

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

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 29, 2020

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 Edward Silveti; Supervisor Paul Amigh II; Secretary/Treasurer Betty Robertson; BTPD, Chief Roger White; and Solicitor Michael Routch.

Chairman Silveti announced: "Public comment is both welcomed and invited in accordance with Township of Blair Policy and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Right-To-Know provisions and the Sunshine Act. Any persons wishing to speak on an agenda item or during the public comment period may be limited to five minutes per person."

Announcement: The Special Meeting of the Blair Township Board of Supervisors is being held for the principal purpose of conducting interviews with applicants for the vacant position of Blair Township Supervisor, with the intent of filling this Supervisor vacancy following presentations and deliberation. The process being followed is outlined in Section 407 of the Township Code.

The vacancy is for a two-year term that will expire at the end of 2021. Chairman Silveti commented that four of the five applicants, and possibly all five, would be disappointed with the outcome of this evening's meeting, as only one person will be appointed. He reassured these candidates that they are encouraged to run for the office of Supervisor in 2021, noting that there will be two positions up for election, his, which is a six-year term (expiring in 2027), and the position being filled this evening, which will be a four-year term (expiring in 2025).

Chairman Silveti stated that he had sought guidance from The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of Open Records to ensure tonight's meeting is conducted properly. He respectfully asked that, although not required, candidate applicants leave the conference room, noting that each would be called in for interview in alphabetical order.

Eric Prendergast, Vacancy Board Chairman and Lois Kaneshiki, attendee, were given note paper to offer any specific questions that they may want addressed by the candidates.

The Supervisor Candidates were interviewed in the following order; William Alberts, Steven Barako, Robin Cadwallader, Jason Gardner and Sean Wilt. Each of the candidates were asked to present their specific interest in filling the position. Following the candidate's individual presentation, the Supervisors followed up by asking each of them specific questions. Finally, each candidate was asked if they had any questions that they would like answered. They were then excused. Subsequent applicants were called to enter the conference room and engaged in the same presentation/questions/final statement format.

At the conclusion of the individual interviews, the candidates were invited back into the assembly to participate in the remainder of the process.

Chairman Silvetti invited Supervisor Amigh to offer a nomination in the form of a motion to fill the vacancy.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to appoint Sean Wilt to fill the vacant Supervisor position. The motion died for lack of a second.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to appoint Robin Cadwallader to fill the vacant Supervisor position, commenting that out of all the applicants, she was the only one that had run for the office in the past and been involved in Township business. The motion died for lack of a second.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to appoint Steve Barako to fill the vacant Supervisor position. The motion died for lack of a second.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to appoint Jason Gardner to fill the vacant Supervisor position. The motion died for lack of a second.

Chairman Silvetti then declared an impasse, recessing the Special Meeting, and requested Eric Prendergast to come forward and convene the Vacancy Board.

Chairman Silvetti explained the Vacancy Board process as outlined in the Second-Class Township Code, to those in attendance and that the Vacancy Board Meeting was advertised as required by the Second-Class Township Code.

Vacancy Board Chairman, Eric Prendergast, called the Vacancy Board Meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. Chairman Prendergast commented that he has reviewed the applications as submitted. He stated that he was impressed by the interest in the vacant position, noting that it is hard to get people interested in serving the Township.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to appoint Robin Cadwallader to fill the Supervisor vacancy. Vacancy Board Chairman Prendergast seconded the motion, then called for a vote. Supervisor Silvetti and Vacancy Board Chair Prendergast voted yes. Supervisor Amigh voted no. The motion to appoint Robin Cadwallader passed with two yes votes. Chairman Prendergast commented that he felt it would be positive to having Ms. Cadwallader representing the Fort Fetter neighborhood on the Board of Supervisors.

Chairman Silvetti invited Supervisor Cadwallader to join the Board, noting that he is very impressed by Mrs. Cadwallader's resume and credentials and that she has a decent understanding of the needs of the Township.

Chairman Silvetti reminded the four remaining applicants that two positions will be subject to election in 2121. He assured them that being a Supervisor can be very rewarding. He commented that they could make a difference with an investment of time.

The Vacancy Board adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Chairman Silvetti reconvened the Special meeting of the Board of Supervisors

Secretary Robertson administered the Oath of Office to Robin Cadwallader.

Solicitor Rouch previously presented the Board of Supervisors with his resignation, effective February 1st, 2020. This became necessary for him to devote more time to the Quatrini Rafferty Law Firm. He thanked the Supervisors and the staff for their support over the past three years, noting it's been a pleasure to serve the Township.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to appoint as Blair Township Solicitor, Attorney Patrick J. Fanelli of the Fanelli Willett Law Firm. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to appoint Patrick J. Fanelli to fill the position of Solicitor passed with a unanimous vote.

Other Business and Informational Items:

Chairman Silvetti called for further business. There being none, Chairman Silvetti made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Betty Robertson
Secretary