

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

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2016**

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

In attendance were Chairman Lasek and Supervisors Palmer Brown and Edward Silvetti, Secretary/Treasurer Betty Robertson, Police Chief Roger White, Building Code and Ordinance Enforcement Officer Donald Ott, Acting Road Foreman Denver Dick, Teddie Kreitz, representing Keller Engineers, and Solicitor Chris Jancula.

Chairman Lasek announced that the **Blair County Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Foundation** is holding the **Annual Police Memorial Service** June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. The ceremony will be held in front of the Blair County Courthouse. All are encouraged to attend in support and respect for our fallen Blair County Police Officers.

**Blair Township honors** its own fallen officer, **Patrolman Ronald J. Turek**, who gave his life in the line of duty on March 27, 1985.

The next Public Work Session date is Monday, June 20, 2016, at noon.

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

Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting of May 10, 2016. Supervisor Silvetti seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Payroll and payroll liabilities for the month of May totaled \$47,315.11. General Fund disbursements for the month of May totaled \$33,947.79. Local Services Tax disbursements totaled \$2,752.00. Supervisor Silvetti made a motion to approve total disbursements in the amount of \$84,014.90. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for May 2016 as \$1,065,766.01. Supervisor Silvetti seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Lasek made a motion to approve the "Specific Service Investment Account Funds" Treasury Balance for May 2016 as \$156,221.10. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Blair Township Police Chief Roger White introduced **Jessica DiGennaro**, President and founder of **Because We Care Foundation**. Ms. DiGennaro addressed the Supervisors, also introducing

**Lou Ann Bickel**, Vice-president. The non-profit foundation was established in October of 2015. The purpose is to create a positive early intervention when children are involved in crisis situations. A stuffed bear is presented to the child with the personalized emblem of the department assisting in the emergency; police, fire, etc. The bears are made and distributed solely on donations. For each \$10.50 donation a bear can be purchased and an additional bear will then be given to the emergency responder department of the donator's choice. The Blair Township Police Department is the newest partner in Blair County. The Supervisors commended the organization for their efforts. Chief White stated that as a past child abuse investigator, the bears represent comfort and mean a lot in a child's darkest moments.

**Donna Morelli** of the **Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay** addressed the assembly. She, **Brian Hazelwood** of **American Rivers**, and **Adam Long, Landscape Architect** of **Keller Engineers** represented the infrastructure plans for the Blair Township Municipal Building Landscape Makeover Project at an open house held at the Municipal Building prior to tonight's meeting. Ms. Morelli stated that this project has been in the planning stage for the past 3 years.

Blair Township participates in the **MS-4 Workgroup**, which is a cooperative effort by area MS-4 municipalities to meet the requirements of Best Management Practices for stormwater runoff as required by MS-4 regulations. Supervisor Silveti noted that the MS-4 permitting, for all the good it represents, serves as an example of unfunded mandates, i.e., a municipal obligation placed on municipalities by federal and state statute, but without implementation funding. Commenting that the Township is grateful for the efforts being made by the Alliance for the Bay and American Rivers. Ms. Morelli commended the Township for being a front runner in addressing the MS-4 requirements.

The **first phase** of the Blair Township project is to construct a rain garden, a natural system to control rainwater as opposed to it being carried by pipes to natural waterways. The municipality is responsible to provide public education, including outside signs, covering storm water issues/remedies.

Ms. Morelli referenced the **cleanblairwater.org** site which includes a section dedicated to homeowners wishing to reduce storm water, etc. Ms. Morelli suggested that the Supervisors may want to attend a future **Elected Officials Breakfast Meeting**, with a date to be announced. The Supervisors thanked the representatives for their efforts in preparing the storm water infiltration project, as well as organizing and attending the open house.

Acting Solicitor Jancula stated that **Ordinance No. 2016-02**, the **Storm water Committee Ordinance** was advertised and is ready for adoption. Supervisor Silveti made a motion to **approve** Stormwater Committee Ordinance No. 2016-02. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. Supervisor Silveti noted that this is a two year organizational agreement. The municipalities participating will eventually need to establish procedures to evaluate, select and secure funding of Best Management Practices installation. The MS-4 Storm water Committee promotes cooperation among the ten participating municipalities. The motion to **approve Ordinance No. 2016-02** passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Silveti made a motion to sign and enter into the **Intermunicipal Stormwater Agreement**. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown prepared a basic plan in order to designate an area of the Township for MS-4 related mapping requirements. PA Rural Water was contacted and has agreed to set up an appointment to review the area with Township representatives in order to provide the Township with a quote.

Chairman Lasek announced that the **Adam Holliday Chapter** of the **Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)** would like to improve the appearance of the **Holliday Burial Ground**, the cemetery of the founding fathers of Hollidaysburg located in Blair Township. The cemetery is located on the corner of Apple View and Cedarcrest Lanes. Altoona Memorial Studio will clean the memorial stones, straighten markers, and repair footers, where necessary. The DAR would pay Altoona Memorial for this work to be completed. This project is currently in the process of being scheduled for the latter part of June or beginning of July 2016. On behalf of the DAR, Dani M. Felty, Regent, expressed appreciation for the Township's cooperation with this project. Supervisor Brown asked Betty to inquire whether or not there is a list of names for the grave sites in the cemetery.

No new information has been received regarding the **Pleasant View Phase 6 Subdivision** plan. Supervisor Silveti commented on a recent article that was in the Altoona Mirror referencing residents in another municipality threatening to file a lawsuit due to stormwater runoff issues created by a proposed residential development. He stated that he does not want any similar problem now or in the future in Pleasant View Phase 6 due to storm water issues. Supervisor Silveti made a motion to **table** the draft **Pleasant View Phase 6 Subdivision** Developers Agreement. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion to table the agreement passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Silveti made a motion to **table** the **Pleasant View Phase 6 Subdivision** plan. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion to table the plan passed with a unanimous vote. The current municipal review period will end November 19, 2016.

The **CDBG/Greendown Acres Sewage Collection System Project** is 100 % complete. The contractor, **Dave Roman Excavating, Inc.** has submitted **Change Order #1** in the amount of **\$8,060.52**, increasing the total contract price to \$441,380.52. The quantity of pipe that was used to complete the project was slightly greater than originally estimated. The total contract remains within the CDBG grant amount. Supervisor Silveti made a motion to **approve Change Order #1**. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion to **approve Change Order #1** in the amount of \$8,060.52 passed with a unanimous vote.

**Dave Roman Excavating, Inc.** has submitted the fourth and final Application for Payment in the amount of **\$48,584.00**. Supervisor Silveti made a motion to approve the fourth and final Payment Application. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. A final walk through inspection was conducted on May 12<sup>th</sup>. All aspects of the project were confirmed as complete, tested and functioning.

**Keller Engineers** is requesting approval of an **additional** contract amount of **\$2,945.00** for work relating to the Greendown Acres Resident Inspection contract. Supervisor Silveti made a motion to approve the additional amount. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion to **approve payment** in the amount of **\$2,945.00** to **Keller Engineers** for work relating to the

**Greendown Acres** project passed with a unanimous vote. This will be forwarded to Dick Furmanchik's office for review and payment, as appropriate.

Acting Solicitor Jancula stated that he has worked in conjunction with Attorney Matt Gieg, BTWSA legal counsel, in preparing a **Bill of Sale** transferring the **CDBG-funded Sewage Collection System Project** from Blair Township to the Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority. Once signed, the Bill of Sale absolves Blair Township from any and all future maintenance responsibility relative to the Greendown Acres project. He recommended the Supervisors sign the agreement. Supervisor Silveti made a motion to **execute the Bill of Sale, as presented**. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. Tim McGaw; BTWSA Manager, stated that Chairman Pyzowski has reviewed the Agreement, noting that the draft is acceptable. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Silveti commented that during the course of placement of the sewerage system at Greendown Acres some **minor street damaged** had occurred. It was noted that the street construction at the mobile home park was less than adequate and more than likely had originally been placed as inexpensively as possible, thus contributing to the damage. Noted also was the contractor's recommendation to the mobile home park management to replace water distribution lines.

The exact amount of project money remaining is not determined, but the street repairs are estimated at approximately \$25,500.00. The initial hope was that DCED would approve a Change Order to the contract, but to the contrary, the street repair must be bid as a separate project since this is not part of the original contract. The Supervisors agreed to proceed with authorizing **bidding of the street repairs** project.

**Blair Township Water & Sewer Authority** had submitted a **list of legal, engineering and advertising expenses relating to the Greendown Acres Sewerage Project** which they had paid, anticipating reimbursement. The invoices, they feel, are eligible due to association with the Greendown Acres project. Of these, Supervisor Silveti commented that he did not feel that DCED would favorably approve the costs incurred in securing the Bulman money, inasmuch as the Township was led to believe by legal counsel that those funds were already in place prior to proceeding with the CDBG funding application. None of those legal costs were anticipated or budgeted during the process of securing the grant. Supervisor Silveti stated that there are significant monies remaining, but use of those funds would depend upon whether or not DCED would deem the invoices as eligible for reimbursement. Tim McGaw stated that he was advised by another party that any bills relating to Greendown Acres project incurred after 12/15/2014 would be eligible for grant reimbursement. Supervisor Silveti explained, for sake of public record, that the grant was made to the Township, not the Authority, thus bills incurred by the Authority may or may not be eligible for reimbursement. He further clarified that, as with all project bills, DCED would review these bills for reimbursement eligibility. If deemed eligible, the Authority would be promptly reimbursed.

Supervisor Silveti made a motion to **approve bidding the street repair work** in relation to the Greendown Acres Sewage Collection System. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Attorney Michael Cohen**, representing **Ryan and Julie Sheetz** of 224 Hamer Drive, addressed the Supervisors on behalf of a **Variance Request** for placement of a **shed**. The property is

located on a corner lot. The shed is proposed within a fenced in area. The request submission provides all of the needed information and signatures. PA 1-call has been made, the stakes are visible where the shed is to be placed, Attorney Cohen noted that the request is within the standard of the covenant, Acting Solicitor Jancula agreed, stating there is no problem. Chairman Lasek made a motion to **approve the Sheetz Variance Request**. Supervisor Silveti seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2016-06**, agreeing to abide by the responsibilities and rights under the **Fair Housing Law and Pennsylvania Human Relations Act**. Supervisor Silveti seconded the motion. The Fair Housing Opportunity symbol will be displayed on correspondence relating to housing programs. The motion to approve **Resolution No. 2016-06** passed with a unanimous vote.

**Weight limit and roadway postings** need to be established specifically for T-588 Mill Road and T-375 Monastery Road. Keller Engineers has proposed to do the engineering portion at a cost of \$500 for the first road and \$90 for each additional road on the same visit. Chairman Lasek made a motion to approve Keller Engineers proceed with establishing the weight limits, with a possibility of adding more roads. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. Teddie Kreitz will advise her firm to schedule the work. This is necessary for establishing and posting weight limits. **STV, Inc.**, on behalf of the **Sunoco ME2 project**, is requesting information regarding **Road Use Maintenance Agreements** for the two named roadways. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve submission of the **Green Light Go Grant (ARLE)** application. Supervisor Silveti seconded the motion. Keller Engineers will submit the grant at no cost to the Township. Upgrades are needed to the Blair Street light, the Patchway signal light panel and also LED bulb replacements. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Acting Solicitor Jancula updated the Supervisors regarding the status of the **Complaint in Equity** prepared for the property located at **2198 Reservoir Road**. He recommended the Supervisors approve signing the Complaint, which would begin the action, and also that they sign to Enjoin Public Nuisance. Supervisor Brown made a motion to have Chairman Lasek sign the document. Supervisor Silveti seconded the motion. Acting Solicitor Jancula stated, and confirmed with Dick Furmanchik, that the time involving legal services can be paid by the CDBG Grant, since razing of the structure is paid through the Township's CDBG Grant funds. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Building Code and Ordinance Officer Ott reviewed outstanding issues relative to the **Dowlut** property located on Reservoir Road. He stated that, as a matter of record, Mr. Dowlut promptly addressed some of the issues outlined on a previous Non-Compliance Letter. He noted that the grass and weeds were cut and outside debris removed. However, during the course of his review he observed a truck with building materials at the property location, and stopped to inquire. A contractor was in the process of constructing an apartment-type structure within the building. A Stop Work Order was issued by PMCA UCC Inspector. As discovered from conversation with the contractor and Mr. Dowlut, the methadone clinic idea is not now being pursued. Instead, he intends to construct 15 apartment sized living units, designed for housing of residents 50 years of age and older. Officer Ott spoke with the engineer who stated he is retained by Mr. Dowlut for renovations to the site. The Engineer assured him that he would make sure that any and all plans

are UCC compliant and approved prior to proceeding with any construction. Officer Ott is in the process of addressing Chapter 10 of the Nuisance Ordinance regarding an abandoned vehicle at this site.

Supervisor Silvetti commented on **Headline Marketing's Township Website** progress. He noted that he is very pleased and estimates it is two-thirds completed. The Website will be reviewed by the Township and changes, where necessary, can be made prior to going live. The Township Website will meet a lot of different needs.

Supervisor Brown commented on the Township's **General Code Codification**. He presented a schedule which he had drafted outlining each of the responsible parties review period and deadlines. He established the August 23<sup>rd</sup> Work Session as being the date for consolidating any changes, noting a clean copy should be established by the September Work Session for presentation to the Solicitor. He noted the Solicitor should have it finalized by October. Supervisor Silvetti noted the importance of having the Codification done right the first time.

Chairman Lasek made a motion to approve the **PA DOT Municipal Winter Maintenance Agreement FY 2016-2017**. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The Agreement, in the amount of \$2,203.69, covers SR 2012 Newry Lane. This amount represents a .099% increase from the previous year. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Lasek made a motion to appoint **Brendan Peterson** to fill the vacancy at the **Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority**. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. Mr. Peterson has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering, is self-employed and resides in Blair Township. The Supervisors agreed that he would well serve the Authority Board. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Silvetti stated that he had contacted the Hollidaysburg Area School District Tax Office requesting information on the possibility of placing a short letter on the reverse side of the Per Capita bill mailing. The letter would seek to recruit Township residents for appointment to affiliated Township commissions and authorities. The tax office agreed to a nominal fee of \$300 for the **solicitation letter** to be printed on the **reverse side** of the **Per Capita Tax bill**.

#### **Other Business:**

Betty spoke with **Mike Perry** of **PA Rural Water** regarding the **MS-4 related mapping**. MS-4 permitting requires that all stormwater outfalls be outlined. He further stated that he would be interested in meeting with the Township. Supervisor Brown provided an outline of the area of the outfalls to be mapped, as per his discussion with Teddie Kreitz.

Supervisor Brown, in response to a resident's request for a speed limit sign on **Elliot Street**, presented a draft Ordinance for the Boards consideration. The Ordinance names both Edna Street and Elliot Street as 25 MPH maximum speed limit areas. Following a lengthy debate as to whether or not the Ordinance is necessary since the streets are already covered by the PA Vehicle Code, it was determined that Acting Solicitor Jancula should review the need for the Ordinance and report back.

Teddie Kreitz addressed the issue of hiring a specific contractor to do **MS-4 related mapping**. MS-4 permitting requires that all stormwater outfalls be outlined. The following areas were suggested as areas to begin. Either east or west of Newry Lane, Fort Fetter, or anything west of Newry Lane to include Greystone Estates. Teddie will provide a specific area in order to request a quote for the stormwater outfall mapping.

Chairman Lasek called for anyone not on the agenda that wished to speak.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Betty Robertson  
Secretary/Treasurer