

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

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

Visitors: Edward Silvetti, representing the Blair Township Water & Sewer Authority Board, Lowell Kirk, Mary Bolt, Tim Shaw, Samantha Radford, and Theresa Gillie.

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.

Chairman Amigh announced that this meeting was advertised on November 8 in accordance with Second-Class Township Code for the purpose of General Township Business.

Chairman Amigh invited public comment. Edward Silvetti asked if his discussion regarding Brentwood Stormwater System and Grant Funding should be held until the agenda item is discussed, and Chairman Amigh stated that it should. No additional public comments were brought forward.

INTERVIEWS FOR THE APPOINTMENT TO THE BLAIR TOWNSHIP WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY BOARD were held at this time. Three candidates were interviewed: Mary Bolt, Lowell Kirk, and Tim Shaw. Chairman Amigh asked the interviewees that were not being interviewed to wait in the hallway with the door closed in order to give each candidate the same opportunity. Chairman Amigh and Supervisors Germaux and Lusk took turns asking each candidate the same questions. Chairman Amigh informed the candidates at the conclusion of their interview that no decision would be made at the meeting, but candidates would be called with the results once a decision has been made.

A REQUEST TO PLACE THE 2004 FORD F-550 (T-4) TRUCK WITH PLOW ATTACHMENTS on Municibid for sale was made. An advertisement must be placed in the newspaper to notify the general public when placing equipment on Municibid.

Supervisor Germaux made a **motion to approve advertising the sale on Municibid**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to approve advertising the sale of the 2004 Ford F0550 truck passed with a unanimous vote.

Engineer Eric Banks reported that the D.E.P. SEWAGE PLANNING EXEMPTION FOR **HUMMINGBIRD LAND DEVELOPMENT** SUBMISSION final capacity letter was received and is ready to be signed.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve signing DEP Submission. Supervisor Lusk Seconded the motion. The motion to **approve signing DEP Submission** was approved unanimously.

GRANT FUNDING, BRENTWOOD STORMWATER SYSTEM was opened for discussion. Visitor, Ed Silvetti from the Blair Township Water & Sewer Authority Board stated that his biggest disappointment as a former Township Supervisor was not being able to develop a stormwater system. Mr. Silvetti referenced a 2019 study that recommended six or so stormwater changes within the Township, at a cost of over \$1 million. He discussed at length the results of that 2019 study, as well as the amortization of debt and subsequent charges to Township residents at approximately \$40 per month added to their property tax. Mr. Silvetti stated that he believes the Township has a responsibility to its residents to continue to work on correcting infrastructure issues and stormwater flow. He stated that he continues to encourage Township residents to attend monthly meetings in order to work with the Supervisors to find solutions to flooding issues within the Township. Mr. Silvetti also indicated that he hopes the Supervisors will continue to work with other municipalities to correct issues within Blair Township that come from outside of the Township.

Chairman Amigh stated that these issues, as well as areas that had previously been assisted by Township Personnel will be discussed at this meeting and informed the assembly that the Supervisors have been working closely with outside agencies and municipalities to address stormwater and flooding issues within the Township.

Engineer Eric Banks reported that the Township had amended the Stormwater Ordinance at the last Supervisor's meeting that will assist with stormwater and runoff problems.

Chairman Amigh stated that the Township is currently working with Blair County, ISC, and outside municipalities to develop a Stormwater Authority as well as address issues within those municipalities that contribute to flooding in Blair Township (i.e., Quince Court, which had been developed to hold water but is not filling with water due to the construction of basketball courts, etc., allowing excessive stormwater runoff to enter Blair Township neighborhoods.) He stated that the Supervisors are working toward a plan to work from the bottom of Brentwood and going up, rather than the original study and plan that suggested working from the top down. Theresa Gillie, who lives at 630 Peachdale Lane thanked the Supervisors for continuing to work on the issue and take it seriously. She stated that she understood that the original stormwater plan had the work starting at the top of the development, which would have only benefited 2 homes. Samantha Radford, who lives at 626 Peachdale Lane indicated that she is in favor of starting the project at the bottom and reiterated that while the cost would be greater, it would benefit more residents than the original plan.

Mr. Silvetti once again mentioned that his previous recommendation had been to charge each Township Resident approximately \$40 per year to fund these projects.

Engineer Eric Banks discussed the two grants available and provided information on what the grant monies could be used for if awarded. Grant number one is a Small Water Grant, which would be a 15% match from the Township. Grant number two is the H2O Grant, which is a 50% match from the Township. He stated that the project would likely consist of changing underground pipes in Brentwood that are undersized, as well as looking into changes in a trunk system that was likely installed by residents. He said that the collection of stormwater is too much for the current system to handle and adding additional piping would be beneficial. Regarding the available grants, Eric stated that it is likely that the scope of the work needed for an adequate stormwater system would exceed the monies that were allocated with the Small Water Grant, and his suggestion would be to apply for the H2O Grant. The preliminary cost estimate for construction of the system in Brentwood would be \$423,000. Eric stated that Trina Illig had reached out to Senator Judy Ward's Office, which indicated that when multiple municipalities apply for a grant, it increases the interest in awarding that grant. It was suggested that Blair Township apply with Hollidaysburg Borough and the ISC. Eric reported that the grant award could be in excess of \$1 million to split between the three entities. Eric indicated that should the grant award not be enough to cover the whole project, it could be scaled back. He also stated that if the Township works with ISC, it is likely the ISC will prepare the grant application.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **apply for H2O Grant, alongside the Hollidaysburg Borough and ISC**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

ARPA GRANT DISTRIBUTION regarding the 2022 budget was discussed at this time. Chairman Amigh stated that after review of the proposed budget, he recommends allocating 10% of the \$469,659.38 that had been received as part of the ARPA Grant toward donations/gifts. He recommends providing Premium Pay for employees who had worked full time in the office or in the field during the COVID-19 pandemic. The amount of \$2,000 per employee was suggested. The balance of the 10% is to be split between organizations in or around Blair Township that will benefit residents of Blair Township. Supervisor Germaux stated that he would like to keep as much of the money given within Blair Township as possible. Several suggestions were made for available organizations. Chairman Amigh asked for recommendations for non-profit organizations and stated that the money will be specifically allocated at a later date. Additional recommended disbursements for ARPA funds were fuel reimbursement for the Police Department and the Highway Department for 2022 and 2023; Reimbursement of the PD HVAC system and payment for the Office HVAC system; the 50% contribution toward the Stormwater Grant, if awarded; and adding additional room to the Police Department for interviews, waiting area, and storage.

No official motion or vote was made regarding the ARPA disbursements, but the Secretary was advised to proceed with the ARPA Budget as suggested.

OTHER BUSINESS discussed was the recommendation for the Highway Department to replace their existing computer with the unused computer at the Township Office. No official motion or vote was placed; However, all Supervisors were in favor.

Chairman Amigh asked for other business, and there was none.

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Supervisor Germaux made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn the Special Meeting passed with a unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Betty Robertson

Secretary