

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

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF OCTOBER 08, 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 and Supervisor Palmer Brown, with Supervisor Paul Amigh, II participating via conference call; Secretary/Treasurer Betty Robertson; BTPD, Sergeant Roger Peacock; 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.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the advertised Work Session of August 22, 2019. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting of September 10, 2019. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of September were reviewed. Secretary-Treasurer Robertson presented as follows: Payroll totaled \$28,010.82; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities for the month of September totaled \$60,529.51; Liquid Fuels disbursements were \$68,437.24; Capital Reserve disbursements were \$408.00; and Local Services Tax disbursements, \$2,147.00.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve total September disbursements in the amount of \$159,532.57. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve the total September disbursements in the amount of \$159,532.57 passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for September 2019 as \$1,084,972.60. 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 September 2019 as \$113,051.67. 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 on general issues not already on the agenda could do so at this time.

Jessica Sorge and **Mary Bolt** of the Hollidaysburg American Legion Ambulance Association addressed the Supervisors. Chairman Silvetti, referring to the August 2019 Blair Township/AMED Agreement, addressed their concerns that the service areas were altered. He assured them that the Township's August motion approving the Agreement included retaining service areas previously in place, with no variation. However, the service location maps attached to the Agreement apparently show 102 residences previously in the dispatch area of the Hollidaysburg Ambulance Association now in the AMED/Duncansville EMS dispatch area. The Supervisors reaffirmed that they had no interest in changing areas of service. Ms. Bolt stated that should the Duncansville Ambulance not be staffed at the time of an emergency, the call could be directed to AMED rather than to the nearer ambulance (Hollidaysburg), regardless of the AMED ambulance being at further distance. Ms. Sorge commented that the Hollidaysburg Association has been in existence since 1939 and is fully staffed and ready to serve, also noting that they offer many public service classes and training.

Grant Wills of Blair County GIS Mapping will be contacted to review the previous map and the current map, and to assist in resolving this matter.

Chris Dutrow reviewed the **Don and Amy Rothrauff Subdivision Plan**, as submitted by Todd Beiswenger of Young and Associates. The Planning module is in the process of being reviewed by DEP. Chris noted that waivers were approved at the September meeting. A Shared Driveway Agreement is to be prepared for review by Solicitor Rouch for consideration by the Supervisors. The municipal review period will end on November 16, 2019.

Supervisor Brown then made a motion to **table** the Rothrauff Subdivision Plan, pending DEP approval of the Sewage Facility Planning Module, as well as Stiffler-McGraw review comments of September 5th, to include the Shared Driveway Agreement, being addressed. The motion to **table** the **Rothrauff Subdivision Plan** was seconded by Supervisor Amigh and approved unanimously.

The **O'Reilly Final Land Development Plan** as prepared by Greg Hillard of Bollard Engineering was discussed. There are outstanding review comments of October 7th to be addressed. Financial Security needs to be in place as well as the \$2,000 Stormwater Maintenance fee. Chris Dutrow stated that the Opinion of Probable Costs, as submitted by the developer, is acceptable as prepared. The BCCD approved the E & S plan. The developer has decreased the amount of parking stalls from 35 to 32. The PA DOT Highway Occupancy Permit is also needed. The Supervisors authorized Solicitor Rouch prepare the Operations and Maintenance Agreement. The municipal review period will end on January 11, 2020.

Supervisor Brown then made a motion to **table** the **O'Reilly Final Land Development Plan**, noting the need for review comments of October 7th being addressed. The motion to **table** the **O'Reilly Final Land Development Plan** was seconded by Supervisor Amigh and approved unanimously.

No new information was received on the **J119-Frankstown Communications (AT&T) Tower Preliminary Land Development Plan**. Chris Dutrow commented that Mr. Diaz of the GPD Group intends to submit a revised plan. The municipal review period will end on November 16, 2019.

Supervisor Brown made the motion to **table** the **J119 Frankstown Tower Preliminary Plan**. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Amigh and approved unanimously.

Chairman Silvetti noted that the **J119 (AT&T) Tower** project would need to be reviewed for compliance by the FCC and possibly Section 106 NHPA compliance. Supervisor Brown commented that the tower is under 200 feet (195), thus not requiring FCC review. Chairman Silvetti stated that it will be up to the individuals concerned with the historical issues to voice their concerns, should they choose to do so.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to **approve Ordinance No. 2019-02**. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Amigh. It was determined that the **Ordinance** would remain in Code, rather than being included as a Non-Code Ordinance. The motion to **approve Ordinance No. 2019-02, Adoption Agreements Restatements 001, PMRS Defined Benefit Plan 07-015-5N (Non-uniformed) and PMRS Defined Benefit Plan, 07-015-5P (Police)** passed with a unanimous vote. Chairman Silvetti will provide the 2019 Ordinances to General Code by the conclusion of 2019.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to **approve Resolution No. 2019-04**, designating the County of Blair to administer the **2019 CDBG Grant**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve Resolution No. 2019-04** passed with a unanimous vote.

No action was taken on the approval of the **2019 CDBG DCED Cooperative Agreement**, pending presentation by Trina Illig, County Grants Coordinator.

Randy Brown, owner of the Brown Funeral Home in Duncansville has requested Supervisors comment on a proposed **Eagle Scout Project. Troop 30 of Duncansville** is requesting the Supervisors' endorsement in improving the **Walter Cemetery** located in Blair Township. The project is on property owned by S & A Homes, formerly Forsht Farm. The Supervisors agreed that it would be a worthwhile Eagle Scout Project. Supervisor Amigh made a motion to endorse the Walter Cemetery/Eagle Scout Project. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. It was noted that permission will be needed from S & A Homes; Supervisor Brown stated that Dave Palmer of S & A Homes, was supportive in 2006 of the cemetery's restoration. The motion to **endorse** the proposed **Eagle Scout Project** passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to **approve** distribution of the **2019 Firemen's Relief Funds** equally **among the four VFCs** that serve Blair Township. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The funds available in 2019 for distribution total \$27,958.08. Divided equally among Duncansville VFC, Freedom VFC, Geeseytown VFC and Phoenix VFC, the contribution to each VFC would be **\$6,989.52**. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

State Pension Relief Funds in the amount of **\$87,048.48** have been received. Supervisor Brown made a motion to approve the **2019 PMRS MMO** payment in the amount of **\$80,367.00**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The total includes \$29,674.00 for the Police Pension Plan and \$50,693.00 for the Non-uniform plan. Betty explained that the funds from the Auditor General exceeded the municipal obligation. The excess balance of \$6,681.48 is to be returned to the Auditor General. The motion **approving** payment to **PMRS** for the **2019 Pension Funds** in the amount of **\$80,367.00** passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Brown made a motion to return the **2019 MMO Pension System Aid payment overage** in the amount of \$6,681.48 to the Department of the Auditor General. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **return** the payment **overage** amount of **\$6,681.48** to the **Commonwealth** passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silveti explained that the Township had purchased Fort Fetter property in 2003, a portion of the purchase price being provided by a DCNR grant. The parcel has since been referred to as the "**Fort Fetter Park**". A DCNR grant in the amount of \$3,000 was awarded through SAP&DC as a design cost match. The deadline to expend the grant is June 30, 2021. Two proposals (Stiffler-McGraw and Stephen Parks & Associates) were received for the Fort Fetter Community Park Design. Stiffler McGraw proposed \$8,200 and Stephen Parks & Associates proposed not to exceed \$6,000. It was noted that Stephen Parks & Associates have significantly more experience with park design. Chairman Silveti made a motion to accept the Stephen Parks & Associates proposal not to exceed \$6,000. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. Chairman Silveti called for a vote. Supervisor Brown abstained, noting a Conflict of Interest. The motion to **accept** the **Stephen Parks & Associates** proposal for the **Fort Fetter Park Design Project** passed with two yes votes. Supervisor Brown abstained.

Chief White is requesting approval to make a **Conditional Offer of Employment** to **Matthew Tod Fleck** to fill the vacant Patrol Officer position. Mr. Fleck's hiring is conditioned on passing the required tests and acquiring requisite certifications. Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the conditional hiring of Matthew Tod Fleck, contingent on the successful results of the pre-hiring tests and certifications. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion to **approve** the **conditional offer of employment** to **Matthew Tod Fleck** passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silveti addressed the **Stormwater issue**, referencing an Excel spreadsheet that he developed which shows, for discussion only, a first storm water impact fee alternative. He stated that the issue now is how to pay for the needed improvements. If imposed, a stormwater fee might include two tiers, the annual MS-4 obligation of \$90,405, and secondarily, debt service on loans to pay for the identified storm water control projects. He then proceeded to review the spreadsheet, noting that a base fee of \$35 per Township real estate parcel would cover the MS-4 costs. An estimated borrowing of \$1.75 million for 20 years at an interest rate of 3 ½ % for capital storm water control projects would require annual debt service of \$143,000. The impact fee showing on the spreadsheet would generate \$233,405 per year in revenue, enough to cover all storm water costs as currently projected.

Basing any stormwater impact fee on each real estate parcel's impervious area appears to be the fairest methodology. Chairman Silvetti suggested the Supervisors might experiment with the spreadsheet and offer additional suggestions. He noted that he is open to suggestions following their review. Finally, he reviewed the budgetary imperative for removing stormwater costs from the general fund budget, emphasizing, by way of example, that the funds for a Township Manager have been reallocated to the Township's MS-4 ISC obligation.

The **Blair Township Highway Department** currently has a **vacancy**. The position for a highway crew member will be advertised. The CDL requirement will not be mandated.

The recent **FCC ruling** with reference to the Municipal Franchise Fees was briefly discussed. If implemented, the ruling would allow the cable companies to reduce franchise fees by the retail value of a free cable services to or on behalf of municipalities.

Betty briefly reviewed items of interest in her preparation of the draft **2020 Budget** for consideration by the Supervisors. She commented that the closing of NAC and GBW Railcar Services (formerly Berwind/Millennium Rail), will likely have a negative effect on the revenue received from the Earned Income Tax and the Local Services Tax. The Norfolk Southern Railroad layoffs also could negatively affect the Earned Income Tax. Real Estate Transfer Tax is exceptionally low in comparison to the past few budget years. The reassessment hearings continue to affect real estate revenue. The annual benefit quote for hospitalization is not received to date. The 2020 employee wage increase is set a 2.5%. The annual Auditor Generals Act 205 deposit covered the entire 2019 MMO Pension bill for both the Police and Non-uniformed Pensions. A Stormwater Impact Fee would have a positive effect on sustaining a balanced budget. The Police Department has an unexpended LST balance, to be carried into 2020, if it remains unspent through 2019. The upfit for the new police vehicle and the car cameras are big ticket items that remain. Proposed expenditures for 2020 were not received to date. The Highway Department turned in a reasonable 'wish list'. Funds will be budgeted out of Liquid Fuels for salt, line painting, stone, etc., with the next suggested paving project, Mill Road, being on hold pending the completion of the Sunoco Pipeline Project. 20% of the Liquid Fuels allocation can be put toward equipment.

Other Business:

The **MS-4 Annual Report** was filed late last month. Brian Shura P.E. of Stiffler-McGraw. will be asked to present this at a subsequent Supervisors' meeting. at a future Meeting.

There being no further business, Supervisor Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Silvetti seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Betty Robertson
Secretary

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of October 08, 2019
Blair Township Supervisors