

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

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF JULY 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, via telephone conference call; Secretary/Treasurer, Betty Robertson; BTPD Chief, Roger White; Building Code and Ordinance Enforcement Officer, Donald Ott; Highway Foreman, John Reed; and Chris Dutrow, PE, of Stiffler, McGraw & Associates.

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 June 11, 2019. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of June were reviewed. Secretary-Treasurer Robertson presented as follows: Payroll totaled \$31,724.64; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities for the month of June totaled \$73,859.35; Liquid Fuels disbursements were \$2,195.52; Capital Reserve disbursements were \$811.00; and Local Services Tax disbursements, \$2,198.66. Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve total June disbursements in the amount of \$110,789.17. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve the total June disbursements in the amount of \$110,789.17 passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for June 2019 as \$1,172,659.89. 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 June 2019 as \$96,916.17. 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.

Chairman Silvetti recognized Mr. **Bill Alberts** of **254 Puzzletown Road**, present as follow-up to his previously-expressed concern about surface water on his property. Mr. Alberts was provided the minutes from the June Supervisors Meeting, requesting also that the June Agenda be emailed to him. Chairman Silvetti reported that he and Mr. Ott had met with the Helsels, the neighboring property owners, following the June Board meeting. They discussed Mr. Alberts' concerns

regarding the garage above the Alberts property, noting that it was constructed sloping away from the Alberts property, thus not significantly causing stormwater runoff. In summary, it was determined that the pervasively poor soil conditions in the specific area are not conducive to the absorption of rain/storm water. The Alberts property also has low areas, which would promote ponding and standing water. Mr. Alberts was presented with a written summary of the findings which had been prepared by Supervisor Silvetti. It was determined that the garage building is having minimal, if any negative impact on Mr. Alberts' property, thus it is up to the property owner to take measures to prevent the rain/storm water issues. Chairman Silvetti affirmed that Mr. Alberts was indeed deserving of answers to his concerns and fair consideration was used in the conclusions that were drawn. Mr. Alberts thanked the Township for taking the time to investigate the issue.

New information is expected soon, but to date, not received for the **O'Reilly Auto Parts Subdivision Plan**. 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 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.

Regarding the Snare development on North Juniata Street, Mr. Snare is requesting return of the full financial security held on behalf of the **Snare Office Building** project. Chairman Silvetti commented that the project appears well done. The Stiffler McGraw review dated July 1st, outlined two areas of concern:

- 1) A concrete sidewalk was constructed on the eastern side of the building; the sidewalk was not shown on the approved plans. The developer's engineer is to determine if the additional impervious area was accounted for in the stormwater management design.
- 2) Sediment and straw need to be removed from the culvert on the northeast corner along Green Street.

Chris Dutrow recommended the Supervisors table the financial security release until the items are adequately addressed.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to table the release of the financial security until the review letter comments of July 1st are satisfied. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion to **table the Snare financial security release** passed with a unanimous vote.

It was reported that Mr. Gary Watters of AMED had met recently with Chairman Silvetti and Betty Robertson to present an AMED Agreement for consideration by Blair Township. The Agreement would reflect similar provisions as the same Agreement recently adopted by Allegheny Township. AMED has subcontracted with Duncansville EMS service to provide

emergency services locally. Maps were provided, one retaining the coverage areas of Hollidaysburg EMS, with the alternative designating AMED for an additional area that is currently held by Hollidaysburg EMS. Following discussion, the Supervisors agreed to consider the proposed Agreement while retaining service areas as is. AMED was recognized as being well managed. Chairman Silvetti made a motion to **approve** moving forward, pending receipt of the **Agreement** allowing **AMED** to provide services to Blair Township in cooperation with the Duncansville EMS. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Chairman Silvetti will contact Mr. Watters and request the Agreement between AMED and Blair Township for presentation to the Supervisors at the August meeting.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to accept the PA DOT Municipal Winter Traffic Services Agreement. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. This PA DOT Agreement is in place for the winter maintenance of Newry Lane. This represents an update to the existing five-year Agreement and reflects a reimbursement increase to the Township in the amount of 1.7% from the previous year. The motion to **accept the PA DOT Municipal Winter Traffic Services Agreement update passed** with a unanimous vote.

A lengthy discussion took place concerning the request from **S & A Homes** for the Township to accept dedication of the **Harvest Glen** streets so identified in the original Developer's Agreement. Highway Foreman, John Reed, conducted an initial walk through, outlining those issues needing addressed. Keller Engineers has assigned Ben Piper to review the street dedication issues on behalf of Blair Township. It was noted that Keller Engineers is conducting this review because Stiffler McGraw serves as the consulting engineer for S & A Homes, thus creating the appearance of a conflict of interest. Supervisor Brown will contact Ben Piper to schedule this inspection. Chairman Silvetti indicated his concerns specifically relating to a Home Association. S & A currently manages the Home Association responsibilities as outlined in the Developer's Agreement, and according to some residents, has not fulfilled their obligation. Supervisor Brown recalled the issues that involved the Borough of Duncansville having refused an intersection of its First Avenue with Harvest Glen's Stableview Court Road. Chairman Silvetti expressed his concern that Harvest Glen residents appear unaware of the obligations that they have, as outlined in the Developer's Agreement. Solicitor Routch will be asked to review Harvest Glen deeds to verify required deed restrictions as described in the Developer's Agreement.

The **Pyzowski Easement and Indemnification**, relative to the property located at 103 Hillside View Drive, has **executed** and **recorded** (07/08/2019).

Chairman Silvetti noted that he believes that the **DCNR Mini Grant Program request submitted to Southern Alleghenies Commission** for the Fort Fetter Park Master Planning, may have been initially approved. The SAP&DC Board is scheduled to meet later in July to make final approvals.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to approve the annual **Headline Marketing and Communications Website Renewal Proposal** in the amount of \$1,796.00, this being no increase from the current year. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. Chairman Silvetti noted

that HMC service has been very good and responsive to the Townships needs and requests. The motion to **approve** the **renewal** passed with a unanimous vote.

The **Brentwood/Peachdale Drives Stormwater Culvert Pipe** issue was discussed. Diane Thomas, Waterways Specialist of the Blair County Conservation District, met with John Reed and Dave Smith at the Brentwood Drive site to determine eligibility for the Dirt and Gravel Road funding (to help fund the repairs to the failed underground stormwater culvert pipe). Some of the BCCD requirements were discussed: presence of trout; DEP required culvert pipe extension for 100-feet beyond Peachdale Drive; and, an increase in pipe size diameter from three to four feet. Because of these requirements associated with the Dirt and Gravel funding, it was determined that the recommendations from the BCCD were not a viable alternative. As a result, the Supervisors affirmed Stiffler McGraw proceeding with a cost-effective design, determining the necessary pipe size, and making the necessary 811 call to locate utilities.

Other Business and Informational Items:

Chief White reviewed the outcome, to date, of the **Patrol Officer Recruitment**. He noted that the Department has received three Patrol Officer Employment Applications with only six days remaining until the July 15th deadline. The Borough of Hollidaysburg is recruiting as well; applicants very likely are applying at both municipalities. He noted that he may consider extending the application period.

Chief White stated that he is in the process of pricing a new **vehicle** for the **Police Department**. Consideration is no longer being given to a pickup truck due to the additional cost. A 2020 Utility Vehicle (SUV) is being considered, through Tri-Star, with the initial cost of \$31,200. He has placed the vehicle on order. The upfit cost is approximately \$12,000. and is still in the negotiation process.

Chairman Silvetti commented that he intends to speak with State Representative Jim Gregory regarding the importance of the House acting favorably on SB 607, authorizing Radar and Lidar. SB 607 has passed in the Senate and is now in the House for consideration. Chief White noted that the current Bill has reached the House of Representatives much earlier than in past years, adding anticipation to its passage. It was agreed that there is no good reason not to have the Bill passed and enacted into law. Pennsylvania is the only remaining State not having authorized municipal radar use.

Chairman Silvetti is scheduled to meet with the Borough Manager of Greencastle Borough, which has recently enacted a Stormwater Impact Fee. He stated that the Real Estate millage will more than likely play a part in determining a fair and affordable fee per tax parcel. He further noted that even non-taxable parcels would be assessed.

A minor number of complaints were received this past July 4th regarding **Fireworks, mostly** due to the late, “super-bombers”. A possible Fireworks Ordinance was discussed. Pennsylvania has a current Fireworks Law in place which reflects more robust fireworks having been legalized. It was noted that locally, Logan Township has the most up to date Fireworks Ordinance, including no fireworks from 11:00 p.m. until 8:00 a.m. Since fireworks issues are raised largely on special occasions, it was determined not to be a pressing

problem. Should it become an issue, the possibility of a Fireworks Ordinance will be revisited.

There being no further business, Supervisor Brown made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. Chairman Silvetti seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Betty Robertson
Secretary