

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

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF JULY 11, 2023**

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, Lou Lusk; Secretary/Treasurer, Betty Robertson; Police Chief, Roger White; Police Sergeant Roger Peacock; Road Foreman, John Reed; Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, Kami Bilek; representing Stiffler McGraw, Eric Banks, and Solicitor Patrick Fanelli, Esq.

An executive session was held on June 13, 2023 to discuss a personnel issue.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** The first **Public Hearing** to explain the **CDBG program** and receive public input was held at the Blair Township Building at 5:30 p.m. this evening.

Visitors: Edward Silvetti, Domenic, Stacy, and Robert Lill for food truck ordinance proposal, Tom Haught and Tyrone Stewart for food truck ordinance proposal.

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 June 13, 2023. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of May: Payroll \$36,353.34; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities \$55,342.01; Liquid Fuels \$4,376.30; Capital Reserve \$1,340.00; and Local Services Tax, \$3,114.62.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the total June disbursements in the amount of \$100,526.27. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the Treasury Balance for June 2023 of \$2,007,310.77. 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 June 2023 of \$122,323.64. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Amigh invited public comment. Edward Silvetti approached the podium at this time to offer congratulations and well wishes to both retiring Secretary/Treasurer, Betty Robertson and retiring Chief of Police, Roger White. He stated that he appreciated working with them both and thanked them both for their many years of service.

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Chairman Amigh asked that Other Business be addressed at this time, so that the visiting food truck owners could address the Board of Supervisors, and not be required to stay for the remainder of the meeting. Chairman Amigh thanked the visitors for attending the meeting and stated that he understands they have had difficulties in other areas of the County with permitting and zoning laws. Both truck owners, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Lill stated that permit fees and the addition of ordinances and stricter zoning laws make it difficult for them to operate in Altoona and Hollidaysburg, specifically. Chairman Amigh stated that he would like to find a way to encourage food truck owners and vendors to operate in Blair Township and explained that the Township does not currently have a zoning ordinance, nor does it have permit requirements or ordinances specific to food trucks or vendors. He reported that the Township currently has a peddler license that is designed more toward door-to-door sales. Food truck owner, Mr. and Mrs. Lill both discussed the costs associated with running a food truck, and suggested several options for permitting, such as obtaining copies of State food safety licenses, proof of vehicle insurance and registration, proof of restaurant insurance, State certification, and Driver's License. They also suggested that food truck specific permitting and ordinances would be beneficial to food truck operators, as well as acceptable permit costs and fees. Mr. Lill agreed to submit the suggestions in writing via email to the Township Secretary for consideration at a future Township Supervisors meeting. No formal action was taken at this time.

The **Mountain Home Community Center** deed has been prepared and offered for dedication by the property owner. The township will accept the property by dedication as-is and would be responsible for associated costs. Visitor Edward Silvetti expressed his concern on the Township taking ownership of the Mountain Home Community Center property, calling it a "white elephant", and stating that he is concerned the Township would incur unnecessary expense to maintain it. He asked if the Township would be able to sell the property in the future, if necessary. Chairman Paul Amigh confirmed that the property would be eligible for sale if the Township so chose. Mr. Silvetti asked the size of the property and was told that it is .857 acres. Mr. Silvetti referenced another property that had been purchased by the Township, previously, in the Fort Fetter area and stated that he believes that property had not been used as intended. He voiced concern that the Mountain Home Community Center property would follow suit. After asking if there was any other discussion on the agenda item, and there being none, Chairman Amigh called for a motion.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Mountain Home Community Center deed.** Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. Chairman Amigh abstained, citing conflict of interest. The motion passed with two yes votes.

The **Green Bean Coffee House and Headquarters** as prepared by Adam Long of Keller Engineering. The Land Development re-submission has not been received to date. Eric Banks reported that nothing new has been received; Therefore, the financial security amount still cannot be confirmed. He suggests, based on the Blair Township Planning Commission's recommendation, tabling the plan.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **table the Green Bean Coffee House and Headquarters Financial Security.** Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **table the Green Bean Coffee House and Headquarters Land Development** plan. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. The municipal review period will end on September 16, 2023.

The **Paul H. Snowberger, Jr. Non-Build Subdivision** plan as prepared by Martin Biesinger of Geotech, Inc. was discussed. The property is located along River Road. No new information has been received to

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date. Eric Banks recommended, based on the Blair Township Planning Commission's recommendation, tabling the plan.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **table the Snowberger Non-Build Subdivision** plan. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. The municipal review period will end on August 12, 2023.

The **Curry Realty Two, LLC Subdivision** and request for planning waiver as prepared by Jay Ebersole of Keller Engineering was presented by Eric Banks. The property is located along the former Berwind-White Railroad/Watco property in Blair and Frankstown Townships. Eric reported that they have received the review letter from Blair County Planning Commission. The plan is consistent with countywide planning efforts. Eric reported that there are still outstanding comments from the Stiffler McGraw review letter of June 21, 2023. Eric reports that the plan includes separating the lot from the main property line along Brush Run Creek. Eric stated that the new section will be a non-build lot and indicates a common easement agreement will be needed. The existing building will still be accessed from TR607. Eric reported that Keller Engineering is requesting a waiver to Section 350-22 (scale of plan), and Section 350-22 B(2) (Contours). Eric also reported that the Blair County Planning Commission has submitted their review and finds the plan consistent with countywide planning efforts. Eric stated he has no exception to waiver of ground contours and recommends approval of waivers of scale and ground contours. He recommends tabling the plan.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the request for Waiver of Section 350-22 (Scale of Plan)**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the request for Waiver of Section 350-22B (2) (Contours)**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **Table the Curry Realty Two, LLC Subdivision** plan. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The Evelyn Henry Minor Subdivision as prepared by Charles Colony, P.L.S. The property is located along Chimney Rocks Road. Mr. Colony reported that the plan is to make lot one larger and convey a slight portion to the Chimney Rocks Pet Cemetery. Eric reported that the Blair County Planning Commission has reviewed the plan and found it consistent with countywide planning efforts. Eric reported that everything is in order and recommends approval of the plan.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Evelyn Henry Minor Subdivision plan**. Lou Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chief White and Sergeant Peacock have interviewed for the upcoming vacancy of Patrolman for the **Blair Township Police** Department, and request approval to offer the position to Eric Calhoun upon the expected vacancy of July 22, 2023. Chief White reported that Eric had completed his pre-employment requirements and would be receiving the results shortly. Chief White reported that upon his hire, the Honorable Paula Aigner will swear Eric in. Chairman Amigh stated that the Supervisors will swear him in during the next regular Supervisors meeting.

Supervisor Brad Germaux made a motion to **approve the hiring of Eric Calhoun contingent upon favorable outcome of pre-employment screening**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

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Chief Roger White has submitted a written request to retain his service weapon and badge, pursuant to Section XI, Retirement (4) of the current Employee Agreement. Roger states in his request that he is aware of, and will be responsible for, any costs incurred to legally transfer the weapon.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the request for Chief White to retain his service weapon and badge**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The **Blair Township Secretary/Treasurer** position will become vacant after the retirement of Secretary/Treasurer Betty Robertson. The current Assistant Secretary/ Treasurer, Kami Bilek was hired in May 2022 with the expectation that she will fill the vacant position after Betty's retirement, effective July 22, 2023. Betty reported that due to State processing delays, Kami Bilek has not yet received her Notary commission. Betty has agreed to continue as the Township Notary until such time as Kami's commission and appointment is completed. Due to the nature of the Notary commission, Betty is not permitted to charge fees for Notary services; therefore, in exchange for her services, Kami requested that Township continue to pay her cellphone bill until such time as her services are no longer required. Additionally, effective July 21, 2023 upon Betty's retirement, she will no longer be required to be covered under the Traveler's Casualty and Surety Company Bond/Policy. The bond covering Betty will be canceled, and the new Secretary/Treasurer will be required to carry a bond. Kami has submitted an application for the bond. Additionally, Betty requested a \$3.00 per hour increase for Kami effective July 22, 2023, stating that it is well deserved, and the 2023 budget allows for the increase.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve hiring Kami Bilek as Township Secretary/Treasurer** upon vacancy. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **retain Betty Robertson as Township Notary** until her Notary services are no longer required. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **continue payment for Betty's cell phone** until her Notary services are no longer required. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve cancelation of Bond/Policy for Betty Robertson and approve adding Kami Bilek to a new Bond/Policy**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **approve the suggested pay increase for Kami Bilek upon appointment of the Secretary/Treasurer position**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Under Informational Items, Eric Banks updated the Board on the progress of Grant Funding **Brentwood Stormwater Improvement**/flood mitigation program. Eric reported no new information has been received to date.

Betty provided an update on the **Local Share Statewide Grant** for the Highway Department Boom Mower. John Reed stated that the mower had been ordered, but the supplier said that the mower is not expected to be delivered until next year.

The complaint by Tyler DeLeo regarding the parking lot lights was discussed. John Reed stated that the lights could not be put on a motion sensor, due to where the sensor is placed on the building. He also

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stated that the Township had already put shades on the outside lights. Chairman Amigh stated that they would consider planting trees along the parking lot to block out some of the light and readdress at a later date. No formal action was taken.

Eric Banks reported that he had reviewed the Developer's Agreement for the **Pleasantview Holding Ponds**. He reiterated that the current ordinance would require an inspection by an engineer, submission of as-built plans, explanation of any discrepancies with approved construction plans, certification by a qualified professional verifying that all stormwater management BMPs have been constructed according to approved plans, and as-built plans being recorded at the courthouse after reviewed. Solicitor Fanelli stated that he would like to see what basis the developer has for having the Township take over the holding pond. Supervisor Germaux questioned the benefit for the Township to take ownership. John Reed indicated that if the Township did not continue maintenance of the holding pond, it could result in MS4 violations; However, the road crew has already been maintaining it without having taken ownership. Solicitor Fanelli stated that by taking ownership, the Township would have control over the property. It was determined that the developer would be responsible for payment of the Township Engineer to inspect the holding ponds. Eric reported that he will follow up with the developer to get the needed information. No formal action was taken.

Other business to be discussed:

Roger Peacock discussed the upcoming vacancy of the position of Police Sergeant and said that he had received two applications for the position. He stated that he has spoken to both interested officers and would like advice on how to proceed. Chairman Amigh asked that Sergeant Peacock provide a list of his requirements for the position and how each candidate stands on each requirement. Sergeant Peacock will address the board at the August meeting with his suggestion.

The Police Department collective bargaining agreement was briefly discussed. Chairman Amigh stated that he is still reviewing the additions and changes to the agreement and asked that the agreement be added to the August agenda for discussion.

With no other business, Chairman Amigh asked for a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Germaux made a motion to adjourn the meeting of July 11, 2023. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Betty Robertson

Secretary