

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

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF AUGUST 10, 2021

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

Township elected officials and personnel present included Chairman Silvetti; Supervisor Paul Amigh II; Supervisor Robin Cadwallader, Ph.D.; Secretary/Treasurer, Betty Robertson; Chief of Police, Roger White; Building Code and Ordinance Enforcement Officer, Donald Ott; Highway Foreman, John Reed; Township Engineer, Eric Banks; and Township Solicitor, Patrick Fanelli.

Visitors to the meeting included the family of Banks Wallace, Sr. (Banks Wallace, Jr., Angela Wallace, Lisa Dively, and Joseph Dively); Sheryl and Rick Imler, Matt and Nicole Boland, and Earnie and Joy Peterman; and Trina Illig, CDBG Grant Administrator.

Chairman Silvetti announced the following: "At 6:30 p.m. this evening the Township of Blair held its first public hearing to explain the 2021 CDBG program and to review public input."

Chairman Silvetti also announced that an Executive Session would be held at the close of this evening's Business Meeting to discuss an employee benefit issue.

Public comment is welcomed and invited in accordance with the Township of Blair policy and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Right-To-Know provisions and the Sunshine Act. All cell phones are to be silenced.

Chairman Silvetti requested a motion to add the subject of Public Burial Grounds to the agenda. Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to add the Public Burial Grounds discussion to the agenda. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to add Public Burial to tonight's agenda passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting of July 13, 2021. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2021, Business Meeting passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of July were reviewed. Secretary/Treasurer Betty Robertson presented the report as follows: Payroll totaled \$33,492.42; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities for the month of July totaled \$304,122.16; Liquid Fuels, \$101,396.13; Capital Reserve, \$8,187.15; Local Services Tax, \$18,852.35; and Stormwater Management, \$22,999.74.

Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to approve total July disbursements in the amount of \$455,557.53. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve the total July disbursements in the amount of \$455,557.53 passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for July 2021 of \$1,506,136.48. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to approve the “Specific Services Investment Account Funds” Treasury Balance for July 2021 of \$96,786.63. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silvetti called for public comment.

Matt Boland, Robin Lane, addressed the Supervisors expressing his concern with drivers’ disregard of traffic rules and regulations. He noted that there is a serious problem with vehicles traveling at a high rate of speed and disobeying stop signs, specifically noting the area of Forsht Drive, Robin Lane, and Lawrence Drive. He explained that he has witnessed both a black and a white Ford Focus that routinely disregard the traffic control devices and travel at an excessive rate of speed. Ernie Peterman, Forsht Drive, expressed and reiterated Mr. Boland’s concern, noting an additional vehicle, a mud-colored Stinger, that disregards traffic regulations. Rick and Cheryl Imler, Robin Lane, expressed the same concerns, noting that it is not safe to walk along any of the Township roadways that were mentioned. They stated that the 3-way stop sign is not regarded by drivers. Rick Imler also commented on the presence of “large diesel pickups” that travel on Forsht Drive, and he feels intimidated by them when he is driving. He questioned the legality of their inspections, etc. Chief White said these are typical inspection station issues and BTPD works in conjunction with PSP Trooper Wagner, who handles that aspect of roadway safety for the Pennsylvania State Police. All agreed that the majority of those failing to follow the traffic devices are younger drivers and questioned the supervision of a responsible adult. A written concern was also presented over vehicles not obeying speed limits in and around Forsht Drive, Edgewood, Pleasant View, Greystone, and the Penn Farms area. Chief White said that drivers not stopping completely for stop signs and exceeding the speed limits is a problem everywhere, not just in Penn Farms. The residents in attendance acknowledged the routine presence of the Blair Township Police Department. Chief White commented that numerous citations have been issued on Forsht Drive and the surrounding area. He reassured the residents that the BTPD is aware of habitual offenders and where they reside; he informed the residents that Sergeant Peacock has made personal contact with the offenders about their driving habits. The area is being monitored and citations have been and will continue to be issued as appropriate. He commented that the Blair Township Patrol Officers are very diligent, noting that Officer Fleck has made 9 DUI arrests since July 1, 2021. Finally, Chief White explained that there is an issue with adequate sight line on Forsht Drive for the current approved equipment available to BTPD for speed enforcement. Again, the need for Radar and Lidar was addressed. Municipalities would benefit greatly, Chief White reiterated, should Radar and Lidar become available for local use.

The family of Banks Wallace, Sr., recently deceased, presented a request for permission to establish a burial plot on their 17-acre, family-owned farm property located at 236 Puzzletown Road in Blair Township. Chairman Silvetti offered condolences, then proceeded with addressing the request. He noted the urgency involved in making the decision for such a burial this week. Banks Wallace, Jr., stated that the death of his father was unexpected and happened without the

family having time to approach the Township beforehand. He stated that the family is requesting that the area they designated be approved for the burial of his father on Friday and for the burial of his mother following her future passing. Chairman Silveti referenced Township Ordinance No. 2010-02 Chapter 183, acknowledging that the Supervisors have the authority to consider the request, and further reviewed relevant state law, Title 9, Chapter 1, of the Pennsylvania Code. Supervisor Amigh stated he is not in agreement with the request due to unforeseen health-related issues. He noted that sealed vaults can rupture and leak causing contamination of well water, among other things. The need for visitor ingress and egress to the burial site was also discussed. Chairman Silveti noted that there are too many variables to consider in the timeframe available. Mr. Wallace stated that neighboring municipalities grant requests for private burials. Chairman Silveti called for a vote on a motion to allow for this burial request. Both he and Supervisor Amigh voted no. Supervisor Cadwallader voted in favor of the burial request. Chairman Silveti confirmed with the Wallace family that 2 of the 3 Supervisors could not agree to the request. The motion to reject the private burial request passed with two no votes. Chairman Silveti stated that he would promptly contact the surrounding municipalities to review their policies for private burial grounds. He confirmed with Mr. Wallace that a redetermination could be made following his contact with the neighboring municipalities and that he would contact him promptly if a redetermination would be considered by the Board.

Eric Banks noted that a resubmission was received for the **Hollidaysburg Family Dental Preliminary Land Development** plan, but there had been no opportunity for review prior to tonight's meeting. Chairman Silveti, referencing the BCPC review, noted that he is in favor of a painted crosswalk across the access driveway from North Juniata Street; this is in lieu of a sidewalk being added at this time. The developer has submitted a 95-day extension.

Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to **grant the Hollidaysburg Family Dental Preliminary Land Development Plan 95-day Extension**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve the extension passed with a unanimous vote. The municipal review period will now end on December 14, 2021.

Chairman Silveti made a motion to **table the Hollidaysburg Family Dental Preliminary Land Development Plan**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to table the plan passed with a unanimous vote.

Trina Illig, CDBG Grant Administrator reaffirmed the public hearing that was held before tonight's meeting. The allocated FY2021 Grant amount is \$98,650.00; 18% of the Grant (\$17,755.00) is retained by the County for grant administration. Unexpended funds in the amount of \$46,542.69 from 2017 will be returned to the State if the funds are not used by 03/15/2022. Trina stated that currently there are no pending Housing Rehab projects. A schedule of events was presented. The date for project selection for the FY2021 Grant is September 14th.

Trina reported on the **Fort Fetter Income Survey**. 145 surveys were mailed to the residents; 43 were completed and returned to the County. From the responses, 29% of the area is currently considered as low to moderate income. Trina explained that 51% or greater must be determined as low to moderate to use the CDBG Grant funds for the proposed park area. Chairman Silveti

stated that he will prepare a follow-up letter. Trina noted that the Income Survey results are good for 5-years.

Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to approve the **Penn DOT Municipal Winter Services Agreement 2021-2022 Winter Season**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The Agreement is for winter plowing of SR 2012, Newry Lane. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Cadwallader made a motion to approve the Roadway Name Proposal of Lonestar Lane, as requested by Heather VanWinkle, through the County of Blair GIS. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. Lonestar Lane is located at the Hite Subdivision off Catfish Road. The motion to approve **Lonestar Lane** passed with a unanimous vote.

Tim McGaw, BTW&SA, presented a written request for **American Rescue Plan Act Funds** received by the Township of Blair. He is requesting assistance in paying for the engineering plans necessary to proceed with the Reservoir Road Sewer Project, noting that the engineering plans will exceed \$300,000. Chairman Silveti commented that the BTW&SA has a fund balance in excess of \$1.7 million and he would rather see ARPA funds expended in support of sewerage connection costs for project-affected low to moderate income families. No action was taken on the request.

Under other business, Chairman Silveti suggested that future Blair Township Planning Commission Meetings require **members to attend in person**. Supervisors Amigh and Cadwallader agreed. Chairman Silveti will discuss this with BTPC Chairman Ventre.

Keller Engineers will review the **Harvest Glen Phase 2 Development** on behalf of Blair Township.

The **WD Real Estate Holdings, LP Subdivision and Lot Merger Plan** was executed by the owners and Freedom Township. Blair Township conditionally approved the plans on July 13, 2021, and will execute them for recording tonight.

Eric Banks commented in reference to the **LOMA-F review** as submitted by Teddie Kreitz of Keller Engineers. Eric reported that the Stiffler McGraw review comments were forwarded to Teddie Kreitz and that the client may not want to proceed with the LOMA.

Chairman Silveti called for further business. There being none, the Board meeting was recessed for an Executive Session. Following the Executive Session, the Board meeting reconvened. There being no further business, 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 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Betty Robertson
Secretary