

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

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF JUNE 09, 2020

Chairman Edward Silveti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the assembly in the salute to the flag.

The following were in attendance Chairman Edward Silveti; Supervisor Paul Amigh II; Supervisor Robin Cadwallader; Secretary/Treasurer Betty Robertson; BTPD, Sergeant Roger Peacock; Building Code and Ordinance Officer, Donald Ott; Road Foreman, John Reed; Eric Banks, PE, of Stiffler, McGraw & Associates; and Solicitor Patrick Fanelli.

Jessica Sorge of the Hollidaysburg Ambulance Association was also in attendance.

Chairman Silveti announced that Pandemic-related meeting restrictions are in place. The meeting room is set up to accommodate social distancing while allowing limited face-to-face attendance, noting that telephone conferencing remains available for persons wishing to participate without attending in person. Public comment is welcomed and invited in accordance with Township policy and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Right-To-Know provisions and the Sunshine Act.

It was announced that an Executive Session will be conducted following the conclusion of this evening's Board of Supervisors meeting to discuss the status of the collective bargaining negotiations with the Blair Township's Police Bargaining Unit.

Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting of May 12, 2020. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of May were reviewed. Secretary-Treasurer Robertson presented the report as follows: Payroll totaled \$49,276.83; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities for the month of May totaled \$55,243.57; Liquid Fuels \$876.78; Capital Reserve Fund \$2,857.56; and Local Services Tax \$1,652.00.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve total May disbursements in the amount of \$109,906.74. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to approve the total May disbursements in the amount of \$109,906.74 passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for May 2020 as \$1,244,483.03. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the “Specific Service Investment Account Funds” Treasury Balance for May 2020 as \$177,773.67. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silvetti expressed the need for the Board to conduct serious discussions on tax revenues and expenditures as part of the development of the 2021 Blair Township Budget, noting anticipated loss of income by government at all levels as caused by the economic fallout from the Coronavirus Pandemic. He is of the opinion that the Township may be less affected due to its residents’ higher than average white-collar employment levels, such jobs being less affected by layoffs than other employment sectors. The pandemic’s effect on the Earned Income Tax revenue and the Local Services Tax revenue is largely expected to be most evident nationwide in the ensuing months and especially in 2021.

Chairman Silvetti announced the public comment period.

Jessica Sorge addressed the Board. Ms. Sorge reported that the **Hollidaysburg American Legion Ambulance Service (HALAS)** is thriving. She reported 61 emergency calls in Blair Township since January 1, stating that call volumes are down about ten emergency calls from the same period in 2019. Ms. Sorge stated that as a former biology professor, she is overly cautious with the Covid-19 Pandemic situation. The HALAS has not had any cases of Covid-19 among its employees, nor have there been any personnel layoffs. They have transported eight Covid-19 patients, but these transports have been from hospital to hospital and from the Huntingdon SCI facility. HALAS has not had any local cases, noting that Blair County is sheltered from the larger metro areas that have many more cases. The Hollidaysburg American Legion Ambulance Service is following and adhering to all CDC guidelines. While call volumes are good, there has been an increase in calls for panic attacks, and the number of deaths currently total more than all of 2019. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to report and reassured them that the HALAS is always willing and available to help should there be a need.

Chairman Silvetti proceeded with the agenda.

No new information was received on the **O’Reilly Final Land Development Plan**, as prepared by Greg Hillard of Bollard Engineering. All items, except for the storm-sewer connection easement, are in place. The municipal review period will end on July 19, 2020.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to table the O’Reilly Final Land Development Plan. The motion to **table the O’Reilly Final Land Development Plan** was seconded by Supervisor Amigh and passed with a unanimous vote.

The **Longshadow Builders, LLC Non-building Subdivision Plan**, as prepared by Gerald Pastva, P.L.S., was discussed. No new information was received from the developer. The engineering comments of March 26th have not been addressed. Chairman Silvetti related that the Reservoir Road sewerage expansion project, even if all goes according to schedule, is two years from completion. This project is likely dependent on public sewerage being available.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to table the Longshadow Builders, LLC Non-building Subdivision Plan. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to **table the Longshadow Plan passed** with a unanimous vote. The current municipal review period will expire on July 18, 2020.

The **Mezzy Court Subdivision Plan**, as prepared by Todd Beiswenger of Young Engineers & Surveyors, was briefly discussed. Eric Banks stated that the review comments of the April 10th letter have not been addressed.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to **table the Mezzy Court Subdivision Plan**. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to **table the Mezzy Court Subdivision Plan passed** with a unanimous vote. The municipal review period will end on July 18, 2020.

The **Pleasant View Phase 6 Lot Line Adjustment Plan**, as represented by the developer, Jeff Holtzinger, was discussed. Mr. Holtzinger joined the meeting by telephone at this time. Eric Banks commented that the engineering comments have been addressed. Both the BCPC and the BTPC have reviewed the plan. Mr. Holtzinger is requesting a waiver on the drawing scale. Eric Banks stated that he has no opposition to the waiver request.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the Waiver to §350-24 Plan Scale. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to **approve the Pleasant View Phase 6 Lot Line Adjustment Plan Scale Waiver** passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silvetti asked Mr. Holtzinger if there is an infrastructure construction schedule in place for Phase 6. Mr. Holtzinger replied that there are currently people looking at lots. He feels once the lot lines are adjusted, the lots will be more saleable and then the project should move forward from there. Due to use of heavy equipment during the construction phase of the development, the driveways are simply roughed in. He anticipates placing more slate once the NPDES Permit is renewed. Chairman Silvetti questioned the role the Township should play in monitoring the development's roadway construction to ensure that all meets Township Code. Mr. Holtzinger reaffirmed that each prospective buyer is made fully aware that the Township will not—under any circumstances—take over the roadway in the future. Mr. Holtzinger reassured the Supervisors that the lot line adjustment does not change anything in reference to the driveway locations or lot owners' responsibility for maintaining driveways and stormwater infrastructure.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the Pleasant View Phase 6 Lot Line Adjustment Plan. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to **approve the Pleasant View Phase 6 Lot Line Adjustment Plan** passed with a unanimous vote.

BTPD Chief White had previously advised the Supervisors that Patrol **Officer Matthew Fleck** has successfully completed his six-months minimum probation period. Sergeant Peacock reaffirmed Chief White's recommendation, noting that Officer Fleck has a good work ethic, a positive attitude, and a willingness to work and learn. Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the status change of Officer Fleck to Permanent Full-Time Patrol Officer in the BTPD. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to move **Officer Fleck to Permanent**

Full-Time Patrol Officer passed with a unanimous vote. The Supervisors asked Sergeant Peacock to offer their congratulations and appreciation to Officer Fleck.

Four proposals were solicited for the **2020 Line Painting Project**; two were received. Alpha Space Control bid \$14,503.00 and Heaton Construction bid \$14,442.85. Given the closeness of the bids, the quotations from the two respondents were reviewed item for item. Supervisor Amigh made a motion to **award** the 2020 Line Painting Contract to the low bidder, **Heaton Construction**, in the amount of **\$14,442.85**. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to award the contract to Heaton Construction passed with a unanimous vote.

No new information has been received regarding the **S & A Homes / Harvest Glen Street Dedication**.

Chief White had received email correspondence from Tyler Stoering, Sales Rep. for Tyler Security Cabinets. The proposal is to place a prescription drug drop-off box in the Municipal Office, the Police Department would assume the responsibility of emptying and disposing of the contents. There is no cost for the box. Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve placement of the Security Cabinet in the Municipal Office. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to **approve** placement of the **drug drop-off security cabinet** passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silveti reviewed notice that the County of Blair and the Hollidaysburg Area School District are opposing the **EIG (Martin's Plaza) Real Estate Assessment Appeal**. Since the Township of Blair receives a portion of the tax collected from EIG, the County and the HASD included Blair Township in the shared breakdown formula. The original Agreement included the possibility of sharing the cost of expert testimony and counsel/litigation. A revised Agreement removing the Township of Blair from the shared costs of potential expert testimony and counsel for litigation was prepared and submitted to the HASD. It was agreed that the Township would share in the cost of the Appraisal, but nothing more. Chairman Silveti made a motion to approve signing the revised Agreement obligating the Township to its share (\$264.66) of the cost of the Appraisal. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to **approve** the revised **Cost Sharing Agreement** between the County of Blair, Hollidaysburg Area School District, and the Township of Blair passed with a unanimous vote. Solicitor Fanelli commented that in this type situation, one can usually predict compromise, noting that the cost to litigate could be very expensive. He indicated that approximately 90% of the commercial hearings settle without litigation.

Headline Marketing & Communications provided a **Social Media Marketing Proposal** for consideration by the Board of Supervisors. Chairman Silveti asked the supervisors to review this proposal. Supervisor Amigh indicated that the monthly fee seemed expensive (\$450.00), and Supervisor Cadwallader agreed with his assessment. Supervisor Cadwallader stated that Facebook is outdated and not used as much as it has been in the past, and Supervisor Amigh suggested that other social media might be better and questioned whether the Township would have five posts available on a weekly basis. No decision was made. The proposal was set aside for future consideration.

Chairman Silveti raised the issue of a **stormwater impact fee**. He stated there is not a worse time than now to impose any type fee, but this fee is becoming a necessity with MS4 and stormwater infrastructure maintenance costs pending. He said that, based on the model he constructed, the average annual fee per real estate parcel would be a bit less than \$75.00 per year per household. Imposition of such a fee, however, might be the easy part, with collection and enforcement being much more difficult. At issue is Pennsylvania's Act 16 that defines the legal basis for stormwater impact fees and whether a township or an authority is the correct legal vehicle for imposing and managing this fee. Solicitor Fanelli stated that he is not aware of any other local municipalities imposing a stormwater fee, noting also that the conversations are taking place, but nothing has been imposed. Chairman Silveti stated that he would contact PSATS for guidance.

Chairman Silveti addressed a recent **stormwater issue at 103 Edgewood Drive. This was previously reviewed by the Township through former Supervisor Palmer Brown and John Reed, but dismissed because it falls outside the Township ROW.** Chairman Silveti stated that he met with Eric Banks and John Reed to again look at this property and the stormwater situation and to determine what could be done and the approximate cost. Chairman Silveti offered several observations, including that this lot and the adjacent one have inherent stormwater exposure and perhaps should never have had houses constructed on them. Complicating the situation is that there is a tributary flowing through the culvert pipe and flowing into the stormwater channel, which then has a convergence point on the property at 103 Edgewood Drive. Eric Banks reported that there is a culvert crossing under Edgewood, causing the fence to erode as the water flows through the property, commenting further that underground utilities are also in the channel. Due to the presence of the tributary, DEP permitting would be hard to acquire. Supervisor Amigh commented that because this is private property, he feels the Township should not get involved. He believes private property owners with on-lot stormwater issues would flock to the Township for resolution, commenting that the "buyer beware" policy should be exercised when purchasing a home.

Other Business and Informational Items:

The **Sunoco Pipeline Project** is nearing completion in the Township. John Reed inspected Monastery Road and Mill Road for damage caused during construction of the pipeline. No damage was noted on Monastery Road. He indicated four specific areas on Mill Road needing attention. The Sunoco contractor will inspect the areas indicated, and once approved for repair, New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc. will perform the remediation needed on behalf of Sunoco.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has issued a directive indicating that all businesses in the Commonwealth maintaining in-person operations are required to appoint a Pandemic Safety Officer. Supervisor Amigh offered to assume the Pandemic Safety Officer position for Blair Township. Chairman Silveti made a motion to **appoint Supervisor Paul Amigh** as the **Pandemic Safety Officer for Blair Township**. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to approve the appointment passed with a unanimous vote.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of June 09, 2020
Blair Township Supervisors

Chairman Silvetti called for further business. There being none, Chairman Silvetti made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Betty Robertson
Secretary