

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

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF MAY 09, 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, Police Chief Roger White, Building Code and Ordinance Enforcement Officer Donald Ott, Road Foreman John Reed, Chris Dutrow of Stiffler, McGraw & Associates and Solicitor Michael Rouch.

Chairman Silveti announced that an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and legal issues will be held this evening at the conclusion of the business meeting.

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 Rutter's Store Liquor License Public Hearing of April 11, 2017, as prepared by Court Reporter Jo Nell Snider. Supervisor Lasek seconded the motion. Solicitor Rouch will invoice Rutter's Store for the expense incurred in the Public Hearing process. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Lasek made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting of April 11, 2017. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of April: Payroll and payroll liabilities totaled \$55,455.16; General Fund disbursements for the month of April totaled \$32,607.67; Capital Reserve disbursements totaled \$4,952.50; and Local Services Tax disbursements totaled \$3,759.62. Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve total disbursements in the amount of \$96,774.95. Supervisor Lasek seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Lasek made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for April 2017 as \$935,384.51. Supervisor Brown 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 April 2017 as \$152,244.97. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silvetti announced that anyone wishing to address the Supervisors may do so at this time.

Robin Cadwallader, candidate for Blair Township Supervisor, addressed the assembly commenting that she is thankful for the opportunity to run for Supervisor. She noted that the key to representing the citizens of Blair Township is being able to listen and to communicate. She has been active in local government, attending monthly meetings and is also on the Blair Township Water & Sewer Authority Board. Ms. Cadwallader stated that the ability to communicate can never be overestimated. Chairman Silvetti noted that there are no Democratic Party candidates on the municipal ballot this year.

Supervisor Lasek made honorable mention of **Lois Kaneshiki**, noting his appreciation for organizing the candidates' debate meeting at the municipal building.

There being no further **public comment** expressed, Chairman Silvetti proceeded with the agenda.

Chairman Silvetti introduced **Adam Long**, Registered Landscape Architect with **Keller Engineers**, commending him for the outstanding rain garden project that he designed for the Blair Township Municipal Building. Adam addressed the assembly introducing Ameron's Project Foreman, Craig Baronio. The project began as an MS-4 Green Infrastructure Design Competition. The outcome of the competition then yielded three specific projects for three municipalities: Blair Township, Duncansville Borough and the City of Altoona. All were funded by a grant from the **Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay**. The project was initially bid in July of 2016, due to unexpectedly high bid results, it was then revised and rebid in March, 2017. The project was first designed as a means of MS-4 cooperation, serving to lessen stormwater runoff, but has greatly added to the aesthetics of the Municipal Building grounds. Chairman Silvetti stated he has informed Bill Kibler of the Altoona Mirror, noting he is the reporter covering the MS-4 stories for the Mirror. He stated that he wished the Township could take credit for initiating the project, but, in fact, the Township only needed to agree to it. He acknowledged Adam Long and Teddie Kreitz of Keller Engineers, Beth Futrick of the Blair County Soil Conservation Service, Ameron Construction and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Supervisor Brown suggested that a photo and story would be a nice addition to the website.

Chairman Silvetti updated the assembly regarding current **CDBG projects**.

The Municipal Office **Removal of Architectural Barriers Project** is complete.

The **Greendown Acres Wastewater Collection System Replacement Project** is complete.

The **Greendown Acres Street Repair Project** is bid and the Contractor will be on site May 10th for a preconstruction meeting.

Chairman Silvetti recalled the request for CDBG funds reimbursement from the **Blair Township Water & Sewer Authority** in the amount of **\$11,716.12**. He noted that he spoke with **Sheila Frasier** of PA Department of Community & Economic Development; these costs are not reimbursable. Most were expenses that the Authority incurred outside of Blair Township's project contracts. Following the Street Repair Project, there will be approximately \$1,300 remaining. Supervisor Lasek commented that there were a lot of "ifs" attached to the

consideration for reimbursement, none of which happened. Chairman Silveti noted that the one contract between the Authority and Township included an “overrun” clause in which the Authority would reimburse the Township if the costs exceeded the available CDBG funds.

Solicitor Rouch has prepared a **Variance Agreement** on behalf of **Paul and Dodie Amigh**. The variance is to permit placement of a shed 5 foot 1 inch from the adjoining side lot property line, also partially owned by Dodie Amigh and her father Stephen Mentzler. Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve the Amigh Variance premised on having the document signed and returned to Attorney Rouch for recording. Supervisor Lasek seconded the motion. An existing gravel driveway was also briefly discussed. The motion to **approve** the Amigh Variance conditional on signatures and recording passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown, Highway Foreman John Reed, and Engineer Chris Dutrow will meet in the near future to review the **Pleasant View Phase 4 Development**. This is in preparation for the requested release of the Maintenance Bond scheduled to be released in July.

Chris Dutrow reported on the site visit to **Chris Weidley’s Development; Manor Park Lot #10**. Coincidentally, he had gone to the site to review the status of the items with reference to the retainage held, due to the severe rain event, the drainage swale issue was discussed as well. Mr. Dutrow recommended a partial release of the funds held, reducing the financial security held from \$30,953.45 to \$4,596.90. The remaining balance is 110% of the compost filter sock and seeding; E & S control features. This is to remain in place until the site becomes stabilized. Supervisor Lasek made a motion to **approve** the **release** of **\$30,953.45**, this following payment of the engineer’s review fees. Financial security in the amount of \$4,596.90 will remain in place. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion to approve the partial release, contingent on payment of review fees, passed with a unanimous vote.

In reference to the **Weidley drainage runoff swale**, it was determined that the activity would qualify for an exemption to a grading permit (Chapter 9, §107.1), as the area in question cover less than 5,000 SF. Mr. Weidley was advised in writing that the following two conditions must be met: The grading is to take place solely on property owned by Mr. Weidley and not on adjacent property. Mr. Weidley is responsible to obtain any permits and/or approvals as required by the Blair County Conservation District and the PA DEP.

Sealed bids are being solicited for the **2017 Road Paving Project**. The bids will be opened, with one tentatively accepted, at the June 13th Business Meeting.

Telephone Quotes are being solicited for the **2017 Line Painting Project**. Deadline to submit a bid is June 12th at 3:00 p.m.

Don Tantius of **253 Hamer Drive**, following a severe rain event, emailed a **stormwater runoff complaint**, which included a video. The email referenced the work being done on Pleasant View Phase 6, but it was determined that a large portion of the runoff originated at a Crossman site that did not have adequate E & S provisions in place. The Township and the Blair County Conservation District inspected the site.

Chairman Silvetti noted his dissatisfaction with the Agreement received from the **PA Department of Transportation** requiring Township approval to be responsible for maintenance to the **Newry Bridge sidewalk**. The Agreement places the onus of all construction maintenance responsibility on the Township. He stated that in conversation with Vince Greenland, Mr. Greenland stated that the Agreement, as written, overstated the Townships obligation, but when asked by Chairman Silvetti to redact certain provisions outlined in the Agreement, the request was denied. Supervisor Brown commented that he is in favor of the Agreement and feels that the sidewalk constructed on the bridge will improve things for the Township, even if only one person utilizes it. He stated that the Township needs to be more pedestrian/bicycle friendly. Supervisor Lasek stated that he has reviewed current emails and has changed his position from the April Meeting, now being in favor a approving the proposed Agreement as presented. Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve the PA DOT Agreement for the Newry Bridge Sidewalk. Supervisor Lasek seconded the motion. Chairman Silvetti commented that the Meiser's, owners of Leighty's Farm Market, are not happy with the PA DOT plan to curb their parking lot. Supervisor Brown stated that he is close to having a completed draft Ordinance prepared for consideration, anticipating the June meeting. The Ordinance would place sidewalk maintenance responsibilities on the adjoining property owner(s). Supervisor Lasek commented that even though he's not totally in agreement with the PA DOT Agreement as presented, he feels it is a take it or leave it situation. The motion to **approve the PA DOT Newry Bridge Agreement** passed with two yes votes. The Chairman voted no.

Chairman Silvetti called for **Other Business**.

Supervisor Brown stated that he feels there is a need for "**No Parking**" signs at the **Bickles Store on Dunnings Highway**. It was debated whether or not violations could be enforced. Chief White stated he would look into the Vehicle Code.

PA DOT would require a **Traffic Study** be done at the **Bickle's** site in order to be able to enforce the need for "No Parking" signs. Chris Dutrow commented that pre-ordinance structures, in the absence of zoning, are sometimes difficult to resolve.

Chief White commented on the **Sunoco** drill site along **Dunnings Highway**. The Sunoco crew is working six 10-hour days per week. Traffic back-ups and congestion are a problem, which need to be addressed by PA DOT.

Chairman Silvetti asked if Supervisors Brown and Lasek were prepared to act on the **PA DOT** request for the Township to takeover a **Speed Reduction Sign** to be placed on Dunnings Highway. He noted that the responsibility would entail financial responsibility for the electric bill, insurance and routine maintenance to include the bulbs, etc. No further comments were received.

Supervisor Lasek made a motion to approve Blair Township's **2016 DCED Audit** submitted on April 5, 2017 by Ritchey, Ritchey and Koontz. Supervisor Brown 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 Silveti announced that immediately following adjournment an Executive Session is being held to discuss personnel issues.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to **adjourn**. Supervisor Lasek seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Betty Robertson
Secretary/Treasurer