

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

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF APRIL 09, 2019

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, Supervisor Palmer Brown and Supervisor Paul Amigh, II; Secretary/Treasurer, Betty Robertson; BTPD Sergeant, Roger Peacock; Highway Foreman, John Reed; Chris Dutrow, PE of Stiffler, McGraw & Associates; and Solicitor Michael Rouch.

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 Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting of March 12, 2019. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the Work Session held on March 20, 2019. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of March were reviewed. Secretary-Treasurer Robertson presented as follows: Payroll totaled \$31,921.16; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities for the month of March totaled \$65,849.71; Liquid Fuels disbursements were \$2,826.25; and Local Services Tax disbursements, \$30,257.75. Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve total disbursements in the amount of \$130,854.87. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion to approve the total disbursements in the amount of \$130,854.87 passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for March 2019 as \$1,000,734.06. 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 March 2019 as \$124,832.50. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silvetti then announced that anyone wishing to address the Board of Supervisors could do so at this time.

Duncansville Volunteer Fire Department, Chief Craig Hazlett. Chief Hazlett presented the Supervisors with the 2019 list of DVFD Chiefs and Line Officers. Chief Hazlett then stated that the DVFD has acquired a house to use as a fire training demonstration. The abandon house is in

Blair Township. Blair Township's Code Officer, Donald Ott will contact Chief Hazlett to advise him about any required permitting requirements.

Blair County Planning Commission representative, **Tina Enderlein**, introduced Penn State University Engineering students **Annaliese Long**, **Molly Laurie**, and **Nelson Zhukas**, as well as PSU Coordinator of Academic Internships and Community-Based Studies, **Thomas Shaffer**. The students have been working on a storm water mitigation project at Chimney Rocks Park. It was noted that the students' first site visit to Chimney Rocks Park took place following the severe rain event of September 2018.

The students presented their study of the **Chimney Rocks Trail Stabilization Project**. Using the overhead projector, this 'Senior Capstone Project' was displayed for the assembly to view as the students took turns explaining different aspects of the study.

Nelson displayed site photos outlining the erosion issue and the need to formulate a design that would maintain the natural look while keeping the solution at a minimal cost. He noted that customer needs such as funding, regulations, safety and sustainability were all taken into consideration. Chairman Silvetti suggested that the project improvements may be a source of stormwater credits for the Township's NPDES Permit requirement. Nelson noted that Stormwater Management software was used, as well as information taking into consideration a 25-year storm event.

Annaliese discussed solutions to the erosion issue, noting that minimal construction equipment use is a factor. She explained solutions such as Broad-Based Dip, Grade Breaks, and Water Bars. She noted that these are concepts and recommendations of the Dirt and Gravel Program. GIS and Civil 3D programs were used. She noted that they are not experienced with the Civil 3D program, but that Stiffler and McGraw has agreed to work with them using the Civil 3D application. Chris Dutrow confirmed that his firm, specifically Darren Sable, has agreed to help the students at no cost. Chairman Silvetti commented that he would check with Brian Shura to see if this would qualify as a Best Management Practice under MS-4 efforts.

Molly explained the Broad-Based Dip, noting this is best with a 10% \Rightarrow slope, but due to the very steep slope involved in the Chimney Rocks landscape, they are recommending a combination Broad Based Dip and Water Bar, which would support a 30% slope. Several alternative solutions were illustrated. She stated her anticipation for meeting with Stiffler and McGraw and working with the Civil 3D application.

Tina Enderlein stated that the students took two field trips, one to Canoe Creek State Park and a second to Raystown Resort. The students also have written an article that will be published in the July/August issue of the IECA Environmental Connection Journal. The Sustainable Communities Collaborative Closing Event for the semester is scheduled for April 25th at which time they will finalize the report and the solutions for this project. The final report is to be completed by April 29th.

The students were applauded for their work and excellent presentation.

Brad Koontz of Ritchey, Ritchey and Koontz presented the Township's **2018 DCED Audit Report**, first explaining the DCED-required accounting format. He noted that the Township budget format mirrors the DCED report. He stated that there were no major issues identified in the audit. He then reviewed the Financial Statement and Balance Sheet, highlighting the major areas of revenue and summarizing areas of expenditures, noting that Blair Township is very healthy financially compared to many other municipalities.

Chairman Silveti questioned the **Capital Reserve Account balance**, specifically if there are statutory limitations for reserve balances. Mr. Koontz confirmed that there are no limits.

Mr. Koontz reiterated a comment from past audits, suggesting that the Township may want to consider a **Section 125 Premium Only Plan**. This would require some set up and could be used to shield that portion of health and disability insurance premiums paid by employees from being taxed and would make the premium amounts non-taxable for the Township portion of FICA and Medicare taxes as well. With the 125 Plan, the estimated annual tax savings is approximately \$5,000. He also noted that Sales Tax was being charged inappropriately on electricity billings, but this is being resolved; Blair Township is exempt.

The Supervisors thanked Mr. Koontz for presenting the report.

No new information was received for the **O'Reilly Auto Parts Subdivision Plan**. Supervisor Amigh made a motion to table the O'Reilly Auto Parts Subdivision Plan. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion to **table the O'Reilly Auto Parts Subdivision Plan passed** with a unanimous vote. The municipal review period will end on June 22, 2019.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to table the **O'Reilly Preliminary Land Development Plan**, since the land development plan cannot be approved until 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 May 21, 2019.

Chris Dutrow stated that a revised **Barneywood Subdivision Plan** was received on March 28th and reviewed on April 4th. The Blair Township Planning Commission has not reviewed the revised plan to date. There is a possibility of an issue with the BTW&SA regarding a sewer main extension. A Shared Driveway Maintenance Agreement is also being recommended. Supervisor Brown made a motion to **table the Barneywood Subdivision Plan**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **table the Barneywood Subdivision Plan** passed with a unanimous vote. The municipal review period will end on June 14, 2019.

The **2019 Road Paving Project** was discussed. Supervisor Brown commented that he had written a letter to Mr. Wolfe, Duncansville Borough Chairman, requesting the Borough agree to pay for their portion of paving Forsht Drive. Supervisor Brown attended the Borough meeting held on April 8th. The Duncansville Borough Council moved to approve paying for their portion of the paving of Forsht Drive. Liquid Fuels funding for Forsht Drive is divided by the center line of the road between First Avenue and Second Avenue. The West side from First Avenue to Second Avenue is the responsibility of Blair Township, while the East side from First Avenue to

Second Street is the responsibility of the Borough of Duncansville. Supervisor Brown made a motion to **advertise to solicit bids** for the **2019 Road Paving Project**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. The bid opening date is May 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to **advertise to solicit bids** for **Anti-Skid, 2A Subbase and Aashto #1** stone. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to advertise to solicit stone bids passed with a unanimous vote. The bid opening date is May 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Solicitor Rouch will draft a **Stormwater Facility Maintenance Easement Agreement**, including an **Indemnification** for Joseph and Helen Pyzowski and then forward this to John Urban, the Pyzowski attorney for review. The **Hillside View Drive Stormwater Detention Pond** encroaches on the adjoining Pyzowski property, necessitating this easement/indemnification agreement. The easement is to include a ten-foot buffer for Township mowing purposes.

Chairman Silveti, referencing the **Work Session** held on March 20th, questioned the financial implications relating to the failed culvert pipe at the base of Brentwood. It was not certain whether the BTW&SA had the capability to conduct a recordable TV inspection of this pipe, noting that was needed to determine the degree of damage/repair. Chris Dutrow commented the TV inspection would be an advantage in determining the amount of separations, suggesting a sewer jet be used first to clear any debris from the pipe. He also confirmed that Stiffler McGraw does have the capability of performing a TV inspection of the pipe.

Chairman Silveti commented on **Act 62 of 2016**. The Act does permit Second Class Township's to create specific stormwater districts. A fee can also be incorporated into the Stormwater Ordinance. He is seeking to talk with Greencastle Borough, which recently enacted a Stormwater Fee. He noted that a two-tiered fee appears possible, one lesser standard fee to cover MS4 costs, and a second fee to fund other necessary storm water infrastructure. Due to its ISC commitment, as well as other anticipated stormwater expenditures, Chairman Silveti stated it is in the Township's best interest to act this year. Depending on the sophistication of the County's property assessment database, information relating to impervious surface, etc. may be obtainable from this source.

Chairman Silveti stated that Lot 47 of **Pleasant View Phase 6** is being built on. He suggested the possibility of O & M Agreements with the individual property owners. Current deed covenants are written to require 100% agreement among property owners when dealing with maintenance and repairs, etc., making likely future contentious situations for Phase 6 residents.

The following Township Officials and representatives have confirmed their attendance at the **Blair County Water Summit**, sponsored by Senator Judy Ward: Chairman Silveti, Supervisor Brown, Betty Robertson, Don Ott and John Reed. The Summit is held on May 2nd, 5:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. at the Duncansville Community Center.

In answer to a question, Chris Dutrow stated that with the construction designs of the **Snare building/development**, it is projected there will be 1/4 to 1/3 less stormwater going on to the adjoining Zee Plaza property than prior to construction.

Chairman Silveti stated that he had a discussion with **Rodney Estep** of **PA DOT** regarding the handling of the Snare permit, i.e., Blair Township never being contacted directly despite being the potential permit holder.

Supervisor Brown reported on the **Shared Bike Lane** meeting which he attended at PA DOT on March 25, 2019. PA DOT is preparing to do a resurfacing, drainage upgrade, side walk installation and guide rail upgrade project along North Juniata Street and Municipal Drive. They are now looking to incorporate pavement marking for bicycles, as well as signage, etc. PA DOT plans to make the initial installation of the markings, placing long-term maintenance responsibilities on the adjoining municipalities. The subject matter was not met favorably by the Township Board. Supervisor Brown stated that this is the way PA DOT does business now. Supervisor Brown then made a motion to **notify PA DOT** in writing that Blair Township is **not in favor of** entering into an Agreement to participate in the maintenance via a **Shared Lane Agreement**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Supervisor Brown stated that this concept falls under the Complete Streets initiative.

Other Business:

There being no further business, Supervisor Brown made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Betty Robertson, Secretary