

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

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF JUNE 11, 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 Chief, Roger White; 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: "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.

It was also announced that the (required) First Public Hearing for the 2019 CDBG Grant was held at 6:30 p.m. this evening, immediately prior to the Supervisors' meeting.

Chairman Silvetti reviewed the information exchanged at the First Public Hearing of the FY 2019 CDBG Grant. Trina Illig conducted the hearing. The funding breakdown indicated an increase of \$2,011 from the previous year. The grant funds available for projects is \$78,097, and \$17,143 is earmarked for Blair County's administration cost allocation at 18% of the grant total. Maximum allocations for service projects are 15% and 30% for slums and blight.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting of May 14, 2019. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of May were reviewed. Secretary-Treasurer Robertson presented as follows: Payroll totaled \$50,288.43; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities for the month of May totaled \$65,609.64; Liquid Fuels disbursements were \$266.79; Capital Reserve disbursements were \$4,790.00; and Local Services Tax disbursements, \$1,652.00. Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve total disbursements in the amount of \$102,606.86. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve the total disbursements in the amount of \$102,606.86 passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for May 2019 as \$1,226,087.26. Supervisor Amigh 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 May 2019 as \$93,552.53. 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 could do so at this time.

Chairman Silveti recognized **Bill Alberts** of **254 Puzzletown Road.** Mr. Alberts read from a prepared statement by himself and his wife. Mr. Alberts is dissatisfied with an adjoining development, claiming stormwater is being directed toward his property and suggesting a natural stream has been relocated, further contributing to this problem. He stated that he has addressed the issue with the Freedom Township Board of Supervisors, as well as the Blair County Conservation District, noting his dissatisfaction with both entities' responses. Following a lengthy discussion, including multiple scenarios and suggestions, Chairman Silveti stated that the Board of Supervisors would like to hear the neighboring property owner's side of the situation. Chairman Silveti stated that he and Mr. Ott would make arrangements to meet with Gene Horomanski, the other party's representative. Mr. Alberts conveyed his satisfaction with how Blair Township will have addressed his concerns.

Greg Hillard, P.E., Bohler Engineering, submitted a **95-day Time Extension** for the **O'Reilly Auto Parts Subdivision Plan**. Supervisor Amigh made a motion to grant the 95-day extension. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion to **grant** the **95-day time extension** for the **O'Reilly Subdivision Plan** passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to table the O'Reilly Auto Parts Subdivision Plan. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **table** the **O'Reilly Auto Parts Subdivision Plan** **passed** with a unanimous vote. The municipal review period will now end on September 25, 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 August 24, 2019.

Chris Dutrow stated that Keller Engineers, on behalf of the **Barneywood Subdivision Plan**, has addressed the outstanding engineering comments. He noted that the waiver requests were individually discussed and approved at the May meeting. The Blair Township Water & Sewer Authority issued a letter stating that they agree to defer the sewer design and connection approval process, providing for the developer to proceed with the subdivision. The BTWSA indicated in their letter that before any future building takes place, a sewer main must be installed on the property to serve the lots, and at the sole cost of the developer. The Blair Township Planning Commission recommended approval of the plan.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to **approve** the **Barneywood Subdivision Plan**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve** the **Barneywood Subdivision Plan** passed with a unanimous vote.

Solicitor Rouch advised the Supervisors that he has drafted a variance for Sean Wilt to allow placement of a shed on his property. The variance agreement requires the signature of the (affected) neighboring property owners. The variance is needed due to the encroachment of the 15-foot side setback requirement. Supervisor Brown made a motion to **approve the Wilt Variance, pending notarized approval signatures of the affected landowners**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to conditionally **approve the Wilt Variance Agreement** passed with a unanimous vote. Following receipt of the signed agreement, Solicitor Rouch will record the Wilt Variance.

Chris Dutrow explained the **Ventre DEP Sewage Planning** issue. The Ventre Bros. Subdivision was presented and approved as a non-build subdivision. Ventre Brothers have an interested buyer, but the buyer wishes to develop the parcel. He noted that the Duncansville wastewater letter, a necessary part of the DEP submission, is outstanding. Chris instructed the Supervisors to take one of two actions pending receipt of the letter; either no action at all, or to grant conditional approval of the Sewage Facility Plan upon receipt of the missing letter. Chairman Silvetti commented on the extra steps on the Township's part, made necessary when plans are submitted inconsistent with plans already being formulated. He noted that Tim McGaw of BTWSA advised the Township of the pending development plan before the non-build issue was initially raised. Doing the sewage planning at the time of the subdivision would have saved both time and expense. Chris Dutrow commented that subdivisions are usually filed this way to put the onus of sewage planning on the buyer or when there is no buyer/developer with no lot development being planned. Chris noted it might be beneficial to have a database listing tax parcel numbers as a way to keep track of plans filed as non-builds. Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve signing and forwarding the DEP Sewage Planning Application to DEP following receipt of the acknowledgement letter from Duncansville. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve forwarding the **Sewage Planning application to DEP**, following receipt of the Duncansville Sewage Capacity acceptance letter, passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to table the discussion regarding a request by Shirley Keiberg, representing the **Central PA Humane Society**, for a donation in the amount of \$1,000. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. Ms. Keilberg was not in attendance, as anticipated. The Supervisors would have preferred detail regarding the feral cat **Trap/Neuter/Release Program** as it would affect activity in Blair Township. The motion to **table the CPHS** discussion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to accept the proposal submitted by Alpha Space Control for the 2019 Pavement Marking Contract in the amount of \$11,918.14. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. Request for bids were forwarded to four vendors; one bid was received. The motion to **accept the Alpha Space Control 2019 Pavement Marking Proposal** in the amount of **\$11,918.14** passed with a unanimous vote.

The **Brentwood Drive culvert pipe** was addressed. Stiffler-McGraw sent a crew, as requested by the Supervisors, to conduct a TV inspection. The information was forwarded to Guyer Brothers, which resulted in a proposal of \$55,924.00 to install a 36" Thermoform PVC Liner.

Chris Dutrow commented that it may be less expensive to replace the pipe than to line the pipe. Underground utilities remain an issue, as well as easements. Culvert Pipe ownership remains undetermined. John Reed commented on the upper properties' owners who have adversely restricted the flow of the water by altering (filling in) the drainage ditch. Regardless, the solution remains debatable. It was agreed that some form of preliminary engineering is needed.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to **authorize Stiffler McGraw to proceed with a preliminary design for replacing the pipe from Brentwood to Peachdale**. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Regarding any future action on enacting a stormwater fee, Chairman Silvetti is scheduled to meet with the Borough Manager of Green Castle Borough, which has recently enacted a Stormwater Fee. He hopes to gain insight from this municipality's experience

Supervisor Brown addressed the shoulder erosion issue at the **Dennis property** on Edgewood Drive, confirming that **#4 stone** should be used on the shoulders in order to prevent future erosion.

Solicitor Rouch stated that a week ago, and as requested by Mr. Joe Pyzowski's attorney, John Urban, a minor change was made to the **Stormwater Facility Maintenance Easement Agreement**, including an **Indemnification for Joseph and Helen Pyzowski**, and was returned to him. Solicitor Rouch has not yet heard from Attorney Urban on this change.

Chairman Silvetti reported on the **DCNR Mini Grant Program Application**, as submitted on behalf of the **Fort Fetter Park** property, commenting that it was forwarded to SAP&DC the previous week. He stated there is no reason that the application should not be considered.

Chief White announced the **resignation of Officer Ben Shanholtz**. Ben was hired by Logan Township, as was Shea Strayer from Hollidaysburg Borough Police Department. Ben's last date of employment at Blair Township will be June 23<sup>rd</sup>. He noted, and the Supervisors agreed, Ben will be missed. He has been an excellent employee, and Logan Township is fortunate to have hired him. Chief White commented that the Police applicant pool is scant and that many municipalities are currently taking applications for officers. Blair Township's Police Department wages and contract were briefly discussed. Chief White affirmed that the salary schedule is competitive, noting that Logan Township is a larger department and offers more opportunity to advance. Supervisor Amigh made a motion to authorize Chief White to act on proceeding with the hiring process. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion to **proceed with the recruitment/replacement process** passed with a unanimous vote.

Chief White stated that he is in the process of pricing a new **vehicle** for the **Police Department**. Consideration is being given to a pickup truck or an SUV. He noted that there is \$50.00 difference in the base unit prices, but the upfit couldn't be provided. He is estimating the cost of a new pickup, including the upfit, to be between \$45,000 - \$46,000, noting the price is negligible between the two. The preferred choice remains undecided. The sedans are no longer considered, as they appear to be phased-out. Supervisor Amigh made a motion to **approve acting on a replacement vehicle at Chief White's discretion**. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Other Business:**

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Blair Township Supervisors

Chairman Silvetti commented that the Edgewood Stormwater Detention Pond Retrofit project close out report was submitted to DEP this date. The remainder of the grant due to Blair Township is \$10,119.47. He stated that the DEP-required Public Event and the Hollidaysburg Area School District field trip both went well.

A request to have a Speed Hump placed on Monastery Road was briefly discussed, but denied.

There being no further business, Supervisor Amigh made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Betty Robertson  
Secretary