

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

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14, 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; Secretary/Treasurer, Betty Robertson; Chief of Police, Roger White; Building Code and Ordinance Enforcement Officer, Donald Ott; Highway Foreman, John Reed; and Township Engineer, Eric Banks. Supervisor Robin Cadwallader, Ph.D., was absent due to illness. Township Solicitor, Patrick Fanelli, was likewise absent due to another commitment.

Visitors to the meeting included Trina Illig, CDBG Grant Administrator, and Township resident, Gary Bater.

It was announced that 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 made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting of August 10, 2021. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2021, Business Meeting passed with two yes votes.

Disbursements for the month of August were reviewed. Secretary/Treasurer Betty Robertson presented the report as follows: Payroll totaled \$30,957.94; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities for the month of August totaled \$60,090.04; Liquid Fuels, \$781.83; and Local Services Tax, \$4,384.45.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve total August disbursements in the amount of \$96,214.26. Chairman Silvetti seconded the motion. The motion to approve the total August disbursements in the amount of \$96,214.26 passed with two yes votes.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for August 2021 of \$1,558,672.82. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed two yes votes.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to approve the "Specific Services Investment Account Funds" Treasury Balance for August 2021 of \$106,380.19. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with two yes votes.

Chairman Silvetti called for public comment. There being none, the meeting continued.

Eric Banks addressed the resubmission that was received for the **Hollidaysburg Family Dental** Preliminary Land Development plan. Variances are being requested.

The developer is requesting a waiver to Section 350-45. B, requiring curbing around the entire parking lot. The justification is that it is not needed to direct the stormwater. Chairman Silveti stated that the curbing was included from the initial design of this development, and this request looked more like an attempt to cut corners. Chairman Silveti moved to deny the waiver request to Section 350-45. B. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **deny** the Hollidaysburg Family Dental request to **waive Section 350-45. B passed** with two yes votes.

Further discussion reaffirmed that the painted crosswalk across the access driveway from North Juniata Street in lieu of a sidewalk was approved at an earlier meeting.

A motion to approve a waiver to Section 350-36.C to the rear setback was made by Chairman Silveti. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve the Hollidaysburg Family Dental** request to waive **Section 350-36.C, rear setback requirement**, passed with two yes votes.

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 two yes votes.

Trina Illig, CDBG Grant Administrator stated the allocated FY2021 CDBG Grant amount is \$98,650.00; 18% of the Grant (\$17,755.00) is retained by the County for grant administration. This is a 4-year contract.

Chairman Silveti made a motion to approve allocating the FY2021 Grant in its entirety to Housing Rehabilitation. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to allocate the **FY2021 CDBG Grant funds to Housing Rehab** passed with two yes votes.

Chairman Silveti reported that he had emailed **Luke Helsel** with reference to identifying on lot septic systems that are malfunctioning, some of which might qualify for CDBG funds to undertake repairs. Luke has not responded to date.

Trina explained that there are unexpended funds in the amount of \$46,542.69 from 2017 that are now on "fast track" with Bill Lightner, in order to qualify some Housing Rehab projects. She commented that there are currently two projects being reviewed.

Trina announced that there is no maximum in place for the competitive CDBG money. She stated that if the money were to be used for the engineering portion of the contract for the Reservoir Road project, this would require a competitive procurement process being undertaken.

Chairman Silveti introduced the **Penn DOT / Monastery Road Bridge Project, SR 7203, County Bridge 82**. The bridge is located in Blair Township, and keeping with Penn DOT's construction and maintenance schedule, a spring 2023 construction necessitates certain Sales Agreements and Temporary Easements being in place. Three landowners are affected; two have willingly participated in settlement; and one of the affected parties now requires an Eminent Domain action to move the project along. The Special Meeting to address the Eminent Domain action was held at 1:00 p.m. on September 9th, 2021.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the **Sales Agreement** between Blair Township and Thomas G. Baker. Chairman Silveti seconded the motion. The motion to **approve the Blair Township/Baker Agreement** passed with two yes votes.

Chairman Silveti made a motion to approve the **Temporary Easement for Construction** between Blair Township and Thomas G. Baker. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve the Blair Township/Baker Temporary Construction Easement** passed with two yes votes.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the **Sales Agreement** between Blair Township and The Province of Immaculate Conception of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis. Chairman Silveti seconded the motion. The motion to **approve the Blair Township/ The Province of Immaculate Conception of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis Sales Agreement** passed with two yes votes.

Chairman Silveti made a motion to approve the **Temporary Easement for Construction** between Blair Township and The Province of Immaculate Conception of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve the Blair Township/ The Province of Immaculate Conception of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis Sales Temporary Construction Easement** passed with two yes votes.

The **2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation** (MMO) worksheets for both the Police and Non-Uniformed employees' retirement plans were discussed. The MMO worksheets are based on, among other factors, the estimated wages of the covered employees through the current year. The MMOs are then calculated and provided by the Actuary, PMRS. Township adoption is an annual requirement of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System. Chairman Silveti commented that the retirement plans are presently in very good financial position, but considering that some employees are reaching retirement age, that is subject to change as these employees retire with pensions. A portion of each obligation is supported with Commonwealth funds through Act 205, with the balance funded through the Township's General Fund. The Act 205 funds are typically deposited annually into the General Fund in mid-September.

Chairman Silveti made a motion to approve the 2022 MMO for the Police Pension Plan in the amount of **\$41,210.00**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve the 2022 MMO for the Police Pension Plan** passed with two yes votes.

Chairman Silveti made a motion to approve the 2022 MMO for the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan in the amount of **\$58,825.00**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve the 2022 MMO for the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan** passed with two yes votes.

Chief White was recently contacted by **James and Rebecca Clinger of 16563 Dunnings Highway**. The Clinger's are requesting a reduction to the speed limit on a portion of Dunnings Highway. To do this, the Supervisors are required to petition Penn Dot to do a traffic study. The current speed limit is 45 mph. A reduction could be proportioned to a certain area of Dunnings

Highway, which could specify dropping the speed limit to 35 mph in front of the Clinger residence.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to **request a Penn Dot traffic study** be done on this portion of Dunnings Highway. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with two yes votes.

Blair Township has recently received numerous **stormwater flooding complaints**. The topography of the area is one major cause of these stormwater issues. **Following two 2018 stormwater flooding events, Stiffler and McGraw was contracted to map the Penn Farms area showing the stormwater infrastructure as it relates to development and topography.**

These latest complaints include one such area of Cedarcrest and Fairfield Drive. A stormwater pipe of unknown origin empties onto a residential property on Fairfield Drive.

Another area of a recent stormwater complaint Gordon Lane and Gray Lane. The stormwater is flowing on to **Gordon from Gray Lane**. A Gordon Lane property owner, Robert Jozwiak, has provided legal documents showing Blair Township having assumed ownership of the infrastructure, committing Blair Township to maintenance responsibility.

The flooding associated with **Fort Fetter** is a broader multi-municipal issue.

The property located at the corner lot of **Edgewood and Forsht Drives**, is also the site of stormwater issues which the resident has requested to be resolved.

Supervisor Amigh commented that the **Brooks Mill area and Route 36** suffered severe stormwater flooding during the most recent flood event. He stated that he and his wife filmed over two hours of stormwater/flooding video within the Brooks Mill, Route 36, and Reservoir Road area(s). Grates and ditches were unable to handle the severe stormwater flooding. He also noted 22 areas on Reservoir Road that experienced severe flooding.

Eric Banks suggested “TV-ing” the Gordon and Gray Lane stormwater drainage system to check for blockage. Pipe capacity may also be inadequate in some areas. He stated that Stiffler and McGraw could look at the issues and make recommendations to try to improve the stormwater situation.

Trina Illig reminded the Supervisors to always consider the use of CDBG funds, noting that the funding is not based on assets, but is based solely on income.

No action was taken on amending Blair Township **Ordinance No. 2010-02** relating to the burial of deceased persons and private family burial grounds within the Township.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to approve the **Jason and Pamela Jones setback variance** request. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The property is located at 1004 Newry Lane. The Jones are requesting a 10-foot variance to the rear property setback for placement of an inground swimming pool. The neighboring property owners have agreed to the request. The

variance request was clear and executed. The motion to **approve** the Jones rear setback variance passed with two yes votes.

Following a brief discussion, Chairman Silvetti made a motion to table the **Brendan and Maria Leppert setback variance** request for placement of a carport. The carport construction was underway without permit approval. The carport encroaches on the side setback. The variance request was unclear as presented. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **table** the Leppert variance request passed with two yes votes.

Chairman Silvetti called for other business and public discussion.

The **LEMC position** was discussed. Chairman Silvetti commented that the LEMC position requires training, both online and in person. He does not feel that a volunteer in this position is what the Township needs. Chairman Silvetti and Supervisor Amigh agreed that the position needs an individual that is willing to participate in the EMA meetings and training, as well as being a hands-on coordinator. Chairman Silvetti commented that he plans to discuss this with Mark Taylor. He noted that volunteering just does not work, especially in positions that require training and are time consuming.

Gary Bater of 1004 Gray Lane stated that he is in attendance because he wanted to hear the conversation that took place with reference to stormwater runoff and flooding.

Police Chief, Roger White, confirmed with the Board of Supervisors that **Trick or Treat** would take place in coordination with the other municipalities on **Thursday, October 28th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Chairman Silvetti called for further business. There being no further business, Supervisor Amigh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Silvetti seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with two yes votes. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Betty Robertson
Secretary