

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

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF JULY 14, 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 joining via teleconference; 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 joining via teleconference; and Solicitor Patrick Fanelli.

Blair Township Residents Wally Tomassetti and Ryan Sheetz were 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 June 09, 2020. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of June were reviewed. Secretary-Treasurer Betty Robertson presented the report as follows: Payroll totaled \$31,306.69; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities for the month of June totaled \$72,256.19; Liquid Fuels \$16,378.06; Capital Reserve Fund \$2,262.65; and Local Services Tax \$3,327.09.

Chairman Silveti made a motion to approve total June disbursements in the amount of \$125,530.68. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to approve the total June disbursements in the amount of \$125,530.68 passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for June 2020 as \$1,180,305.28. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silveti made a motion to approve the “Specific Service Investment Account Funds” Treasury Balance for June 2020 as \$181,700.97. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silveti announced the public comment period. Both Messrs. Tomasetti’s Sheetz’s attendance was noted as being for specific agenda items. Accordingly, their comments will be presented at the appropriate times during this meeting.

Chairman Silveti proceeded with the agenda.

Chairman Silveti introduced the reasons for “**Stormwater Infrastructure**” being on the agenda for follow-up discussion from last month’s Supervisors’ Board meeting. He began by stating that, in his opinion, the prominent Blair Township stormwater infrastructure problems are in the Penn Farms subdivisions north of Newry Lane, from Forsht Lane to the bottom of the Brentwood subdivision, suggesting that inadequate planning, design and decision-making over decades contributed to these problems. No one board of supervisors seems at fault, rather the cumulative decision-making. Topography and the denser nature of housing placement in these areas also added to the problems, in his opinion. He supports the Township taking limited ownership of the issue. He reminded Supervisors Amigh and Cadwallader that they had rejected at the June meeting his recommendation that the Township at least study the stormwater erosion problem on the residential property at 103 Edgewood Drive. At this location and on private property (not the ROW), the stormwater from portions of the Edgewood subdivision as well as from an upper area of Penn Farms (at Pennington Drive) and from along Forsht Lane converge via culvert pipes into an open channel. It was reported by the resident that, even with moderate precipitation, the force of stormwater from the culvert pipe flowing into the open ditch is eroding the resident’s backyard. Regardless, the Township undertaking a solution was rejected at the June board meeting. Continuing, Chairman Silveti expressed the concern that the Township had previously committed to repairing a failed stormwater culvert pipe between Brentwood and Peachdale Drives in the Brentwood subdivision. In his opinion, the Edgewood and Brentwood problems are analogous, the only difference being that one involves a culvert pipe and the other (Edgewood) an open ditch. He questioned the legality and fairness of picking and choosing when the Township would make a stormwater infrastructure repair, or not. A lengthy discussion ensued among the Supervisors. Mr. Wally Tomasetti of Brentwood Drive, one resident affected by the failed culvert pipe, offered comments, noting that the Township had repaired this same pipe once in the past. Chairman Silveti stated that the resident at Edgewood Drive believed the Township had also made a prior repair at this Edgewood Drive location. Chairman Silveti then asked Supervisors Amigh and Cadwallader if they still concurred with an earlier Board decision to make the temporary repair to the Brentwood/Peachdale culvert pipe. Both stated they agreed to make this repair. Solicitor Fanelli, from a Township obligation standpoint, stated that this is a policy decision, not a legal decision. He noted that the Township is not obligated to do anything on private property, also commenting that the more the Township does, the more the Township may be asked to do. Solicitor Fanelli noted that once Township action is taken, it generally becomes Township responsibility. With regards to the situation on Edgewood Drive, the discussion concluded with Supervisors Amigh and Cadwallader rejecting the resident’s request for a repair to be made, stating that should the Township commence making stormwater

infrastructure repairs on residents' private property, additional requests would overwhelm Township finances.

Chairman Silvetti called on Mr. **Ryan Sheetz** to address the Supervisors at this time, as he had requested. Mr. Sheetz, a resident of Hamer Drive in the Pleasant View subdivision, stated his concern with speed and the flow of traffic on Hamer Drive, requesting a stop sign be placed at the juncture of Brodbeck and Hamer Drives. Mr. Sheetz stated that he has a petition signed by 73 residents requesting placement of a stop sign. It was determined that speed is an issue as well as uncontrolled traffic movements. Chairman Silvetti stated that he has already contacted Wes Burket of the Blair County Planning Commission to determine if Penn DoT's LTAP program could be used to undertake a traffic study. The traffic study would best determine the nature of the issue, as well as suggested corrections. Conversation determined that drivers ignore the speed laws and that the local police are legally prohibited from using modern RADAR and LIDAR speed detection equipment, thus making it hard to enforce the speed limit. Sergeant Peacock stated that the Police Department would address the issue of speed with drivers on an individual basis if Mr. Sheetz would provide the names of people routinely speeding in the area of concern. This would not generate a citation, but simply a visit requesting that they slow down. Chairman Silvetti suggested that Mr. Sheetz have the residents contact Senator Judy Ward and Representative Jim Gregory to enlist their support for legislation allowing the local police departments' use of RADAR and LIDAR speed detection equipment.

The County of Blair has announced **CDBG CARES** allocations (relating to COVID-19). Chairman Silvetti commented that there is significant COVID-19 funding available right now. The CDBG allocation comes with use restrictions vis-à-vis COVID-19, making it difficult to spend the grant. Blair Township allocation is \$62,039, less 18% (\$11,167) for County Administration. He suggested looking into retrofitting the building HVAC with HEPA filtration and UV irradiation. Chairman Silvetti suggested that any ideas would be welcome between now and the August meeting, at which time the CARES grant application must be completed.

Patrick Miller, Executive Vice President of the Altoona Blair County Development Corporation (ABCD) is requesting a Blair Township **KOEZ timeline extension**. ABCD Corp is the KOZ Sub-Zone Administrator. The parcel is shared by Blair Township and Allegheny Township. The existing designation of the 65.1-acre parcel is owned by 764 Associates and due to expire December 31, 2020. DCED is providing another seven-year window to keep the parcel designated as a KOEZ. The parcel remains taxable until such time as the parcel becomes developed. If developed, the developer would receive the remainder of the KOEZ extension through December 31, 2027. Resolution No. 2020-06 extends the KOEZ period through December 31, 2027.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-06, extending the KOEZ period on the parcel through December 31, 2027. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve Resolution No. 2020-06** passed with a unanimous vote.

Saint Bernadine's Monastery, through correspondence received from Rev. Anthony M. Criscitelli, TOR Local Minister, is requesting the Township place **two speed humps** on **Monastery Road**. The Township currently delineates the Monastery crosswalk with line

painting, as per the Monastery's request several years ago. Sergeant Peacock noted that the railroad tracks also aid in slowing the traffic on the Monastery Road. The average cost for one speed hump is \$5,000 for construction, plus \$500 for painting and signage. Speed humps must follow PA DOT regulations, or Liquid Fuels funds use would be discontinued. It was suggested that the Monastery contact Senator Ward and Representative Gregory to legalize the use of RADAR and LIDAR for the local police departments. This would serve to reduce speeding throughout the Township. The Board of Supervisors declined to consider placement of the requested speed humps.

The **Longshadow Builders, LLC Non-building Subdivision Plan**, as prepared by Gerald Pastva, P.L.S., was discussed. Revised plans, as well as the Request for Planning Waiver and Non-Building Waiver signed by Luke Helsel, BCSEA CEO, was received on July 6th. Two repair orders were issued for the existing malfunctioning septic systems. The municipal review period will end on July 18th; thus a 95-day extension request was received. Except for the plans being signed, all the major review comments have been addressed.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to approve signing and forwarding to DEP, the **Longshadow Request for Planning Waiver and Non-Building Waiver**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to approve the 95-day extension. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve the Longshadow 95-day review period extension** passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to table the Longshadow Builders, LLC Non-building Subdivision Plan. Chairman Silvetti seconded the motion. The motion to **table the Longshadow Plan passed** with a unanimous vote. The current municipal review period will expire on October 21, 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. The developer has submitted a 95-day review period extension.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to **accept the 95-day municipal review period extension**. Chairman Silvetti seconded the motion. The motion to **accept the Mezzy Court Subdivision Plan extension passed** with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to **table the Mezzy Court Subdivision Plan**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **table the Mezzy Court Subdivision Plan passed** with a unanimous vote. The current municipal review period will end on October 21, 2020.

Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to accept the PA DOT Municipal Winter Traffic Services Agreement. The Agreement is for snow plowing on SR 2012, Newry Lane and reflects a 1.28% payment increase from 2019. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve the PA DOT Municipal Winter Traffic Services Agreement** passed with a unanimous vote.

The **O'Reilly Final Land Development Plan**, as prepared by Greg Hillard of Bollard Engineering was briefly discussed. All items, except for the storm-sewer connection easement, are in place. The municipal review period will end on July 19, 2020. The developer has submitted a 95-day municipal review period extension.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to **accept the 95-day municipal review period extension**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **accept the O'Reilly Final Land Development Plan extension passed** with a unanimous vote.

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 current municipal review period will end on October 22, 2020.

No new information has been received regarding the **S & A Homes / Harvest Glen Street Dedication**. Chairman Silvetti stated that he is perplexed given the developer's previous interest is the Township accepting dedication of two streets in the subdivision. He will again contact S&A Homes on this matter.

Headline Marketing & Communications provided a **Social Media Marketing Proposal** for consideration by the Board of Supervisors. Chairman Silvetti asked the supervisors to review this proposal at the June meeting. Supervisor Amigh indicated that he doesn't see the benefit. With two of three supervisors questioning the value of this social media proposal, the Headline Marketing proposal will not remain under consideration.

Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to approve the annual Commercial Alarm Article of Agreement as provided by the County of Blair. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion 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, announcing the Executive Session would immediately follow adjournment. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Betty Robertson
Secretary