

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

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF AUGUST 11, 2020**

Chairman Edward Silvetti 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 Silvetti; Supervisor Paul Amigh II; Supervisor Robin Cadwallader; Secretary/Treasurer Betty Robertson; BTPD, Chief Roger White; Road Foreman, John Reed; Eric Banks, PE, of Stiffler, McGraw & Associates; and Solicitor Patrick Fanelli.

Visitors joining by Teleconference were Trina Illig, Blair County CDBG; and Gregory Werstil.

Chairman Silvetti announced that Pandemic-related meeting restrictions remain in place. The meeting room is set up to accommodate social distancing while allowing limited face-to-face attendance; 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 July 14, 2020. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of July were reviewed. Secretary-Treasurer Betty Robertson presented the report as follows: Payroll totaled \$33,926.52; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities for the month of July totaled \$73,672.10; Liquid Fuels \$3,386.77; Capital Reserve Fund \$720.00; Local Services Tax \$14,231.64; and Stormwater Management Fund \$22,999.74.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve total July disbursements in the amount of \$148,936.77. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to approve the total July disbursements in the amount of \$148,936.77 passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for July 2020 as \$1,156,926.47. 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 July 2020 as \$187,652.32. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Public Comment Period.** Chairman Silvetti announced the public comment period. Both Trina Illig and Gregory Werstil’s attendance was noted as being for specific agenda items. Accordingly, their comments will be presented at the appropriate times during this meeting.

Chairman Silvetti proceeded with the agenda.

**The O’Reilly Final Land Development Plan**, as prepared by Greg Hillard of Bollard Engineering, was briefly discussed. The storm-sewer connection easement remains outstanding.

Supervisor Amigh 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 Cadwallader and passed with a unanimous vote. The current municipal review period will end on October 22, 2020.

**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 SEO, were received on July 6<sup>th</sup>. The plans, signed by Mr. Mongold, developer, were received by the Township on July 29<sup>th</sup>.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the Longshadow Builders, LLC Non-building Subdivision Plan. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to **approve the Longshadow Plan passed** with a unanimous vote.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> letter have not been addressed, noting there were numerous comments.

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 current municipal review period will end on October 21, 2020.

Trina Illig, County of Blair, addressed the **CDBG CARES** allocations (relating to COVID-19). Blair Township’s allocation is \$62,039, less 18% (\$11,167) for County Administration. Due to the restrictions placed on the grant, it has proven difficult to identify qualifying projects. The Grant is to be allocated to prevent, prepare, or respond to COVID-19. Following a discussion of possible projects, and why they would not qualify, Trina suggested that the funds (70%) be allocated to the Housing Rehab category, with the remainder going into the Urgent Need category. The CDBG CARES Grant is a two-year contract expiring in September 2022. The County is requesting an extension through October 2020 for the grant application submission to DCED.

Chairman Silveti made a motion to **approve** allocating the CDBG CARES Grant as follows, **\$35,611 to Housing Rehab** and **\$15,261 to Urgent Need**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the allocation as presented passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silveti recalled the previous request for **stop sign placement** on **Hamer Drive**, as proposed by Mr. Ryan Sheetz at the July meeting. Chairman Silveti contacted the PA Department of Transportation. Under its LTAP program, a PA DOT engineer will determine the best options to address the problems of traffic flow and excess speed.

Gregory Werstil, in attendance by teleconference, addressed the Board with his request to change the road name **NAC Drive** to **Innovation Drive**. He stated that he is in the process of acquiring the bankrupt NAC facility. Both Matt Stuckey and Dave DeGol have signed off on the street name change request. DeGol Carpet and Stuckey Ford utilize NAC Drive, but have Plank Road street addresses. Due to the bankruptcy issue the NAC “owner of record” presents a problem for approval of a street name change. NAC remains the current owner of record until the deed is transferred and recorded. Accordingly, the signatory for the property is questionable due to the bankruptcy issue. It was suggested that the assigned bankruptcy trustee might act as the signatory on behalf of the property. Chairman Silveti questioned the availability of the DEP environmental remedial action report on the property. Mr. Werstil advised him to file a Right-to-Know request, commenting that he has the report but will not share it. A lengthy exchange took place. Chairman Silveti confirmed that ABCD Corp. is an active participant with the NAC property revitalization. He commented further that the Township’s UCC Third Party Inspection Agency, PMCA, should be permitted to review the site along with Township officials.

Chairman Silveti made a motion to approve changing the street name from NAC Drive to Innovation Drive pending sign-off by the Bankruptcy Trustee, site review for building permit compliance, and any and all expenses associated with the street name change being the sole responsibility of Mr. Werstil. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **conditionally approve** the street name change from **NAC Drive** to **Innovation Drive** passed with a unanimous vote.

In conjunction with the acceptance of the **PA DOT Municipal Winter Traffic Services Agreement** approved on July 14<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to approve **Resolution 2020-05**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve Resolution 2020-05, (acceptance of the PA DOT Municipal Winter Traffic Services Agreement)** passed with a unanimous vote.

Referencing photos provided to the Board, Chairman Silveti commented that some of the repair work that was done at the **S & A Harvest Glen Development** as a condition of the two streets in question being dedicated to the Township have failed, hence needing to be re-repaired. The repair work must be done to PA DOT standards prior to the Township accepting the streets dedication. A site meeting will be scheduled with the developer and the Township.

The **Fort Fetter Park Preliminary Sketch Plan**, as prepared by Stephen Parks, was reviewed and discussed. The preliminary sketch of the walking path met the approval of the Supervisors. It was reaffirmed that the park design has all stormwater being retained on the site. The plan is

intended to serve the Fort Fetter residents, hence no additional parking would be added or needed. If and when the proposed park is constructed, the Township would assume minimal maintenance, as it currently does.

Chairman Silveti was contacted by the resident of 1304 Meadow Lane, located at the base of the **Greystone Estates Development**. The Meadow Lane property sits along Forsht Drive. There is free-flowing stormwater guided through the property during rain events. While this is naturally occurring and does not present problems at this time, the property owner is concerned about recent survey activity above his property, believing additional development might cause stormwater issues. The MS-4 mapping indicates that there are lots remaining for construction off the Boulder Drive cul-de-sac in Greystone Estates, specifically at the top of a hill. Chairman Silveti noted that any construction activity at Greystone Estates would require adequate measures being taken to assure that the stormwater remains on the site of the development and is not permitted under any circumstance to leave the property in violation of the Township's Code provisions for stormwater. He commented that should the stormwater leave the Greystone hill it likely would flow directly to Blair Gap Run and eventually find its way to the Martini property, adding more stormwater to that existing problem. The stormwater must remain on site. He will follow-up on this matter.

Eric Banks requested the Supervisors' permission to allow **Stiffler McGraw** to continue providing services to the **Blair Region YMCA**. The YMCA is considering substantial upgrades to its existing facility. The original study did not include property located within Blair Township. The YMCA organization has requested that the study be modified to include property located on Patchway Road in Blair Township. Stiffler McGraw is requesting permission to continue to provide the architectural and building related services to the YMCA throughout completion of the project. If the Township insisted, a sub-consultant could complete the stormwater management and land development aspects of the project. Supervisor Cadwallader expressed her gratitude to Eric for being upfront and forthright, noting she wished all engineering firms conducted themselves that way. The Supervisors agreed that they would not take exception to Stiffler-McGraw undertaking all related project work in this regard, including stormwater management and land development. Chairman Silveti commented that the record would show **Stiffler McGraw** could **continue their services relative to the YMCA project**, as agreed upon above.

#### **Other Business and Informational Items:**

Chairman Silveti commented on the **Blair Township Water & Sewer Authority halt** to the **Reservoir Road Project**. The project has been discussed and considered for many years. Initially, it was divided into three phases, the first phase having the highest concentration of homes. Phase 2 and Phase 3 include larger parcels and thus considered more conducive to upgraded on-lot systems. The engineering costs appeared to be the deciding factor in the halting of the project. As reported in the *Altoona Mirror*, due to disrespectful comments made by the BTWSA Chairman, two BTW&SA Board members, Robin Cadwallader and Brendan Peterson, exited the meeting. Following their exit, Chairman Ventre and member Lowell Kirk voted to approve the purchase of a new truck for the BTWSA, with member Mary Bolt voting no.

The Brentwood/Peachdale stormwater repair work has been completed. The Blair Township Highway Department discovered that poor, shoddy construction was the cause of the problem, again highlighting the need for Township inspection during public works construction projects.

The Supervisors went into executive session at 8:07 p.m. to discuss negotiations of a new Police Bargaining Unit Contract with the Township.

The Supervisors reconvened at 8:16 p.m.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to adopt the three-year (01/01/2021-12/31/2023) Blair Township Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The Agreement will be given to the Police Department for their signatures. The motion to **adopt the Blair Township Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement**, effective **January 01, 2021**, through **December 31, 2023**, passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silvetti called for further business. There being none, Supervisor Amigh 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 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Betty Robertson  
Secretary