

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

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF OCTOBER 11, 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 included Chairman Paul Amigh, II; Supervisor Brad Germaux; Supervisor Louis Lusk, Secretary/Treasurer, Betty Robertson; Police Chief, Roger White; Road Foreman, John Reed; Office Assistant, Kami Bilek; representing Stiffler McGraw, Eric Banks; and Township Solicitor, Patrick Fanelli.

Visitors: Trina Illig, CDBG Administrator; Etta Albright; Ben Piper of Keller Engineers representing Blair Township regarding the Harvest Glen Development; Kristen and Domenic Taddei; Samantha Radford, Theresa Gillie, Julie Mills, Joe Hinish, and Dodie Amigh.

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 Brad Germaux made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting of September 13, 2022. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of September: Payroll \$46,668.78; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities \$302,566.19; Liquid Fuels \$14,702.21; Capital Reserve \$408.00; and Local Services Tax, \$48,316.18. It was reported that the significant increase in disbursements is the result of the transfer of ARPA monies in the amount of \$235,200.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the total September disbursements in the amount of \$412,661.36. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for September 2022 of 1,913,117.83. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the "Specific Service Investment Account Funds" Treasury Balance for September 2022 of \$126,807.96. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Amigh invited public comment. There was no public comment.

**Theresa Gillie** presented an updated report about her issue with sewage backup in her basement during heavy rains. She reported that she had gone to the BTWSA meeting, and they said they were going to come out and scope her pipes to check for any issues. BTWSA indicated that there was no blockage at the manhole but did not scope Theresa's basement pipe. She reported that the Water & Sewer Authority informed her that a request was made in 2011 for the previous homeowner to install a back flow valve; however, the previous owner did not appear to install the valve. Samantha Radford, who also had spoken with BTWSA reported that the BTWSA crew stated they will come back to do a smoke test. It was reported that the BTWSA stated that they will be applying for a grant to assist with dealing with stormwater issues and encouraged homeowners to reach out to local government once the grant application has been submitted. Chairman Amigh agreed that it would be beneficial to reach out to local lawmakers, such as Jim Gregory and Judy Ward to discuss the need for the grant monies. Chairman Amigh also stated that he had spoken with Hollidaysburg Council and will be attending the next Borough meeting to discuss issues with holding ponds located in the Borough that are ineffective and assist in creating issues with stormwater runoff into the Township. Chairman Amigh indicated that the Township is seeking volunteers for a stormwater Steering Committee to assist with future planning of a stormwater management system and voiced his interest in creating a stormwater authority that would deal with zoning to separate payment of stormwater systems to those areas that utilize them. He invited those interested in being a part of the Stormwater Steering Committee to sign the form in the Township foyer. Supervisor Amigh once again stated that this is not a quick fix and will take a significant amount of time and research to make any significant changes.

**Etta Albright** dropped off informational packets for each Supervisor regarding Governance, Public Health, Well-being, and Safety. She asked that the Supervisors review it for discussion at the November Supervisor's meeting.

**Ben Piper, representing Blair Township,** reported on **S&A Homes, Harvest Glen Subdivision** and the recent instalment of infiltration beds. He stated that had called Donna Fisher at Blair County Conservation District and confirmed that the developer acted outside of the NPDES permit window, which had expired, but had completed the infiltration beds as indicated on the plans submitted to the Township for approval, satisfying the Township's requirements. Ben stated that due to the permits having expired, there should be no additional construction at this time until a new permit is obtained. Julie Mills, a resident of 432 Stableview Court, Harvest Glen Development, Phase I, asked if there was any recourse because they did not build within the limits of the permit. Joe Hinish, a resident at 419 Stableview Court added his concerns for the way the infiltration beds were constructed, and stated that he feels the homeowners were misinformed, and led to believe that the infiltration beds had already been completed and that the drawing the salesperson showed them did not indicate that the beds would be depressions, as they are now. Both Harvest Glen residents voiced frustration with S&A.

Solicitor Fanelli stated that there is no recourse that the homeowners would have upon the Township, as the plans appear to have been followed and S&A Homes is attempting to be compliant with completing Phase I of the project. He stated that this now becomes a civil issue between the homeowners and the developer. He also stated that construction happening outside of the permit window is a Conservation District issue.

Julie Mills also questioned if the construction is consistent with the plans that were submitted to the township. Eric Banks stated that, prior to releasing a bond, the Township Engineer would have inspected the development. It was reported that between the Conservation District and the DEP there was no follow-up when the permit was expiring, and it should have been the responsibility of the Conservation District and DEP to enforce the permit or terminate it.

**Trina Illig**, County of Blair Grants CDBG Coordinator presented **Resolution 2022-07**, authorizing the submission of the FY2022 CDBG application. The FY2022 Grant in the amount of \$84,655 is allocated for Housing Rehab. (\$103,237 less 18% County Admin). Chairman Amigh asked for any questions and there were none.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve **Resolution 2022-07**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to **approve Resolution 2022-07** passed with a unanimous vote.

Trina reported that they still have 36 unreturned **Household Demographic Survey forms** but did confirm that 12 adults residing in the Mattern group homes are presumed to be within the low/to moderate guidelines. Trina reported that the next round of available competitive funds is in February 2023 and the Township may qualify for County funding, as well. Chairman Amigh questioned whether the surveys will be valid for the next round of funding, Trina confirmed that the surveys are good for 5 years.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **authorize signing the CDBG Grant Application** as prepared by the County of Blair. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to authorize signature passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Annual Cooperative Agreement between Blair Township and Blair County** for the **administration of the FY 2022 CDBG program**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**MEZZY COURT SUBDIVISION PLAN** as prepared by Todd Beiswenger on behalf of John Castle was discussed. A request was made for a 95-day extension of the review period.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the extension for Mezzy Court Subdivision plan**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to table the **Mezzy Court Subdivision plan**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to **table the Mezzy Court Subdivision plan** passed with a unanimous vote. The municipal review period will end 02/16/23.

**HUMMINGBIRD DAYCARE FACILITY LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN**, as prepared by Elizabeth Heggi of P. Joseph Lehman was reviewed. It was recommended that Attorney Fanelli prepare a Developer's Agreement. The developer is requesting a 95-day review period extension. Engineering comments remain outstanding.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the 95-day extension** for **Hummingbird Daycare Facility Land Development plan**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to table the Hummingbird Daycare Facility Land Development plan. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to **table the Hummingbird Daycare Facility Land Development plan** passed with a unanimous vote. The municipal review period will end on 2/15/23.

Eric Banks reported on the **McKibbin Enterprises, LLC Lot Merger plan** as prepared by Andrew Ebersole of Keller Engineers. The property is located at East View Street (TR605). Eric and Road Foreman, John Reed met at the site and determined that the township road is not as far back as initially thought. Based on research that had been done in the prior month, it was determined that East View Street had been a private road with a bridge and the Township had condemned the bridge and claimed ownership of the front portion of the road. The question was asked if the Township would agree to vacate the back lot to the owners. Solicitor Fanelli questioned whether there was any indication from Township records that included the back portion of the road, there was no indication that the back portion of East View Street was owned by the Township. Records show that the Township receives Liquid Fuels monies for only the front .6 miles of the road; therefore, the Township does not have the authority to vacate the portion that is not currently owned by the Township. The Township has no knowledge of private property access rights to the rear portion of East View Street.

Engineer Eric Banks stated that he had reviewed the most recent plan and is waiting for the engineer to address comments. It is requested that McKibbin Enterprises, LLC show ownership rights to the area in question, as well as a Quit Claim Deed. Solicitor Fanelli had stated that it would be appropriate to informally communicate this to the developer's engineer.

The developer is requesting a 95-day extension to the review period for the **McKibbin Enterprises, LLC Lot Merger plan**. Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the extension. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to **approve the 95-day extension** passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **table the McKibbin Enterprises, LLC Lot Merger plan**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to table the plan passed with a unanimous vote. The municipal review period will end on 01/17/23.

A request for **Release of Financial Security** for **Barneywood Land Development** was submitted. At the review and recommendation of Eric Banks, Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **release the financial security**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to **release the financial security** held on behalf of the **Barneywood Land Development** passed unanimously.

FIREMAN'S RELIEF FUND (FRF) distribution was discussed. The amount received for distribution is **\$31,918.61** and the amount would be distributed equally among the four VFC's

serving Blair Township. The FRF must be distributed no later than 11/20/22. Each VFC will receive \$7,979.65(+-.01).

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **distribute the Fireman's Relief Fund equally between Duncansville, Freedom, Geeseytown and Phoenix Volunteer Fire Companies**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Pension Relief Funds** in the amount of \$82,887.22 were received by the Commonwealth on September 28, 2022. The total amount due to the PMRS for the **2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO)** is \$100,035.00 for the current year. The amount due for the Police is \$41,200.00, and the amount due for non-uniformed employees is \$58,825.00. The Commonwealth portion must be deposited in the Pension Fund no later than 10/29/22. The cost to the general fund is \$17,147.78. It is requested that a motion be made to deposit the entire amount of \$100,035 prior to 10/29/22.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the **payment of \$100,035 to the PMRS for the 2022 MMO, prior to 10/29/22**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Domenic and Kristen Taddei** of 239 Hamer Drive presented their request of a side lot variance to construct a swimming pool, concrete surround, and fence. Solicitor Fanelli stated that he had read the initial variance request and had offered suggestions for slight changes. He stated that he feels confident that the current request meets the minimum requirements but would like to see the requested changes made prior to obtaining signatures of the adjoining property that will be affected by the variance. Solicitor Fanelli stated that he feels that it would be appropriate for the Supervisors to approve the variance contingent upon the updated, signed paperwork.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **conditionally approve the Variance Request provided the updated, signed paperwork be submitted to the Township Office**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to conditionally approve the Taddei Variance Request passed with a unanimous vote.

**Eric Banks** provided information on **three current grant opportunities**, indicating that should the Supervisors decide to apply for the grants, Stiffler and McGraw is available to assist in writing the grant application(s). The applications are due by December of 2022.

**COVID-19 ARPA H2O PA WATER SUPPLY, SANITARY SEWER & STORMWATER PROJECTS**. This grant is for large projects ranging from \$500,000.00 to \$20,000,000.00 with a 50% match. These funds are available for sanitary sewer projects. Due to the possibility that grants may compete; it is important to find out for which grants the BTW&SA are applying.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **approve applying** for the **COVID-19 ARPA H2O Grant**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion to approve the application of the grant passed with a unanimous vote.

**COVID-19 ARPA PA SMALL WATER & SEWER**, this grant has a 15% match and is applicable to smaller projects ranging from \$30,000.00 to \$500,000.00.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **approve applying** for the **COVID-19 ARPA PA Small Water & Sewer Grant**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion to approve the application of the grant passed with a unanimous vote.

**BLAIR COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT \$600,000 GRANT** looking to do stormwater and flooding projects. The BCCD is hoping to find a municipality that can use its own forces for in-kind work. John Reed indicated that they do not have the workforce or equipment to support a large project.

Supervisor Lusk made a motion to approve applying for the Blair County Conservation District Grant. The motion died for lack of a second.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-06 ACT 57 OF 2022** allows taxpayers who fail to receive a tax notice during their first year of occupancy to apply for a waiver of penalties and additional costs. The Township ordinance will require the Township to direct the Blair Township Tax Collector to waive interest and penalties under those circumstances.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve Resolution No. 2022-06 pertaining to act 57 of 2022**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-06 passed with a unanimous vote.

**STORMWATER ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS** to amend the current Township Stormwater Ordinance was discussed by Solicitor Fanelli. Solicitor Fanelli reviewed the draft ordinance noting changes made to the ordinance that Eric Banks had suggested. Solicitor Fanelli explained the ordinance would lower the threshold from One (1) acre to 5,000 square feet to qualify for an exemption of certain requirements such as stormwater plans and rate control. The change of threshold would eliminate the requirement of standard small houses to have an engineer submit a site plan. After discussion, it was decided that the Township would waive rate control requirements and plan requirements, which would be included in the standard building permit process and inspected by the permit officer. Rock pump specs would be on file in the township office. Solicitor Fanelli indicated he would have a draft ordinance prepared by next month's Supervisor's meeting. No additional action was required at this time.

**2023 ANNUAL BUDGET PREPARATION** was discussed. It was reported that both the Chief of Police and the Highway Road Foreman have submitted their budget requests for 2023 budget year. It was requested that the Supervisors provide suggestions for the allocation of the ARPA funds for the draft budgets to be prepared for advertising and approval in November and December.

The Treasurer reported that budget detail reports are very much in line with the prepared budget from 2022 and Earned Income Tax and Real Estate Transfer are in decent shape. A budget workshop was requested. Chairman Amigh asked that a special meeting be scheduled, rather than a budget workshop, to discuss additional business, to include conducting interviews for the Blair Township Water and Sewer Authority Board vacancy in 2023. A Special Township

Minutes of Monthly Meeting October 11, 2022  
Blair Township Supervisors

Meeting is planned for November 10, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Notification of the meeting will be advertised as required.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

**Harvest Glen Developer's Agreement.** No new information presented.

**Halloween** is scheduled for **Thursday, October 27, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Chairman Amigh called for other business.

Betty prepared, and Chairman Amigh presented, a REQUEST FOR PERMANENT FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT for Kami Bilek, who was hired as a temporary full-time employee through Advantage Resource Group. The Supervisors reviewed a letter provided to them outlining the duties Kami performed, as well as the request for permanent employment, salary increase, benefits, and pro-rated paid time off. Chairman Amigh in full agreement and in full acknowledgement of Kami's achievements made a motion to approve Kami Bilek being appointed to the full-time position of Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, effective retroactively to October 1<sup>st</sup> with a starting salary of \$20.00 per hour. The appointment included a buy-out in the amount of \$2,406 to Advantage Resource Group. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. Supervisor Lusk asked to be recorded as approving the motion as well. The motion to **appoint Kami Bilek as Assistant Secretary Treasurer** passed with **three yes votes**.

Chairman Amigh called for Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue.

The meeting was called back into session, with no decisions being made.

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 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Betty Robertson

Secretary