

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

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 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; Secretary/Treasurer, Betty Robertson; Chief of Police, Roger White; Building Code and Ordinance Enforcement Officer, Donald Ott; Highway Foreman, John Reed; Township Engineer, representing Stiffler McGraw, Chris Dutrow; and Township Solicitor, Patrick Fanelli.

Visitors to the meeting included Trina Illig, CDBG Grant Administrator, Richard Latker and Carol Dannenberg, representing the Hollidaysburg Community Watch Dog group, Township residents, Rick and Sheryl Imler were also in attendance.

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.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Business Meeting of September 9th, 2021. Chairman Silvetti seconded the motion. Supervisor Cadwallader abstained, noting that she did not attend this meeting. The motion to approve the minutes of the September 9th, 2021, Special Business Meeting passed with two yes votes.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting of September 14th, 2021. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes of the September 14th, 2021, Business Meeting passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of September were reviewed. Secretary/Treasurer Betty Robertson presented the report as follows: Payroll totaled \$31,550.82; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities for the month of September totaled \$56,401.49; Liquid Fuels, \$1,690.85; Capital Reserve, \$3,408.00 and Local Services Tax, \$4,991.13.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve total September disbursements in the amount of \$98,042.29. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to approve the total September disbursements in the amount of \$98,042.29 passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for September 2021 of \$1,608,996.61. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the “Specific Services Investment Account Funds” Treasury Balance for September 2021 of \$109,559.97. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silvetti called for public comment. Those in attendance but not intending to address a listed agenda item were asked to address the Supervisors.

**Sheryl Imler** thanked the Township for the yard waste pick up. She commented that the speeding issues that concern her are still happening but are improving. She noted some of the drivers are now using Meadow Lane instead of Robin. She stated that they have no regard for the 3-way stop signs. **Rick Imler** affirmed her comments. Chief White asked Mrs. Imler if she was aware that four of her neighbors have been stopped for speeding. He stated that each was given warnings with the promise of a citation at the second offense. Chief White asked Mrs. Imler if she would be willing to testify against the specific vehicle that she mentioned; she did not comment. Chief White stated that the Police Department is doing the best they can do, noting that they do not have 24-hour coverage. He reminded Mr. & Mrs. Imler that the Vehicle Code requires a 10 mph increase over the speed limit before a citation can be issued. He said that local police departments would benefit by the residents contacting their State Elected Officials demanding support of the Radar/Lidar bill.

Chris Dutrow addressed the resubmission that was received October 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> for the **Hollidaysburg Family Dental Preliminary Land Development plan**. The revised plan addresses previous outstanding comments. Remaining comments from the review letter dated 10/13/21, include a copy of the final Highway Occupancy Permit and signed, notarized, ownership of the Preliminary Hollidaysburg Family Dental Land Development Plan as revised October 2021.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to grant conditional approval of the **Hollidaysburg Family Dental Preliminary Land Development Plan, pending the Township’s receipt of the final Highway Occupancy Permit and the signed, notarized preliminary land development plan**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to conditionally approve the **Hollidaysburg Family Dental Preliminary Land Development Plan** passed with a unanimous vote.

**Trina Illig, CDBG Grant Administrator** presented documents for Board consideration and approval relative to the **FY 2021 CDBG Grant Program**.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to approve the **Cooperative Agreement** between Blair Township and the County of Blair to administer the FY2021 CDBG Program. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve** the continuing **Cooperative Agreement between Blair County and Blair Township** allowing the County to administer the FY 2021 CDBG Grant passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve Blair Township **Resolution No. 2021-06** authorizing submission of the FY2021 CDBG Application. Chairman Silvetti seconded the vote. Supervisor Cadwallader indicated that the signature dateline was incorrect; this was corrected

before execution. The motion to **approve Blair Township Resolution No. 2021-06** passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to approve the Blair Township **Three-Year Community Development Plan 2021-2022-2023**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. Trina Illig noted that the short-term plan is designated for Housing Rehab. The long-term plan is to help those with low to moderate incomes when the Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority extends the public sewer to Reservoir Road. The Fort Fetter proposed park was mentioned, but due to poor response from the income surveys, the project likely will not move forward; the residents generally do not want this park to be developed. The motion to **accept the Three-year Community Development Plan** passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Amigh made a motion to have Chairman Silvetti execute the **FY2021 CDBG General Application Certification**. Chairman Silvetti seconded the motion. The motion to **execute the FY2021 CDBG Grant Application** passed with a unanimous vote.

The annual **Fireman's Relief Funds** were received from the **Auditor General's** Office and are due to be expended by the Township within 60-days from receipt (11/16/21). The amount of distribution is **\$25,288.51** and is routinely divided between the four local Volunteer Fire Companies that provide coverage for Blair Township: Duncansville, Freedom, Geeseytown, and Phoenix. Due to recent charges, arrests, and prosecutions of certain Officers of the Phoenix VFC, Chairman Silvetti contacted Jim Gehret with the Borough of Hollidaysburg. Mr. Gehret indicated the Borough intends to continue to support the Phoenix VFC, noting that they will require financial reviews by a local CPA.

**Richard Latker**, representing the **Hollidaysburg Community Watch Dog** group, introduced himself and addressed his concern with the Township considering donating funds to an organization that has proven to have no transparency. He noted recent felony convictions of high-ranking officials within the PVFC. He stated that the organization is corrupt and that he feels it would be totally unethical to give them a dime. He stated that a forensic audit should be performed. He noted there are indicators that the convictions are only going to increase. A lengthy conversation took place.

Chairman Silvetti made a motion to table the distribution decision until the meeting of November 9<sup>th</sup>, reaffirming the distribution deadline of November 16<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **table the distribution** of the **2021 Fireman's Relief Funds** passed with a unanimous vote.

State Pension Relief Funds in the amount of **\$76,756.52** have been received by the Township. Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the **2021 PMRS MMO** payment in the amount of **\$99,329.00**. Chairman Silvetti seconded the motion. The total includes \$41,270.00 for the Police Pension Plan and \$58,059.00 for the non-uniformed plan. The balance between the State funds and the amount due, \$22,572.48 would be paid with General Fund money. The State funds are due to be paid by October 29th. The motion **approving** payment to **PMRS** for the **2021 Pension Funds** in the amount of **\$99,329.00** passed with a unanimous vote.

The resubmission of the **Brendan and Maria Leppert setback variance** request for placement of a carport was discussed. The carport construction was well underway without permit approval. The carport encroaches on a side setback. Solicitor Fanelli confirmed that the neighboring property owner expressed her consent with the variance request. The revised document limits the scope of the variance to the carport and only references one side of the property. Solicitor Fanelli stated that any further variances or modifications would be addressed in the future. This document pertains solely to the carport. Solicitor Fanelli reminded the Supervisors that they are not obligated to grant any variance request but indicated this variance as resubmitted is consistent with what has been done in the past. Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the Brendan and Maria Leppert setback variance. Chairman Silvetti reluctantly seconded the motion, noting he is displeased by the Leppert's continued crowding of the residential lot. Supervisor Cadwallader noted the pressure that is caused when a neighboring property owner requests a neighbor's signature on a variance, stating it is intimidating. The motion to **approve** the **Brendan and Maria Leppert setback variance** request passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Silvetti stated that the Township received the requested **proposal** from **Eric Banks** of Stiffler McGraw to estimate the engineering fees associated with the study of two specific **stormwater** locations: 1003 Gordon Lane and 733 Cedarcrest Drive. Solicitor Fanelli commented on the wildcat pipe that was installed on Fairfield to Cedarcrest. He indicated that if the Township was not responsible for placing the pipe, it has not obligation to maintain the pipe. The obligation is dependent on who placed it and whether the Township assumed the maintenance of it in the past. There is no knowledge of when the pipe was installed or by whom.

Mr. Joswiak of 1003 Gordon Lane has recorded documents from decades ago allowing the Township to enter his property to maintain the swale and **stormwater** pipe located there. Solicitor Fanelli stated this is a "right to" but not necessarily an obligation to. It was noted that the Joswiak driveway was recently repaved, causing greater sloping toward the garage. Chairman Silvetti concluded that the Township has no interest in addressing stormwater matters, the problems of which are inconclusive as to municipal responsibility.

Solicitor Fanelli commented that the procedural part of the amendment to Blair Township **Ordinance 2010-02** relating to the burial of deceased persons on private family burial grounds is complete. He indicated that he needs to work with Eric Banks to complete the standards and criteria.

Chairman Silvetti commented on the **Harvest Glen Subdivision**. The Blair County Conservation District advised the Township that five infiltration beds were not constructed as part of the Phase 1 approved plan. These were intended to treat the runoff from the houses on the lower side of Stableview Court. Greg Geishauser of Stiffler McGraw, on behalf of S & A Homes, suggested including the five infiltration beds with the NPDES Permit for Harvest Glen Phase 2. This would guarantee placement of the infiltration beds as the NPDES Permit could not be closed until all stormwater facilities are constructed as per the approved plans. It was suggested that an amendment be made to the existing Developer's Agreement. The Harvest Glen Phase 2 Development consists of 13 lots and extends the Stableview Court roadway.

A discussion regarding a vacant lot located on **Brooks Boulevard**, known as the Walter lot, took place. The deed indicates four horizontal tract divisions, while the Blair County Courthouse has the parcel recorded as a single lot. The combined lot size is 66' x 130'. The Walters are requesting a permit to place a 13' x 6' x 66' mobile home on the lot. Officer Ott asked if the Supervisors would entertain approving the placement of the mobile home on the property if the deed is corrected and the tract divisions consolidated. Supervisor Amigh referenced a past Blair Township Planning Commission discussion that disallowed any further mobile homes to be placed on certain parcels along Brooks Boulevard. Supervisor Amigh made a motion to table the discussion until it is determined whether a mobile home can be placed on the consolidated parcel. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to **table the Walter lot** discussion passed with a unanimous vote.

Betty provided a list of **2022 budget requests** from the Police and Highway Departments. A basic review of the Budget vs Actual report(s) from 01/01/21 through 09/30/21, as well as a comparison of 2020 & 2021 Treasurer's Reports, indicates that the 2021 Budget(s) is in line. She requested reimbursement from the ARPA Funds to the General Fund for moneys lost between 2019 and 2020; however, that figure is not firm to date. Chairman Silveti commented that a millage increase would be necessary to fund a Township Manager position. He noted that the current millage rate is 0.559 and would need to be increased to 0.7804 in 2022 to raise an additional \$100,000 in real estate taxes that would be needed for the Manager's salary and benefits.

A proposal to purchase a used **20-Ton trailer** belonging to the Blair Township Water & Sewer Authority was reviewed. Betty indicated that even though this purchase wasn't budgeted in 2021 it can be made from the Highway Department's 2021 LST Account. The purchase price is \$1,000.00; it is budgeted at \$5,000 to include any necessary tires and repair work. Following justification of the purchase, Supervisor Amigh made a motion to approve the purchase of the 20-Ton trailer from the BTW&SA. Supervisor Cadwallader seconded the motion. The motion to **purchase the 20-Ton trailer** at the purchase price of **\$1,000.00** passed with a unanimous vote. Betty indicated that draft budgets should be ready for review at the November Monthly Meeting.

Chairman Silveti called for other business and public discussion.

There being no further business, Supervisor Amigh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Silveti seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Betty Robertson  
Secretary