

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

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF NOVEMBER 10, 2020

Chairman Edward Silvetti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The following were in attendance via teleconference: Chairman Edward Silvetti; Supervisor Paul Amigh II; Supervisor Robin Cadwallader; Secretary/Treasurer Betty Robertson; BTPD, Chief Roger White; Eric Banks, PE, of Stiffler, McGraw & Associates; and Solicitor Patrick Fanelli.

Due to recent Covid-19 confirmed cases within the Municipal Office Police Department, this meeting was restricted to teleconference participation only. Chairman Silvetti affirmed that no others had called in as attendees.

Correction to the October 13th Agenda and Minutes: The Specific Services Investment Account Fund's September Treasury balance was reported incorrectly as \$195,521.98. This balance was the August ending balance, not September's balance, as reported. The September Specific Services Investment Account Fund ending balance was \$238,810.80, which Betty had correctly reported in her oral presentation, inclusive of \$40,000 from the funds held in escrow for the Halleran fire, Loop Road.

Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to approve the corrected minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting of October 13, 2020. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of October were reviewed. Secretary-Treasurer Betty Robertson presented the report as follows: Payroll totaled \$48,190.17; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities for the month of October totaled \$162,968.93; Liquid Fuels, \$6,932.75; and Local Services Tax, \$5,091.90.

Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to approve total October disbursements in the amount of \$223,183.75. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve the total October disbursements in the amount of \$223,183.75 passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for October 2020 of \$1,154,245.42, as presented. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

A Disbursement for the month of October from the Specific Services Account Fund was reviewed. \$22,499.74 was paid from the Stormwater Maintenance Account to the Blair County Conservation District for the Township's 4th Quarter ISC payment.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the October Specific Services Account disbursement in the amount of \$22,499.74. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to approve the 4th Quarter ISC payment in the amount of \$22,499.74 passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to approve the “Specific Service Investment Account Funds” Treasury Balance for October 2020 of \$243,618.71, as presented. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Public Comment Period. Chairman Silveti announced the public comment period. No public availed themselves for public participation via teleconference, so no comments were forthcoming.

The Municipal Office will remain open to the public unless more Covid-19 cases among Township staff manifest themselves. Pandemic protocols are being followed. Face-to-face contact is limited and masks are required.

Chairman Silveti proceeded with the agenda.

The **Sweeney Lot Merger Plan**, as prepared by Andrew Ebersole of Keller Engineers, was briefly discussed. The Blair County Planning Commission review is complete. The Blair Township Planning Commission tabled the plan pending comments of the review letter of October 7th being addressed by the developer.

Chairman Silveti made a motion to **table** the **Sweeney Lot Merger Plan**. The motion to table the plan was seconded by Supervisor Amigh and passed with a unanimous vote. The municipal review period will end on February 13, 2021.

The **Martin Non-Building Subdivision Plan**, as prepared by Gerald Pastva, P.L.S., was briefly discussed. The Blair County Planning Commission review has not been received, and the Blair Township Planning Commission tabled the plan pending comments in the November 4th Stiffler McGraw review letter being addressed.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to **table** the **Martin Non-Building Subdivision Plan**. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to table the plan passed with a unanimous vote. The municipal review period will end on February 13, 2021.

Michael and Michelle Peterson of Peterson Accounting Group submitted a written request for release of their financial security held in escrow. Eric Banks conducted a site visit and indicated that the required improvements appear to conform with the approved land development plan, commenting further that Stiffler McGraw takes no exception to the release of financial security. The proposed lawn and landscape areas are not stabilized but are not included in the opinion of probable costs.

Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to **approve** the **release** of the **financial security** being held for the **Peterson Accounting Group** (PAG) project. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion for full release of the PAG surety passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silveti reported that on November 04, 2019, S & A Homes had submitted a Maintenance Bond to the Township in the amount of \$62,746.80, 15% of the then-computed value of the infrastructure to be deeded to the Township; this amount was apparently consistent with a prior ordinance standard. The current ordinance sets the amount at 25%. Chairman Silveti suggested that the Township agree to accept the bond at that amount, with the caveat that the effective date for the required 18-month period begin with the Deed of Dedication acceptance date of December the 8th, 2020. Solicitor Fanelli agreed, stating this was probably the best course to take among the options. The **S & A Harvest Glen Development Deed of (Streets) Dedication** is expected to be ready for action at the December 8th Board of Supervisors' Meeting.

Revisions to the 2021-2023 Blair Township Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) were discussed, specifically the provision pertaining to annual wage increases having been tied to pandemic-related losses of Township revenue. As it has evolved, only a minor loss of General Fund revenue has been experienced to date during the current year. If the proposed revision is accepted, the annual wage increases will be amended to reflect a 2.5% increase for each of the three years covered by the CBA rather than 2.0%, 2.75%, and 2.75%, as presently showing.

Chairman Silveti made a motion to **revise** the **2021-2023 Police Collective Bargaining Agreement** annual wage increases to 2.5% in each of the fiscal years 2021, 2022 and 2023. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to revise the annual wage increases in the Blair Township Police Department's Collective Bargaining Agreement passed with a unanimous vote. Concurrence of the collective bargaining unit will now be sought.

Knepper Insurance, the Township's health insurance broker, has provided options for the **2021 benefit year**. The same coverages as in the current year would include a 17.86% increase. Cost saving options were discussed, including moving to a less robust plan or a greater share of premiums being paid by employees. Any proposed changes would require a "meet and discuss" with the police collective bargaining unit. Supervisor Amigh requested time to review options for increasing employees' share of costs, including premiums. With the time being needed to go to contract for the new coverage year, Chairman Silveti recommended that the Township renew the current policy, including renewal of the HRA through Prime Pay, leaving any increase to employees for future discussion.

Chairman Silveti made a motion to **retain** the present **UPMC Gold EPO plan**, to include the **Prime Pay HRA**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve the renewal of the existing UPMC plan and the HRA passed with a unanimous vote.

Betty reviewed the following **draft budgets for 2021**; General Fund, Liquid Fuels, Capital Reserve, Local Services Tax, Act 32 of 2012 and the Stormwater Management Account. Each of the 2021 budgets are projected as balanced and reflects accurate revenue and expense projections

for 2021. Due to the steady increase in fringe benefit premiums, the Supervisors again discussed the need to consider an increase in the 5% hospitalization premium payroll deduction currently in effect. Chairman Silvetti again noted that, should an increase in the payroll deduction be forthcoming, a “meet and discuss” is required under the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement, and if any increase is sought, the CBA would need to be renegotiated.

Future township staffing remains an issue. Chairman Silvetti offered his concerns with anticipated future changes in staffing due to retirements. He also noted the previously agreed-upon need for a Township Manager.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to **approve advertising** the **2021 Draft Budgets** for public review and inspection, in accordance with the Second-Class Township Code. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to advertise the 2021 General Fund, Liquid Fuels, Capital Reserve, Local Services Tax, Act 32 of 2012, the Stormwater Management Fund Budgets passed with a unanimous vote.

Other Business and Informational Items:

The final **Fort Fetter Park Design Project** plan is expected before the end of December. Submission for the grant reimbursement is due to be received by the SAP&DC by June 2021.

Nothing more has been received from **Gregory Werstil** regarding his request for municipal approval of the street name change for NAC Drive to Innovation Drive. Mr. Werstil apparently remains undecided due to the request for submission of financial security to the Township.

A request was submitted to the Supervisors from Ted Ventre to reappoint **Lowell Kirk** to a five-year term on the Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority Board. Solicitor Fanelli advised the Supervisors that a member may hold a seat until a new member is appointed. The Supervisors are currently undecided about the re-appointment; hence no action has been taken.

Chairman Silvetti called for further business. There being none, Supervisor Amigh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Silvetti seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Betty Robertson
Secretary