

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

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF FEBRUARY 08, 2022

Chairman Paul Amigh, II, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the assembly in the salute to the flag.

Township elected officials and personnel present included Chairman Paul Amigh, II; Supervisor Brad Germaux; Secretary/Treasurer, Betty Robertson; Chief of Police, Roger White; Building Code and Ordinance Officer, Donald Ott; Highway Foreman, John Reed; representing Stiffler McGraw; Eric Banks; and Township Solicitor, Patrick Fanelli. Supervisor Louis Lusk was absent due to a prior engagement.

Teddie Kreitz of Keller Engineers attended on behalf of Perry Properties.

Public comment is welcome and invited in accordance with the Township policy and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Right-To-Know provisions and the Sunshine Act.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the minutes of the Annual Organization Meeting of January 03, 2022. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes of January 03, 2022, Organization Meeting passed with two yes votes.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting of January 03, 2022. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes of January 03, 2022, Monthly Business Meeting passed with two yes votes.

Disbursements for the month of January were reviewed. Secretary/Treasurer Betty Robertson presented the report as follows: Payroll totaled \$36,057.20; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities for the month of January totaled \$60,853.98; Liquid Fuels, \$5,100.13; Capital Reserve, \$12,914.71; Local Services Tax, \$2,853.91; Stormwater Management, \$22,499.74 (1 Q ISC payment); and Act 32 of 2012 transfer of \$23,000.00, as per 2022 budget.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve total January disbursements in the amount of \$163,279.67. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve the total January disbursements in the amount of \$163,279.67 passed with two yes votes.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for January 2022 of \$1,384,406.39. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with two yes votes.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the "Specific Services Investment Account Funds" Treasury Balance for January 2022 of \$111,600.15. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with two yes votes.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of February 08, 2022
Blair Township Supervisors

Chairman Amigh acknowledged that there is no public in attendance to offer comment. He then proceeded with the agenda.

Eric Banks commented on the **Longshadow & 26 Stone Stand Subdivision Plan** as prepared by Jeff Gunnett on behalf of Thomas Mongold. To date, no reply was received to the Stiffler McGraw review letter dated December 16, 2021. Due to the municipal review period end date of 03/19/22, the developer is responsible to file an extension for the Boards consideration at the March 8th meeting. Eric recommended that the Supervisors table the plan.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to table the plan. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion to **table the Longshadow & 26 Stone Stand Subdivision Plan** passed with two yes votes. The municipal review period will end on 03/19/22.

Eric Banks introduced the **Knab Lot Line Relocation/Merger Plan** as prepared by Andy Ebersole, P.E., of Keller Engineers. The property is located on Chimney Rocks Road. This is a three-parcel property being reconfigured into two parcels. An existing access easement will remain in place, no construction is scheduled for the site. A waiver is requested to §350-22. B (2) requiring contour lines be shown on the plan. The Blair Township Planning Commission recommended approval of the waiver and the plan at their meeting of February 7th. Eric recommended waiver and plan approval, noting that all review comments were addressed.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the waiver to section 350-22. B (2). Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve the Knab Lot Line Relocation/Merger Plan waiver request** passed with two yes votes.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the plan. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve the Knab Lot Line Relocation/Merger Plan** passed with two yes votes.

Eric Banks introduced the **Mattern Woods Subdivision Plan** as prepared by John Sepp, P.E., President of Penn Terra Engineering on behalf of Jeff Long. He stated the property is located across the street next to the Winds Assisted Living Facility. The subdivision consists of 22-acres and proposes 14 single family homes. The property fronts on Newry Lane and Peachdale Lane. A stream runs through the middle of the property. Water and sewer service will need to be extended. Permitting issues including, PA DOT HOP permitting, DEP Chapter 105 permitting, and individual sewer lateral permits are a concern. The Blair Township Planning Commission recommended the developer be made responsible for acquiring all the required permits. NPDES Permitting will need to be done through the Blair County Conservation District. There is no stormwater plan to date. Due to the crest of the hill, sight distance issues exist for proposed lots 5 and 6. The Blair Township Planning Commission made recommendations and recommended the tabling the plan. There are numerous comments outlined on the Stiffler McGraw review letter dated January 31, 2022.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to table the plan. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **table the Mattern Woods Subdivision Plan** passed with two yes votes.

Teddie Kreitz, Certified Floodplain Manager, of Keller Engineers, representing property purchased by Perry Properties in Blair Township (Tax Parcel # 04.00-06.-025.01-000), addressed comments received from FEMA relating to a request for Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA-F) submission for 16204 Dunnings Highway. The Township signed Section A of the FEMA submission, 12/16/2021, assuring that fill previously placed on the property follows the Township's Floodplain Ordinance. Following review of the submission, FEMA indicated that they wanted more of a buffer between the flood elevation and the area to be removed. Keller Engineers has revised the Floodplain Exhibit Survey, reducing the floodplain area from 2.33 acres to 1.022 acres, leaving 1.022 acres above the flood elevation. The approximate area where fill was placed is also shown.

FEMA is asking that the Township sign the floodway portion of the Community Acknowledgement Form. Eric Banks had offered the Township verbiage, should they desire to include a letter with the revised submission, indicating that no plans have been submitted to the Township for placement of fill on the subject property. Following a lengthy discussion and comments from Eric Banks and Floodplain Administer Officer Ott, Chairman Amigh suggested that the signature request, as well as the letter, is tabled and that Ms. Kreitz resubmit the LOMA-F to FEMA with the revised Floodplain Exhibit Survey.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **table** signing **Section B** of the **Community Acknowledgement Form**, pending follow-up from FEMA and Ms. Kreitz. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to table passed with two yes votes.

Brendan and Maria Leppert submitted a setback variance request to construct a swimming pool, pavilion, and shed on their property at 1203 Newry Lane, Duncansville. The request is for a 5-foot variance to include both side(s) and rear property boundaries. Each of the affected adjoining property owners have signed the application and have agreed to the variance request. Solicitor Fanelli stated he has reviewed the variance and is fine with how it is written. Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the Leppert setback variance request. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve** the **Brendan and Maria Leppert setback variance** request passed with two yes votes.

Solicitor Fanelli commented on the **Second Amendment Sanctuary Referendum Agreement**, as presented in draft form for the purpose of discussion. This is an Intermunicipal Agreement between the 24 Blair County municipalities and Blair County. A ballot referendum was approved in the 2021 municipal election. The purpose of the agreement is to prohibit use of taxpayer resources which would infringe on the citizens rights to bear arms, declaring that no gun laws would be forced except to the extent permitted by the United States Constitution. The draft agreement does not apply to someone who is prohibited by law from owning or possessing firearms. Each municipality is now required to enter into an agreement. Chairman Amigh and Supervisor Germaux indicated that they are in favor of the agreement, as did Chief White. Solicitor Fanelli commented that an informal thumbs up would allow the agreement to proceed and a formal vote and resolution could be considered at the March meeting.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the Second Amendment Sanctuary Referendum Agreement and Blair Township Resolution No. 2022-03 declaring Blair Township a Second

Amendment Sanctuary and prohibiting the use of taxpayer resources to enforce any legislation passed after November 02, 2021, that would infringe upon an eligible citizen's rights to bear arms. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve** the **Second Amendment Sanctuary Referendum Agreement** and **Resolution No. 2022-03** passed with two yes votes.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the **Pleasant View Phase 6 addressing** submitted by Joe Crossman on behalf of Jeff Holtzinger naming the private streets as Petes Way West and Petes Way East. The streets are located at the end of Hamer Drive. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. Blair County 911 Addressing indicated that they approve of the suggested names. The motion to **approve** naming the two private streets as **Petes Way West** and **Petes Way East** passed with two yes votes.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve participating in the Costars DGS Statewide Contract for Sodium Chloride (Road Salt). John Reed suggested the tonnage amount remain at 150 Ton, indicating that 60 percent of the contract amount is the minimum required purchase and 140 percent of the contract amount is the maximum purchase allowed. The participation agreement covers the July 2022 to August 2023 contract year. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **participate** in the **2022-2023 Costars DGS Statewide Contract for Sodium Chloride (Road Salt)** passed with two yes votes.

Betty presented the American Rescue Plan Funding / Final Rule as recently released by the Federal Government. The federal funds were received from the American Rescue Plan to help municipalities deal with pandemic-related expenses. The rules have been modified to include other allowable expenses. The Final Rule effective date is April 01, 2022. A fact sheet was provided to the Supervisors, and they were asked to review the guidelines for planning and properly spending the funds to best benefit the Township. The spending suggestions will be discussed at a later meeting. The municipality is now permitted to claim, "Revenue Loss" and elect to take a "standard allowance" to spend on general government services through out the life of the ARP program. The standard allowance is a one-time election and eliminates the administrative burden of calculating the actual lost revenue. The first filing report is due on April 30th, 2022. Betty explained that any township choosing to use the standard allowance will make a one-time election on the April 30th report. Chairman Amigh made a motion to **approve** the **Standard Allowance** option when filing the April 2022 report. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion to elect the Standard Allowance when filing the **American Rescue Plan** first annual report passed with two yes votes.

Due to the retirement of Dorothy Grabosky, the **custodian position** is vacant for the Municipal Office and the Police Department. The Township continues to be on two waiting lists for cleaning services. Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve Betty moving forward to search for an independent contractor to clean the offices, setting the max at \$15 per hour. This is a part-time, non-payroll position, and a 1099 statement will be issued. A background check is required. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to **approve searching** for an **independent contractor** to fill the vacancy passed with two yes votes. If a prospect is chosen, an appointment to the position will be considered at the next Monthly Supervisor's Meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Chairman Amigh reported on a written **complaint** filed on January 21st, against the **Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority** due to the alleged mistreatment, both conduct and billing practices, of a Township resident, **Tracey Snowberger**. The complaint indicated that since 2018 Ms. Snowberger has replaced the grinder pump at 248 Snowberger Lane three times, each time being charged \$3,000.00. Ms. Snowberger is requesting that the BTW&SA is investigated, as well as the Manager, Tim McGaw.

As a show of support, Supervisors Amigh, Germaux, and Lusk attended the **BTWSA** February 2nd meeting. Chairman Amigh indicated that his main concern is the treatment of the Township residents, noting that no one, when dealing with Township Government or Authorities, should be left with the feeling of being treated improperly.

Supervisor Germaux indicated that he has spent time researching the grinder pump availability issue, noting that grinder pumps are locally available and that the need to store them as backup causing the guarantee to expire, is not necessary. Questions were raised, such as, what happens to the malfunctioning, removed grinder pumps. Are the removed pumps restored and resold? Is the property owner, also the grinder pump purchaser, given any money for the removed malfunctioning pump? Are serial numbers recorded as grinder pumps are installed, removed and/or replaced? The Supervisors agreed that the BTWSA Board had very little knowledge of the action taken regarding removal and replacement of faulty grinder pumps. Chairman Amigh indicated that he and Supervisor Germaux plan to attend the March **BTWSA** Meeting.

Chairman Amigh commented on the complaint issued by Mark Taylor of Blair County 911. It was determined that the issue on Mielnik Lane was a private lane/driveway issue and that it was misdirected. John Reed reiterated that Mielnik Lane is private and is accessed by Chimney Rocks Road, which is a state road. Chairman Amigh commented that it is the Supervisors position to defend the employees and the Township's position to protect the population.

Other Business:

Chairman Amigh called for informational items and other business. There was nothing to report.

There being no further business, Supervisor Germaux made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Betty Robertson

Secretary