

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

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF DECEMBER 08, 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; Building Code & Ordinance Enforcement Officer, Donald Ott; Highway Foreman, John Reed; Eric Banks, PE, of Stiffler, McGraw & Associates; and Solicitor Patrick Fanelli.

Due to recent Covid-19 infections within Blair Township government, this meeting was restricted to teleconference participation only. Chairman Silvetti affirmed that one caller, Tim McGaw, Blair Township Water & Sewer Authority, was in attendance.

The 2021 Blair Township Municipal Annual Organization Meeting and the Board of Supervisors' January Regular Business Meeting will be held on Monday, January 4th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., respectively.

The Blair Township Planning Commission's 2021 Annual Organization Meeting and Regular January Meeting will be held on Monday, January the 4th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10th Monthly Business Meeting. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2020, Business Meeting passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of November were reviewed. Secretary-Treasurer Betty Robertson presented the report as follows: Payroll totaled \$31,341.28; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities for the month of November totaled \$92,121.48; Liquid Fuels, \$1,067.24; Capital Reserve, \$120.00; and Local Services Tax, \$5,091.90.

Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to approve total November disbursements in the amount of \$129,741.90. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve the total November disbursements in the amount of \$129,741.90 passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for November 2020 of \$1,159,578.57, as presented. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of November from the Specific Services Account Fund were reviewed. The sum of \$86,504.86 was returned to Peterson Accounting Group for release of the Developer's Maintenance Account. Also, \$40,000.00 was returned to the Halleran Escrow following completion of the demolition of the fire damaged home on Chimney Rocks Road.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the November Specific Services Account disbursements in the amount of \$126,504.86. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to approve the November disbursements in the amount of \$126,504.86 passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to approve the “Specific Services Investment Account Funds” Treasury Balance for November 2020 of \$166,954.55, as presented. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

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

The Blair Township Municipal Office will remain open to the public with Pandemic protocols being followed. Face-to-face contact is limited and masks are required.

Chairman Silvetti proceeded with the agenda.

The **Sweeney Lot Merger Plan**, as prepared by Andrew Ebersole of Keller Engineers, was briefly discussed. The Blair Township Planning Commission tabled the plan pending comments of the review letter of October 7th being addressed by the developer. Eric Banks confirmed that he is waiting on a second submission.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to **table** the **Sweeney Lot Merger Plan**. The motion to table the plan was seconded by Supervisor Cadwallader 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 discussed. The Blair Township Planning Commission recommended approval of the waiver requests and the plan.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to approve the request for the Planning Waiver & Non-building Declaration. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to **approve** the **Martin Planning Waiver & Non-building Declaration** passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to approve the waiver to §350.22 (Plan Scale), accepting Eric Banks’s determination that the plan is legible as presented. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve** the **waiver to §350.22 (Martin Plan Scale)** passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to approve the waiver to §350.22. B (2) Topographic Contours, following Eric Banks’s determination that the plan is a non-build and the contours are not needed on the plan. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve** the **waiver to §350.22. B (2) Martin Plan Topographic Contours** passed with a unanimous vote.

Following a brief discussion, Chairman Silvetti made a motion to **table** the request for a waiver to **§350.36.C (Building Setbacks)**, noting that the waiver is possibly unnecessary as any future building would need to comply with the setback requirements. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to table the request passed with a unanimous vote.

Also, with regards to the Martin Non-Building Subdivision Plan, an **Easement Agreement** is currently in the process of being prepared with legal counsel. Chairman Silvetti made a motion to **table** the **Martin Non-Building Subdivision Plan**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to table the plan passed with a unanimous vote. The municipal review period will end on February 13, 2020.

Notice was received of a proposed **Telecommunications Facility (AT & T Site Frankstown)** located off Chimney Rocks Road, Hollidaysburg. A balloon test is scheduled for December 15th between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and noon. In the case of poor visibility or high wind, an alternate test date is scheduled for December 17th, 2020. Chairman Silvetti stated that Jane Sheffield, an unofficial spokesperson for concerned residents, was made aware of the dates and would have volunteers in place to view the test.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to approve **Resolution No. 2020-11, Dedication of Country Gate Court and Stableview Court in the Harvest Glen Development**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. John Reed confirmed a recent pre-dedication inspection, noting no outstanding issues. Solicitor Fanelli noted that he is satisfied with the information as presented. Chairman Silvetti commented that the two streets are largely in order for dedication to Blair Township. He noted a decision from a past Board of Supervisors to accept a maintenance bond in the amount of 15% of the value of the infrastructure. Due to the past Board's decision, the Maintenance Bond for the streets and associated infrastructure was accepted in the amount of \$62,746.80 for a term of 18-months, effective today. The motion to **approve Resolution No. 2020-11, S & A Harvest Glen Development Deed of (Streets) Dedication** passed with a unanimous vote.

The **Sunoco Mariner East 2 Pipeline Project** work is complete. The Security Bond Release and Settlement Agreement will be acted on at the January 4th, 2021 Supervisors' Board Meeting.

Tim McGaw, Manager, Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority addressed the Supervisors requesting the **reappointment of Lowell Kirk** to the BTWSA for another five-year term. He noted that Mr. Kirk does extra things, such as signing checks, and that he has a CDL and is willing to drive the truck in the absence of Mr. McGaw. Chairman Silvetti commented that Mr. Kirk performing such work without compensation may be a violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, noting Mr. Kirk is not a paid employee of the Authority. He commented that he checked with two Workers' Compensation providers, both confirming that a non-employee cannot be on a Workers' Compensation policy. Chairman Silvetti suggested that no action be taken this evening as there is no prescribed time frame to reappoint someone; Supervisors Amigh and Cadwallader agreed.

Betty provided a brief summary of the **2021 Budgets** that were presented for review and comment at the November Meeting. She noted that the General Fund Budget ending balance

appears to be low, but due to the supporting budgets, she is confident that the 2021 estimated budgets are in order and requested the Supervisors' approval.

General Fund	2021 Est. Exp. \$1,460,475	Est. End. Bal. \$ 4,221
Liquid Fuels	2021 Est. Exp. \$ 161,000	Est. End. Bal. \$199,397
Capital Reserve	2021 Est. Exp. \$ 77,000	Est. End. Bal. \$531,071
Local Services Tax	2021 Est. Exp. \$ 108,177	Est. End. Bal. \$193,716
Act 32 2012	2021 Est. Exp. \$ 73,000	Est. End. Bal. \$ 54,355
Stormwater Maint.	2021 Est. Exp. \$ 90,499	Est. End. Bal. \$ 36,901

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approved Resolution No. 2020-12, 2021 Approved Budgets. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to **approve Resolution No. 2020-12** Appropriating Specific Estimated Expenditures, Revenues, and Ending Balances as outlined in the 2021 Budgets passed with a unanimous vote.

A request for Blair Township Board of Supervisors' support for updating the Juniata Watershed Conservancy Plan was received from the **Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and Partners**.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-13, acknowledging Blair Township's municipal support of the Juniata Watershed Conservancy Plan. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve Resolution No. 2020-13** passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to issue a Letter of Support to the Conservancy to be included with their application for funding. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve a Letter of Support** to the **Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and Partners** passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to **advertise** for the **appointment of a CPA Firm in place of the Elected Auditors**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The legal advertisement is required by the Pennsylvania Second Class Township Code. The motion to approve the legal advertisement passed with a unanimous vote.

A. J. Delorme submitted Computer Maintenance/IT Agreement Renewals for 2021 consideration. The monthly Municipal Office Agreement is \$135.00, and the Police Department Agreement is \$135.00 plus \$25.00 for Metro Alert backup. Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the 2021 Agreement Renewals. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. It was noted that A. J. is available and responsive when IT assistance is needed. The motion to **approve the 2021 Computer Maintenance/IT Agreement Renewal** between **A. J. Delorme** and Blair Township Municipal and Police Departments passed with a unanimous vote.

Knepper Insurance, the Township's Short- and Long-Term Disability insurance broker, has provided options for the **2021 benefit year**. This coverage is for non-job-related injury. In 2020 the coverage had a zero-day elimination period. Considering that this coverage has been in force for two years and has never been used by an employee, it was suggested that an elimination period be established in order to save on the premium costs. Following a discussion, the

Supervisors agreed to continue the coverage, but to establish the elimination period of 14 days. Chairman Silvetti made a motion to **renew the STD & LTD UNUM** coverage as presented going to a **14/14-day (injury/sick) elimination period**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Discussion Item:

FY 2021 Health Insurance Premiums, employee payroll deduction participation. Currently, the Township employees pay 5% of their premium costs. Should the Township increase the percentage of payroll deduction, it would yield approximately \$9,000 at the end of a 3-year period. Supervisor Amigh commented that in his opinion it is not a great enough savings to the Township, noting his desire to keep the employees happy and the morale good. Chairman Silvetti stated that at some point a higher level of employee participation will be necessary if the premiums continue to rise.

Other Business and Informational Items:

Chairman Silvetti commented that he has been working with Steve Parks about his **Fort Fetter Park Design Project** plan. The design document, as well as the cost estimate, should be ready for the February Monthly Meeting. At that juncture, the Supervisors would decide whether to proceed. Submission for the grant reimbursement is due to be received by the SAP&DC no later than June 2021. Supervisor Cadwallader suggested that a public meeting be held with the local Fort Fetter residents at the park site.

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 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Betty Robertson
Secretary