

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

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF OCTOBER 10, 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, Kami Bilek; Police Chief, Roger Peacock; Road Foreman, John Reed; representing Stiffler McGraw, Eric Banks, and Solicitor Patrick Fanelli, Esq.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** An executive session is scheduled to be held at the conclusion of the Supervisor's meeting to discuss a legal matter and personnel issue.

Visitors present were Tim McGaw, BTWSA; Trina Illig, Grant Coordinator for Community Development, County of Blair; Michael Fitch; Dodie Amigh; and Rodney Patterson.

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 September 12, 2023** Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of September: Payroll \$44,820.08; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities \$79,723.55; Liquid Fuels \$63,126.32; and Local Services Tax, \$2,057.17.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the total September disbursements in the amount of \$189,727.12**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Treasury Balance for September 2023 of \$1,892,951.33**. 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 2023 of \$129,014.27** Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Chairman Amigh invited public comment.** Visitor Michael Fitch of Hillsdale Drive approached the podium to discuss troubles he and his neighbors have been having with barking dogs at a property in their neighborhood. He stated that the offending neighbor keeps his dogs outside and they bark at all hours of the day and night. He referenced the Township noise ordinance and asked what can be done to prevent the constant barking. Chief Peacock informed Mr. Fitch that he would speak to the neighbors and advise them of the noise ordinance and proceed with an ordinance violation citation, if necessary. Mr. Fitch voiced his gratitude. No additional public comment was made at this time.

Trina Illig, Grant Coordinator for Blair County Community Development discussed **Resolution No. 2023-07 CDBG Grant Funds** authorizing the submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for funding through the Community Development Block Grant Program. Trina stated that the County held the second public hearing to discuss allocation of CDBG funds and received no comments on the use of the CDBG Funds.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the submission of application for CDBG Funds**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with a unanimous vote.

Trina Illig stated that a signature would be required on the **Grant Application Form** to be submitted, certifying that Blair County prepared the three-year CDBG Community Development Plan for Blair Township, and the plan was prepared together and in cooperation with the Township. The signature also certifies that the information was reviewed with the Township Supervisors.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Authorizing Signature on the Application Form**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with a unanimous vote.

Trina Illig discussed the **Cooperative Agreement between Blair Township and Blair County for the administration of the FY 2023 CDBG program**. She explained that the agreement is the same as it was in 2022.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the signature on the FY 2023 Application Form**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with a unanimous vote.

Trina presented **Resolution No. 2023-08 Fair Housing Resolution** certifying that Blair Township will follow the guidelines brought forth by the Federal Fair Housing Act regarding discriminating against any person applying for funding.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve Resolution No. 2023-08 Fair Housing Resolution**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with a unanimous vote.

**Resolution No. 2023-06 Intermunicipal Stormwater Committee Agreement** was presented. The ISC Agreement was passed unanimously at the September 12, 2023 meeting.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the signing of Resolution No. 2023-06, Intermunicipal Stormwater Agreement** Resolution. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Hollidaysburg Family Dental Land Development Plan** as presented by the Eads Group was discussed. The project is located along North Juniata Street. Eric Banks reported discrepancies between the approved Preliminary Land Development Plan and the Final Land Development Plan and completed project. Eric reported that there has been no new information received to address the Stiffler McGraw review letter dated August 2, 2023. The Developer has submitted a request for a ninety-five (95) day extension to the review period. Eric stated that he is unsure how to enforce the requirements to comply with the approved plans. Solicitor Fanelli asked Eric to explain what items are inconsistent with the approved preliminary plan. Eric provided the information that was included in the Review Letter sent to the developer. Chairman Amigh asked if the business had received an Occupancy Permit and Eric reported that it had not. After discussion, Solicitor Fanelli stated that the Board of Supervisors has the right to deny the final land development approval and, if so, the business would have to cease all operations at that location. After additional discussion, Chairman Amigh suggested approving the extension with the intent to vote at the November Supervisor's meeting to either accept or deny the final

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land development plan. A letter will be sent to the developer stating such. The Supervisors agree that one month will be sufficient time for the developer to reach out to Eric Banks to either provide the needed information to approve the final land development plan, or to make arrangements to discuss the completion of the requirements.

Chairman Paul Amigh made a motion to **approve the ninety-five (95) Day extension**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **table the Hollidaysburg Family Dental Final Land Development plan**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**European Motor Cars** land development plan as prepared by Jeff Gunnet of Gunnet Engineers has been submitted. The proposed project is located on Chimney Rocks Road. The Blair Planning Commission has received the plans and request to review. Eric Banks reported that there are several items that need addressed from the review letter dated September 12, 2023. He recommended tabling the plan. The municipal review period will expire December 11, 2023.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **table the European Motor Cars land development plan**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek reported that the **Combined Insurance Company of America** met at the Township Office to present a proposal for voluntary critical illness and accident insurance, and voluntary life insurance. The proposed insurance would be available to all employees working more than thirteen (13) hours per week and would be a payroll deduction. There is no cost to the Township. The Combined Insurance Company of America representatives would like to schedule a meeting with all employees to discuss the benefits and costs associated with the insurance.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve moving forward with receiving information from Combined Insurance Company of America** for accident, critical illness, and voluntary life insurance. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Mary Bolt had submitted her resignation from the **Blair Township Water & Sewer Authority Committee** leaving a vacancy on the Committee. Chairman Amigh addressed Tim Shaw from BTWSA, asking if he had any recommendations. Tim addressed the Board of Supervisors and asked that whoever is appointed be available during daylight hours due to upcoming projects on Reservoir Road and all that it will entail. He stated that his recommendation would be Lowell Kirk because he is retired and would be available to sign paperwork and checks when needed. Chairman Amigh thanked Tim and stated that he had spoken to Edward Sylvetti, another BTWSA board member, who indicated that he is available during daylight hours, lives close by, and would be willing to sign any checks or documents necessary. Chairman Amigh stated that he had considered both applicants that had been interviewed during the last round of applicants for a vacancy with BTWSA Committee and had discussed possible interest and subsequent interview with Rodney Patterson. Supervisors Germaux and Lusk had an opportunity to talk with Mr. Patterson prior to the monthly meeting.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **appoint Rodney Patterson as a member of the Blair Township Water & Sewer Authority Committee**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The **Blair Township Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement** has been prepared by the Blair Township Police Department and submitted to the Supervisors and Solicitor for review and approval. The Agreement will run from **January 1, 2024** through **December 31, 2026**. The Supervisors had no recommendations for changes to the agreement as presented.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the three-year Blair Township Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with a unanimous vote.

The **Blair Township Police Chief Contract Agreement** as prepared by Chief Roger Peacock was sent to the Supervisors and Solicitor for review. As there were no additions or corrections to the Contract, Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Blair Township Police Chief Contract Agreement**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with a unanimous vote.

**The Fireman's Relief Fund (FRF)** distribution was discussed. The amount received for distribution is **\$31,209.90** and the amount would be distributed equally among the four VFC's serving Blair Township. The FRF must be distributed no later than 10/30/2023. Each VFC will receive \$7,802.47 (=/- \$.01).

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **distribute the Fireman's Relief Fund**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Pension Relief Funds** in the amount of **\$87,418.32** 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 \$44,021.00, and the amount due for non-uniformed employees is **\$63,558.0**. The Commonwealth portion must be deposited in the Pension Fund no later than 10/30/23. The cost to the general fund is \$20,160.68. It is requested that a motion be made to deposit the entire amount of \$107,579.00 prior to 10/30/23.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the **payment to the PMRS for the 2023 MMO, prior to 10/30/23**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Under Informational Items, Chairman Amigh discussed the **Mountain View Park** project. Chairman Amigh stated that Solicitor Fanelli and the President of the Mountain Home Community Park continue discussions and have spoken regarding the deed. Road Foreman, John Reed, stated that he would like to begin working on clearing out the area once the deed has been signed and the park has been dedicated to the Township. Chairman Amigh stated that he hopes the deed will be ready by next month's meeting. No formal action was taken.

Eric Banks reported no new information on **Pleasantview Holding Ponds**.

Chief Peacock reported no new information on **Police Department Vehicle**. He stated that he has called the dealer but has gotten no reply and no update. He stated that he will continue to call or go to the dealership in person to see if there is any update.

Road Foreman, John Reed, discussed the **Mowing Emergency Access Road to I-99** with Boom mower, as requested by the Duncansville Highway Department Road Foreman who is also a Duncansville Volunteer Fire Fighter. John stated that he encouraged someone from the Fire Department to attend the meeting, but there is no representative present. After discussion, no action was taken at this time.

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Chairman Amigh requested a traffic study be completed on Brooks Boulevard to determine speed in the residential area along that road. Chairman Amigh stated that he had been contacted by Township residents with concerns regarding speed on that road. Rodney Patterson stated that he lives on Brooks Boulevard and he and his family were walking along the road and a car drove past him at approximately 45 miles per hour. John stated that he will get in touch with LTAP to set that up. John also indicated that he is looking into purchasing flashing lights or digital speed limit signs for the Township and will consider putting “Watch Children” signs on either side of the railroad tracks along that road, as well, placing them in line with regulations regarding Railroad Crossing signs.

Eric Banks asked if Stiffler McGraw is permitted to continue with the Mountain Home Park design and planning, and Chairman Amigh reiterated that the reason there has been no formal discussion regarding the park plans is because the deed has not been signed, and the Township has not received the Mountain Home Community Park by dedication. Eric stated that he will pass that information along to the project engineer at Stiffler McGraw.

There being no other business, Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **adjourn the meeting of October 10, 2023 to executive session**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned to executive session at 6:32p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Kami Bilek

Secretary