

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

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF MAY 10, 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; Supervisor Lou Lusk; Secretary/Treasurer, Betty Robertson; Chief of Police, Roger White; Road Foreman, John Reed; representing Stiffler McGraw; Eric Banks; and Township Solicitor, Patrick Fanelli.

Chairman Amigh announced that at the close of this evening's meeting an Executive Session will be held for the purpose of discussing a personnel issue.

Visitors: Trina Illig, representing CDBG/Reservoir Road Project; Edward Silvetti, representing BTW&SA/Reservoir Road Project, and Bill Smith, personal inquiry.

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 Monthly Business Meeting of April 12, 2022. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of April: Payroll \$33,971.59; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities \$51,881.06; Liquid Fuels \$1,631.63; Local Services Tax, \$11,127.74; and Act 32 \$50,000.00 transfer into the Capital Reserve Account as per 2022 Budget.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the total April disbursements in the amount of \$148,612.02. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for April 2022 of \$1,589,554.62. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the "Specific Services Investment Account Funds" Treasury Balance for April 2022 of \$79,448.22. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Amigh called for Public Comment:

Bill Smith questioned the process of purchasing a portion of the "Smith/Delozier farm" located in Blair Township. Eric Banks explained the process of surveying and then subdividing.

There being no further public comment, Chairman Amigh proceeded with the agenda.

BTW&SA Secretary/Treasurer, **Ed Silveti**; regarding the **Reservoir Road Sewer Extension** project and the use of **CDBG** funds. He noted the threshold for income eligibility survey responses has not been met. **Trina Illig**, County of Blair Grants Coordinator; confirmed, quoting mailout and response numbers. Eighty-three surveys have not responded. Mr. Silveti reaffirmed that the CDBG grant is controlled by the Supervisors, not the BTW&SA. He drafted a simpler letter to be sent to the non-respondents, stating the longer it is left go the less likely they are to respond, removing the eligibility of using the CDBG funds for the project. Trina stated that the next step is door-to-door. She explained the Township's Entitlement status as well as the state's Competitive CDBG funding, which is overseen by the County, noting there is an abundance of competitive money available right now for water and sewer projects.

Supervisor Lusk made a motion to **approve sending out the letter** as requested by Ed Silveti to the non-respondent households. Brad Germaux seconded the motion. Trina and Betty will go door to door in June. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Unrelated, Mr. Silveti questioned the City of Altoona's proposed use of ARP funds towards their IRC stormwater obligation, noting it is a question for the city's solicitor.

No new information was received on the **Longshadow & 26 Stone Stand Subdivision** Plan as prepared by Jeff Gunnett on behalf of Thomas Mongold. Eric Banks recommended that the Supervisors table the plan.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to table the plan. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to **table the Longshadow & 26 Stone Stand Subdivision Plan** passed with a unanimous vote. The municipal review period will end on 06/22/2022.

A request for a **285-day review period extension** from the **Mattern Woods Subdivision** developer, Jeff Long, was discussed in great length. The Supervisors are concerned with setting precedent with future development. The review comments as outlined in the Stiffler McGraw letter of January 31, 2022, remain unanswered. The current municipal review period will end May 13, 2022.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to approve a request for a 95-day extension with the condition that if the developer does not approve the extension the plan will be deemed rejected. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion to **approve a request for a 95-day extension** for the **Mattern Woods Subdivision, conditional on the developer's approval**, passed with a unanimous vote.

Eric Banks briefly introduced the **Mezzy Court Subdivision & Side Lot Addition** plan as prepared by Todd Beiswenger on behalf of John Castle. This is a proposed 3-lot subdivision off Hamer Drive. Stiffler McGraw issued a review letter May 3rd, 2022.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **table the Mezzy Court Subdivision & Side Lot Addition** plan. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to table the plan passed with a unanimous vote. The municipal review period will end 08/13/2022.

O'Reilly Auto Parts is requesting Bond release. Eric Banks inspected the site on April 25th. His report indicates the following concerns, the site is not completely stabilized, the highest 6" diameter orifice appeared to be plugged in the stormwater outfall structure, and connection to the inlet could not be confirmed due to a silt sack. The developer did not contact Stiffler McGraw to inspect the underground stormwater management facility during construction. It is recommended that O'Reilly provide the Township an as-built plan of the stormwater facility. The plan must be certified, signed and sealed by professional engineer licensed in Pennsylvania, indicating that the underground stormwater management facility and the associated storm sewer system were built per the approved plans and specifications. Considering the review comments, the engineer recommended that the O'Reilly Auto Parts bond is reduced from \$295,459.62 to \$61,403.00.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **reduce the O'Reilly Auto Parts bond** from \$295,459.62 to **\$61,403.00**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to reduce the bond passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Richard A. & Judith R. Craft, 117 McDonald Drive, rear set back variance request**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The request was reviewed by Solicitor Fanelli and is in order. The motion to approve the Craft rear set back variance request passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Amigh updated on **Comcast's** plan to provide their services to the Township. **Cohen Law Group** is presenting the opportunity for the Township to join with other municipalities in the Blair County Consortium, contracting with the Cohen Law Group in Franchise Agreement negotiations with Comcast. To date, some municipalities indicated that the Cohen Group will represent them, others are relying on their Solicitor, while others remain undecided. The current ABB/Breezeline Franchise Agreement was negotiated by the Cohen Law Group for Blair Township. The Franchise Agreement with ABB/Breezeline and Comcast, as the Township understands, is to be mirrored. The Franchise Agreements between the providers are to provide the same benefits. Chairman Amigh, to expedite the Comcast project, feels it may be beneficial to have Solicitor Fanelli review the Agreement. He requested the opinion of the other Supervisors. Solicitor Fanelli commented that the Cohen Group specializes in these negotiations and that they are familiar with the unique terms that are common in the industry. He said since the Agreements need to be consistent with each other, the factor of the legal requirements are already dictated for the Township by what is currently in the ABB/Breezeline Agreement.

Supervisor Lusk made a motion to rely on the **Solicitor, Patrick Fanelli**, to negotiate the **Comcast Franchise Agreement** for Blair Township. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the 2022-2023 Penn DOT Municipal Winter Traffic Services Agreement**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. John Reed explained that

the Agreement covers the Penn DOT section of Newry Lane from Lawrence Drive to the Borough of Hollidaysburg line. The motion to approve the 2022-2023 Agreement passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to approve the Enhanced Coverage Request as requested by Dennis Estep of Geeseytown Volunteer Fire Company. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The Supervisors believed the change allowed more services to be pulled into an individual need, and that it really did not benefit one volunteer fire company over another. The motion to **approve** the **Enhanced Coverage Request** passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to accept the low bid provided by Heaton Construction, Inc. for the **2022 Line Painting Project**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. Two bids were received, Heaton Construction, Inc. **\$15,168.18** and Alpha Space Control Co., Inc. \$15,761.95. Pre-award, John confirmed that the icons would be painted at night. The motion to **accept** the low bid provided by **Heaton Construction** passed with a unanimous vote. Supervisor Lusk suggested the use of the new glow in the dark line painting. John stated that the paint had to be Penn DOT specified in order to use Liquid Fuels.

Betty explained that Roger Peacock witnessed the **Stone Bid Opening** as 2:15 p.m. today, May 10th, no other public attended. The bid results were split. Grannas Bros. bid low on the 2A Subbase and New Enterprise bid low on the Anti-skid and AASHTO #1. Solicitor Fanelli confirmed that the bid was bid as three separate items.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the bid submitted by Grannas Bros., for the 2A Subbase Limestone. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to **approve** the bid provided by **Grannas Bros.**, for **2A Subbase Limestone** at the delivered price of \$12.25 per Ton passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Lusk made a motion to approve the bid submitted by New Enterprise for the Anti-Skid and the AASHTO #1 Stone. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion to **approve** the bid provided by **New Enterprise** for **Anti-Skid** at the delivered price of \$19.90 per Ton and **AASHTO #1** at the delivered price of \$14.65 per Ton passed with a unanimous vote.

Eric Banks reported on the **HVAC** progress. The Police Department HVAC is expected to be ready to go out for bid next week. Eric confirmed that the contractors could be invited to the Municipal Office in case there are questions. He also asked if the covering is to remain on the outside unit. The covering is to be removed. Chief White confirmed that no clearances would be needed to work in the Police Department as long as an Officer was present. Eric said that they are looking at mid-summer to proceed with the Municipal Office side.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to approve an hourly pay rate increase to \$15.00 per hour for Todd Lynn, effective April 02, 2022. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. This was discussed at the Executive Session of April 12, 2022. The motion to approve the **hourly pay rate increase** for **Todd Lynn** passed with a unanimous vote.

Chief White announced that Mayor Fritz of the **Borough of Duncansville** met with him and Betty to discuss the possibility of the Township providing the Borough with **police services**. This was simply informational and is being mentioned as a matter of record. Chief White explained that theories, options, and scenarios were discussed. No specific offers were made. Chief White questioned the effect on the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Solicitor Fanelli stated that generally there is not an inherent need to modify the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The Borough will contact the Township should they want to discuss this further.

The Township was contacted by an individual interested in purchasing the property owned by Blair Township at the base of Chimney Rocks. The deed includes many restrictions, and the Chimney Rocks location also causes angst with the Historical Society. Supervisor Germaux made a motion not to sell the Chimney Rocks property. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion **not to sell the Chimney Rocks property** passed with a unanimous vote.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Solicitor Fanelli requested direction as to whether the draft **Harvest Glen Developer's Agreement** is to be forwarded to the developer. The draft, as previously provided to the Supervisors and Ben Piper at Keller Engineers, will be used as a starting point for discussion. Ben Piper has not commented on the draft agreement. The NPDES Permit has expired and needs to be applied for by the developer. The Supervisors agreed to have Solicitor Fanelli forward the draft Developer's Agreement to S & A Homes in order to start the process.

Chairman Amigh was unable to contact the **Verizon Wireless Government Representative** but will continue to make an effort.

Chairman Amigh attended the May BTW&SA Meeting. He confirmed that the Township is fine with the requested adjustments to the **parking lot**, as they suggested. He instructed BTW&SA to coordinate well ahead of time with the Township. The changes requested are to be discussed with John Reed before they are decided upon.

Announcement: Senator Ward is hosting an **Emergency Services Workshop** on June 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the Smithfield Fire Company, Huntingdon, PA. Township officials are encouraged to attend.

Chairman Amigh commented that he has concerns relating to access to the office area, especially now that a new employee is to be onboard. Chairman Amigh made a motion to approve to order and place "Authorized Personnel Only" signs specifically on the General Office Door, as well as the Highway Garage entrance. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. Chief White stated that he agrees with the decision. The motion to **approve** the placement of "**Authorized Personnel Only**" signs on the **General Office** door and the **Highway Garage** entrance passed with a unanimous vote.

Jim Gregory addressed the Supervisors noting that he is looking forward to continuing to serve as our State Representative. He is requesting consideration as a candidate at the upcoming election.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of May 10, 2022
Blair Township Supervisors

Chairman Amigh called for other business. There was nothing additional to report.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Betty Robertson

Secretary