

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

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF MARCH 14, 2017

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

In attendance were Chairman Silveti and Supervisors Palmer Brown and Richard Lasek, Secretary/Treasurer Betty Robertson, Sergeant Roger Peacock, Building Code and Ordinance Enforcement Officer Donald Ott, Road Foreman John Reed, Chris Dutrow of Stiffler, McGraw & Associates and Solicitor Michael Rouch.

Chairman Silveti acknowledged the passing of Mr. Richard Furmanchik, stating that “Dick was a dear friend of Blair Township, handling all of the Township’s CDBG issues with excellence and professionalism. He was the long-standing Executive Director of the County of Blair Redevelopment and Housing Authority. It is with sadness that we acknowledge Dick’s passing and recognize his work on behalf of Blair Township and its residents. He will be missed by all who knew and worked with him”.

An Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and a litigation matter for which a legal complaint may be filed was held on March 10, 2017 at noon.

Chairman Silveti announced: “Public comment is both welcomed 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 February 14, 2017. Supervisor Lasek seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of February: Payroll and payroll liabilities totaled \$43,334.82. General Fund disbursements for the month of February totaled \$31,679.09; Liquid Fuels disbursements totaled \$64,508.96; Capital Reserve disbursements totaled \$9,323.35 and Local Services Tax disbursements totaled \$2,916.86. Supervisor Lasek made a motion to approve total disbursements in the amount of \$151,763.08. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for February 2017 as \$779,963.61. Supervisor Lasek seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Lasek made a motion to approve the “Specific Service Investment Account Funds” Treasury Balance for February 2017 as \$145,158.81. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silveti announced that anyone wishing to address the Supervisors may do so at this time. There being no **public comment** expressed, Chairman Silveti proceeded with the agenda.

Bids were advertised to be received until noon today, March 14th for the **CDBG –Funded Greendown Acres Street Repairs Project**. Two bids were received. It was noted that, due to the unforeseen weather emergency, one of the bids was submitted by fax. Shannon of Laurel Asphalt called ahead of the deadline, requesting permission to fax their bid, as their courier service closed unexpectedly due to weather conditions. The fax was received at 11:57 a.m. and placed in a sealed envelope, pending the 7:00 p.m. meeting. The Supervisors discussed waiving the bid receipt provision, allowing the faxed proposal for consideration. Solicitor Rouch noted it was a reasonable position on behalf of the Township. Chairman Silveti stated that the street repairs were not part of the original Greendown Acres Waste Water project, but were being undertaken as a result of minor street damage incurred during the waste water project construction.

The **Greendown Acres Street Repairs** project bids were opened. J.W. Fleming bid \$38,233.71. Laurel Asphalt bid \$30,960.00 with an alternate bid, to include 90 additional square yards of paving, of \$38,700.00. After reviewing the bids, Chris Dutrow stated that the **J.W. Fleming bid (\$38,233.71)** was for the base bid and did not include the alternate bid. **Laurel Asphalts bid (\$30,960.00)** was for the base bid and also included an alternate bid, inclusive of additional paving, in the amount of \$38,700.00. Chairman Silveti noted that just over \$46,000 remains in CDBG funding for this Greendown Acres Project. Supervisor Lasek made a motion to accept the base bid as proposed by Laurel Asphalt, pending the engineers review and approval of the bid submission. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. Chairman Silveti once again explained the roadway situation and this project's objective as repairing any damage created during and directly attributable to the installation of the waste water collection system, but not to improve the Park's streets which were already in a moderately deteriorated state. The Mobile Home Park's resident manager had told him that she had been seeking the Park's owner to replace the streets. The motion to approve the **Laurel Asphalt** bid passed with a unanimous vote.

Also with regards to the Greendown Acres Mobile Home Park, Supervisor Silveti stated that a letter is prepared and will be submitted to DCED requesting consideration of the reimbursement of project-related costs as outlined by **Blair Township Water & Sewer Authority**. He believes the project will spend out all funds; including the Special and Entitlement CDBG and private (Bulman) funds.

Chairman Silveti then summarized the following CDBG projects:

The low bid was just accepted for the **Greendown Acres Street Repair** project.

Roman Excavating must return to address some ground settling issues on the **Greendown Acres Waste Water Replacement Project** later this spring. An underpayment in Davis-Bacon wages, due to the contractor having used an outdated DOL Wage Decision, resulted in \$4,081.99 in payroll-related underpayments. This will more than likely be handled through a project Change Order.

BTW&SA has submitted a request for payment of invoices in the amount of approximately **\$11,000.00**, funds they had previously expended relating to the Greendown Acres project. Following resolution of the wage issue and completion of the project, including the street repairs,

Chairman Silvetti will submit the invoices, along with an explanatory transmittal letter, to DCED for reimbursement consideration.

The CDBG funded **Removal of Architectural Barriers Project** remains underway. Installation of the tempered glass and activation of the automatic door controls is expected in the very near future.

Supervisor Lasek made a motion to approve **C. E. Wood Constructions'** third payment application for the Removal of Architectural Barriers project, in the amount of **\$12,945.75**. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

C. E. Wood Construction has submitted 2) Change Order requests; **GC-04** for VTC flooring, clean and paint in the amount of **\$115.26** and **GC-05** for Patching Carpeting and carpet base in the amount of **\$243.23**. Supervisor Lasek made a motion to approve payment of both **GC-04 & GC-05** Change Order requests. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. This is non-CDBG related and will be paid with Capital Reserve funds. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Adam Long of Keller Engineers reported on the municipal building **Rain Garden Project**, as funded through the Alliance for the Bay. The project was bid on March 10th, the apparent low bid being Ameron Construction, State College, PA. There were three design levels: Design level 1 is full project design; Design Level 2 is the lower pool; and, Design Level 3 is the upper pool. Mr. Long further explained that Ameron Construction's bid for Design Level 1 is \$51,555. This is fundable if the pavers are removed, which would reduce the cost to \$42,000. Donna Morelli of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is currently in the process of trying to secure additional funding in order to fund the project without removing the pavers. Mr. Long is hopeful that the contract will be awarded in the next 2 weeks.

Chairman Silvetti reported on the **Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General** 2013 through 2015 **Police** and **Non-uniformed Pension Plan** reports. It was noted that both pension plans are being administered in compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts and administrative procedures, along with local ordinances and policies. Chairman Silvetti reported that the Police plan is 97.1 % funded, while the Non-uniformed plan is 87.1% funded. PMRS has a solid reputation and is not affiliated with the State pension plans that are currently facing difficulty.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to approve the Proposal submitted by **Service Master** in the amount of **\$550.00** to clean the Police Department and Municipal Office carpets. Supervisor Lasek seconded the motion. This work will be scheduled after the Removal of Architectural Barriers Project is completed. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has presented an Agreement with regard to a sidewalk plan inclusion for the proposed new **Newry Bridge**. The bridge is scheduled to be constructed in 2018. The Agreement, intended for approval and execution by Blair Township, gives the Township permanent maintenance responsibility for the sidewalk, including the sidewalk leading up to the bridge. Should the Township decline PA DOT's request to enter into the Agreement, the sidewalk would then be removed from the bridge construction plan. The width of the bridge would not change, whether or not the sidewalk remains or is removed from the plan. Chairman Silvetti spoke with Mr. & Mrs. Meiser, owners of Leighty's Farm Market.

The Meisers didn't really take issue with the sidewalk, but instead commented that their greatest concern lies with the curbing plan which would limit ingress and egress to their farm market. Further comments were noted that the Township is in need of a Sidewalk Ordinance which would mandate clearing of sidewalks being the responsibility of the adjacent land owners. The bridge, although located in the Township, would benefit Newry Borough residents, as they would be largely the ones walking on the sidewalk in order to access Leighty's Farm Market and other businesses. Chairman Silvetti commented that he does not like the provisions placed on municipalities by the PennDOT. Supervisor Brown added that it is typical of PA DOT to add items to their agreements.

The **Ordinance Codification Project**, as is currently in process, was discussed. Chairman Silvetti reminded the Supervisors that Dina Shortino, General Code, confirmed that the Supervisors could make substantial changes to the existing ordinances, including elimination of reasonable items. Chairman Silvetti used the push-cart ordinance as an example, noting certain issues outlined in some of this and certain other ordinances are totally outdated and unnecessary. Supervisor Brown disagreed, noting that the debate falls on default. Solicitor Rouch commented that he respectfully disagrees with Supervisor Brown's opinion. A Public Work Session will be held in the near future to discuss the Ordinance Codification.

Following a brief discussion, Supervisor Lasek made a motion to **appoint Brandon Carson** to fill the **Blair Township Planning Commission** vacancy. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. Mr. Carson had previously submitted a Talent Bank Application. The motion to appoint Brandon Carson to the Blair Township Planning Commission passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2017-01, the new Cable Franchise Agreement between Blair Township and Atlantic Broadband. Supervisor Lasek seconded the motion. Chairman Silvetti commented this Franchise Agreement is much better than one currently in effect. The Agreement was negotiated by Cohen Law Group, a law firm specializing in Franchise Agreement negotiations, at a cost of \$7,900.00. Cable membership remains solid. The motion to **approve Ordinance No. 2017-01, the Cable Franchise Agreement**, passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silvetti called for **Other Business**.

Road Foreman John Reed noted that the trade-in value placed of the **1995 International 4-WD Truck** was \$8,000. He stated that Taylor Township is very interested in purchasing the truck and requested that the supervisors suggest a selling price. Supervisor Brown made a motion to ask \$15,000 from Taylor Township and then accept an offer if it exceeded \$12,000. Supervisor Lasek seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

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

There being no further business, Chairman Silvetti made a motion to **adjourn**. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. Following adjournment of this meeting, an Executive Session is being held to discuss personnel issues and a legal issue. The motion to adjourn passed with a unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of March 14, 2017
Blair Township Supervisors

Respectfully Submitted by:

Betty Robertson
Secretary/Treasurer