business Meeting on Monday, November 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Halloween is being celebrated on Thursday, October 25, 2018, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Chairman Silvetti announced: "Public comment is both welcomed and invited. Any persons wishing to speak on an agenda item or during the public comment period may be limited to five minutes per person." Attendees were also asked to silence their cell phones.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the minutes of the Work Session of August 31, 2018. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting of September 11, 2018. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of September were reviewed. Secretary-Treasurer Robertson presented as follows: Payroll totaled \$29,947.97; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities for the month of September totaled \$61,509.80; Liquid Fuels disbursements of \$51.68; Capital Reserve disbursements of \$2,102.19 and Local Services Tax disbursements of \$1,983.64. Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve total disbursements in the amount of \$95,595.28. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve the total disbursements in the amount of \$95,595.28 passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for September 2018 as \$1,140,397.46. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve the "Specific Service Investment Account Funds" Treasury Balance for September 2018 as \$113,459.44. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silveti then announced that anyone wishing to address the Board of Supervisors may now do so. No public comment was offered.

A discussion took place with reference to **Stormwater Issues**.

Chairman Silveti stated that he is unclear as to **exactly** where and under what circumstances the Township is responsible for storm water runoff. Aside from the past wet summer, he referenced several observable factors influencing storm water problems, including: placement of homes without regard to land slopes (creating a bowl affect), medium density housing conditions (houses being constructed in close proximity to each other (little pervious areas), and property owners directing their storm water toward adjacent property owners. Chairman Silveti commented on older residential areas having little or no storm water infrastructure such swales or rock lined channels. He also referenced where Township roads might contribute to the storm water runoff issues in some neighborhoods.

Chris Dutrow commented on an article he had read many years ago in which Township drainage within the Right of Way entered a private ditch and proceeded forward to **Waters of the Commonwealth**. He questioned how to quantify the amount of rain water contributing to the amount of municipal stormwater. He noted that PA DOT defined “Bed and Banks” as “your problem”. Chairman Silveti stated his frustration with being unable to give informed answers about storm water problems to residents. Officer Ott noted that the question in each case is who created the runoff.

Referencing the **Brentwood** area, Supervisor Brown stated that a **topographic map** would depict the stream. He also noted that per the recorded Developers Agreement, a covenant was to be placed in the deeds outlining required storm water BMPs for each specific parcel.

The Brentwood culvert pipe at **Tomasetti property on Brentwood Drive** was discussed. Supervisor Brown noted that without dedication and proof of ownership, the Township has no responsibility to repair or replace the faulty concrete pipe. He commented that from Appledale to Peachdale the storm water pipes were “scabbed” together. If the pipe is not in the Township Right of Way and there is no recorded easement, the responsible party is the landowner. Conversation determined that the onus is placed on Mr. Tomassetti to have a title search done to determine ownership of the stormwater piping that has separated on his property. Chairman Silveti will so advise Mr. Tomassetti in writing.

It was suggested that a **caveat** be added to the **building permit process** which would require storm water to be addressed, not as a building permit requirement, but rather as a means for the township to be proactive with storm water management planning and to ensure that provisions of the Township’s Storm Water Ordinance are met. The property owner could then be responsible for the Township’s engineer’s review. Officer Ott will check with PMCA, the Township’s Third-Party Inspection Agency, to see if any other Townships include storm water requirements with their building permits.

Chris Dutrow noted that the Township should require **on lot stormwater detention**, suggesting adding it to the SALDO and/or the Stormwater Ordinance. Solicitor Rouch suggested creating a requirement and standard as part of the final building permit inspection. Officer Ott stated he could add an item to the checklist.

Chairman Silveti reported on the Intergovernmental Stormwater Committee (ISC) renewal agreement. He stated that he had raised an issue on the weighted voting provision that, if left as proposed, could give the City of Altoona and Logan Township a combined 57% of any vote. This provision was to be changed in the final draft to that of equal voting.

Chairman Silveti stated that the combined ISC Pollution Reduction Plan will cost approximately \$6.9 million dollars over the next five years. The PRP projects' cost is to be shared among the participating municipalities in accordance with the established prorated schedule. Blair Township's share of 6.022% over the next five years is \$419,884.85, with a portion of the total PRP cost expected to be covered by grant funds. Related budgeting considerations such as depleting the reserve, increasing millage or a stormwater fee, need to be considered. Supervisor Brown commented he would favor enacting a fee as opposed to increasing millage. .

The **O'Reilly Auto Parts Subdivision**, as submitted by David K. Hines of Control Point Associates, Inc., continues to await the **DEP Sewage Facility Planning Module** review and approval. The **municipal review** period will **end on 12/19/2018**.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to **table** the **O'Reilly Auto Parts Subdivision Plan**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to table passed with a unanimous vote.

The **O'Reilly Preliminary Land Development Plan** was discussed. The Blair Township Planning Commission tabled the plan due to the pending DEP Planning Module review for the O'Reilly Subdivision.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve the **95-day extension** as granted by the developer for the **O'Reilly Preliminary Land Development Plan**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve the 95-day review period passed with a unanimous vote.

Also, The Blair County Planning Commission is recommending **sidewalks** be placed, the Blair Township Planning Commission, in advisory capacity, recommended that the sidewalks be waived as requested by the **O'Reilly** developer. Following a lengthy review, it was determined that theoretically a sidewalk could connect to the bridge. An aerial image of the site indicates a footpath. Supervisor Amigh commented that he is in favor of waiving the sidewalk recommendation, as it leads to nowhere, using the Snare project experience as a reference. He stated that he does not feel it is fair to waive it in one situation and not to waive it in an identical situation. Chris Dutrow confirmed that the O'Reilly property does not go to the bridge. There is a length of approximately 100 feet between O'Reilly's and the bridge. Supervisor Brown made a motion to waive the sidewalk requirement for the **O'Reilly Preliminary Land Development Plan**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **waive the sidewalk requirement** passed with a unanimous vote.

The **O'Reilly** developer is also requesting a waiver to the internal landscaping requirement. This was not looked on/discussed favorably. Chris Dutrow will advise the developer of the need to prove undue hardship with reference to the internal landscaping.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to table the O'Reilly Preliminary Land Development plan, noting that the land development plan cannot be approved until the DEP module is in place and the subdivision is approved. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **table the O'Reilly Preliminary Land Development Plan** passed with a unanimous vote. The municipal review period will end on February 15, 2019.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to **table the Barneywood Subdivision Plan**. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The DEP Sewage Facilities, Component Three remains outstanding. The motion to **table the Barneywood Subdivision Plan** passed with a unanimous vote.

The **Carpenters Building Addition Land Development Plan** was discussed. Chris Dutrow explained that his review comments are being prepared. The plan calls for much more parking than is required, Supervisor Brown asked Chris to follow-up with the developer as to the reason for the excess parking. The SALDO calls for minimum parking requirements but does not designate maximum parking requirements. The additional parking area would create significant additional impervious storm water-related area. The stormwater plan indicates underground piping and a rain garden. The building is used for carpenter training purposes. Supervisor Amigh made a motion to **table the Carpenters Building Addition Land Development Plan**. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion to **table the plan** passed with a unanimous vote. The municipal review period will end on December 10, 2018

**Trina Illig**, Grants Coordinator for Blair County, prepared and presented **2018 CDBG** documents for the Supervisors consideration and signature.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to sign the **2018 CDBG Citizens Participation Report**, certifying the first and second Public Hearing. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion to approve and sign the document passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to sign the **2018 CDBG Cooperation Agreement**. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion to approve and sign the document passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to sign **Township Resolution No. 2018-08 FY 2018 CDBG Grant**. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion to approve and sign the document passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to **approve** distribution of the **2018 Firemen's Relief Funds** equally **among the four VFCs** that serve Blair Township. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The 2018 distribution received totals \$25,764.84, divided equally among Duncansville VFC, Freedom VFC, Geeseytown VFC and Phoenix VFC, the amount being contributed to each VFC is **\$6,441.21**. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

State Pension Relief Funds in the amount of **\$65,581.43** have been received. Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the **PMRS** payment in the amount of **\$75,571.00**. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The total includes \$37,437.00 for the Police Pension Plan and \$38,134.00 for the Non-uniform plan. The total General Fund obligation is \$9,989.57. The funds are due to

be expended no later than 10/20/2018. The motion **approving** payment for the **2018 Pension Funds** in the amount of **\$75,571.00** passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to **approve** expending **\$2,446.16** for a Motorola Portable Radio, programming and case for the **LEMC** position, this being required by the Blair County Emergency Management Department. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion approving the purchase **passed** with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silvetti commented on the results of the letters mailed to the residents affected by the **Teds Way sidewalk**. A total of 15 letters were mailed, including four to those living off the cul-de-sac, as well as to those residents from the odd-numbered side of the street, i.e., the side without a sidewalk. Seven total responses were received, four in favor of the sidewalk and three not in favor of the sidewalk. The Supervisors agreed that this would not be considered further without an overwhelming positive response. Supervisor Brown made a motion to have Chairman Silvetti compose a brief letter to the affected residents explaining the outcome of the Board's decision. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The Edgewood **Drive Storm Water Basin Retrofit project construction was reported as having been** completed. Due to the severe rain conditions, the fence has not yet been replaced. Cones and temporary fence barrier will remain in place until the permanent fence is installed. The project also requires a final DEP inspection. Chris Foster is currently scheduling the required Public Event.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve adding **L. B. Water Service, Inc.**, to the **Approved Vendor List**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. John Reed explained the vendor is necessary for acquiring pipe supplies, noting they were previously purchased from a now-closed Construction Supply at New Enterprise. The motion to approve adding L. B. Water Service, Inc., passed with a unanimous vote.

The **2019 Budget** was briefly discussed. Requests were made to the Police and Highway Departments for input. There are 2018 Budget items that have not been expended to date. The Highway Department is requesting the purchase of an Inlet Vac to aid in cleaning out the inlets. The hospitalization quote is not yet received for 2019, but employees will continue to have a 5% payroll deduction for that benefit, as well as a 2% wage (non-uniformed) and 5% wage (Police) payroll deduction for retirement. MS-4 costs as they relate to the ISC will need to be further discussed to incorporate the mandated costs into the budget.

#### **Other Business:**

**Trina Illig** addressed the Supervisors, commenting that she is working in conjunction with the BTWSA. She announced a potential project; extending water service through Brooks Mill. She commented that this would be considered as a multi-municipal project due to both Blair and Freedom Townships' involvement. Supervisor Brown expressed his support of the idea.

Chairman Silvetti announced that following adjournment, an **Executive Session** would be called to discuss a personnel/legal issue.

There being no further business, Supervisor Brown made a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of October 09, 2018  
Blair Township Supervisors

Respectfully Submitted by:

Betty Robertson  
Secretary