

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

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 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; and representing Stiffler McGraw, Eric Banks. Solicitor Patrick Fanelli, Esq. was absent.

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

Visitors present were Tracey Hostler from Cedarcrest Drive, and Amy Cunningham from Harvestview Drive.

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 October 10, 2023**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of October: Payroll \$33,290.66; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities \$198,980.19; Liquid Fuels \$17,558.26; and Local Services Tax, \$11,504.36.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the total October disbursements in the amount of \$261,333.47**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Treasury Balance for October 2023 of \$1,728,578.56**. 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 October 2023 of \$148,227.39** Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Chairman Amigh invited public comment** and there was none.

Blair Township resident, Tracey Hostler, had requested to be on the agenda to discuss a rodent infestation at her residence. She stated that the owner of the adjacent townhouse had left her residence vacant in May of 2020 and has not returned. After repeated attempts to contact the homeowner, Ms. Hostler contacted the Township office to have the codes enforcement officer notified. The permit/codes officer contacted the homeowner, telling her that the property was in violation of the Township ordinance regarding trash around the property. Ms. Hostler stated that the homeowner or a representative of the homeowner came to

the property and cleared up some of the garbage in the back yard, but to her knowledge did not enter the property to clean it out. Ms. Hostler reported that she has caught more than 86 mice in her home since the property owner vacated the property, and she would like the Township Supervisors to take action to force the homeowner to remediate the problem. Chairman Amigh requested that the Blair Township Police Department contact the homeowner to notify her of the ordinance violation of Township ordinances regarding blighted or vacant property, as a rodent infestation is a potential danger to the health and well-being of the neighbors living at the row of townhouses. No formal action was taken at this time.

Eric Banks presented **Resolution No. 2023-09** authorizing Stiffler McGraw to prepare and submit the **Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant** for the Highway Department Skid-Steer.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve Resolution No. 2023-09, authorization to prepare and submit SLSA Grant**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with a unanimous vote.

The deed for **Mountain Home Community Park** has been prepared by Solicitor Fanelli and signed by Dodie Amigh and will be available to record at the Blair County Courthouse once a Statement of Value has been prepared by Solicitor Fanelli. Eric presented **Resolution No. 2023-10** authorizing Stiffler McGraw to prepare and submit the **Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant** for the project.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve Resolution No. 2023-10, authorization to prepare and submit SLSA Grant**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with two (2) yes votes. Chairman Amigh abstained citing conflict of interest.

**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 that the developer has installed the required curbing around the parking lot and resubmitted final plans and supporting documentation. Eric reported that outstanding comments are that the plan is to be signed and recorded. The developer has submitted a letter stating that they no longer plan to use a dumpster, but have two (2) trash cans, which eliminates the need for an enclosure to be constructed. Eric reported that they submitted photos of construction of the infiltration facility, showing it has been two-thirds (2/3) completed, as well as a certification from their Engineer stating that it was completed as per the approved preliminary plans. Eric recommended that the signature block that appears on the final plan for the Township to sign showing that everything has been constructed per the stormwater ordinance be removed, since it was unable to be inspected prior to completion.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **conditionally approve the final land development** plan, pending removal of the Township signature block, owner signature, and submission of final plan and the execution of a Developer's Agreement. 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 reviewed the plans and finds it to be consistent with countywide planning efforts. The developer has submitted a request for a ninety-five (95) day extension. Eric Banks reported that he has not received any additional information related to the Stiffler McGraw 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 **approve the ninety-five (95) day extension**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to approve the extension passed unanimously.

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.

Patrolman M. Fleck of the Blair Township Police Department is eligible for promotion from Patrol Officer 2 to Patrol Officer 3 effective December 2, 2023. According to the current Blair Township collective bargaining agreement, when moving from PO2 to PO3, the officer should receive the starting wage for the position or a wage increase of 10%, whichever is greater.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the promotion from Patrol Officer 2 to Patrol Officer 3** along with the applicable wage increase effective December 2, 2023. 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 with employees 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 have sent the agreement to participate in voluntary critical illness and accident insurance and require a signature to proceed.

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

Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek discussed the **2024 Employee Hospitalization** plan. Knepper Insurance presented available Health Insurance & Hospitalization packages to employees on Thursday, November 9 via video at the Township Municipal office. There are three plans that offer essentially the same coverage as the existing Health Insurance plan. All three plans fall in line with the BTPD Collective Bargaining Agreement. The first plan is identical to the current plan (Small Business Advantage Gold EPO) and has an increase of 12.5% (\$21,330) over 2023. The second plan that closely lines up with the existing plan is the Small Business Advantage Gold HMO which shows an increase of 5.8%, or \$10,114.32 over 2023. This plan would require referrals to specialists, but the participating network is the same. The third plan is Small Business Advantage Gold EPO Partner Network and has a savings of 3.28% (\$5,709.72) under the existing plan; However, it has a much smaller network and covers only UPMC owned hospitals and offices. The 2024 UPMC Vision and Dental plan did not change but had a decrease in cost of 2.86% over 2023.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **accept the 2024 Small Business Advantage Gold EPO** plan for employee health coverage. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **accept the 2024 UPMC Vision and Dental** plan. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The **2024 Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA)** through **Davevic Benefit Consultants** has not changed from the 2023 plan. Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **continue using Davevic Benefit Consultants for HRA**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting November 14, 2023

Blair Township Supervisors

**COMCAST** presented their proposal for internet services at the Municipal Building and internet and cable television services for the Highway Garage. Road Foreman John Reed stated that it is necessary during bad weather months for the highway crew to have access to cable television to monitor the weather. The total cost for cable and internet services is slightly higher than the current services through Breezeline; However, the current services are not reliable, and costs continue to increase. COMCAST pricing will be locked in for a three-year period.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **approve COMCAST for the municipal building and the Highway Garage**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Bettwy Systems** has provided a quote for fire alarm upgrades and monitoring at the Highway Garage. The system will be upgraded to include an alarm box with wireless connection and cellular backup. The cost for the system upgrade is \$856.90, which includes the first year's monitoring fees. After the initial year, the annual fees will be less than the monitoring fee with the current monitoring company.

Supervisor Lusk made a motion to **approve the proposal from Bettwy Systems**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **table the Verizon Wireless phone upgrade discussion** until more information is available. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The **2024 Draft Budget Proposal for public inspection** is to begin Tuesday, November 21, 2023. Chairman Amigh stated that the draft budget presented is ready to be posted at the Township Municipal Office and the Township's website. Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve advertising the 2024 draft budgets as presented for Public Inspection, in accordance with the Second-Class Township Code. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to advertise the 2024 Budget passed with a unanimous vote.

Under Informational Items, Eric Banks reported no new information on **Pleasantview Holding Ponds**.

Chief Peacock reported that the **Police Department Vehicle** is to be delivered within the next couple days. The dealer will notify the Municipal Office when the vehicle is ready for delivery, so that the applicable paperwork and payment can be completed.

Chief Peacock and Road Foreman John Reed briefly discussed the Brooks Boulevard Traffic Study, stating that the speed through that area was not as bad as they anticipated. Both Chief Peacock and John Reed stated that the lines painted on the road likely helped to curb speeding during the study.

Chief Peacock stated that he has received pricing for two (2) electronic speed limit radar signs. The cost of the signs is \$6,920 for both. The signs have the capabilities to count the number of cars during the time frame that the sign is in place, as well as flash the speed that the cars are traveling. John stated that there was a list of vendors on the traffic study where Liquid Fuels funds may be used. Chief Peacock stated that he would investigate it further and if Liquid Fuels funds can be used to purchase the electronic signs that he had chosen, or a close facsimile of such, he would purchase the signs with Liquid Fuels funds. If not, he would purchase the signs with LST funds out of the Police Department Budget.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **add the speed limit monitoring signs** to the agenda. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion to add the speed limit monitoring signs to the agenda passed with three (3) yes votes.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting November 14, 2023

Blair Township Supervisors

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **approve the purchase of two (2) speed limit radar signs**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with three (3) yes votes.

Chairman Amigh stated that the Township will continue to investigate the need for a solar ordinance. Eric Banks stated that Solicitor Fanelli had previously worked on an ordinance with a neighboring Township. Eric will forward the copy of the solar ordinance to the Supervisors for review.

In other business, the Supervisors have received a request for a letter of support to be sent from the Blair Township Supervisors for a grant application for the Allegheny Spay & Neuter Clinic located in Woodland, PA. The clinic is applying for a grant to build an addition to their current building. The clinic provides spay and neuter services to animals in municipalities within 26 counties in Pennsylvania, including Blair County and Blair Township. The Supervisors agreed to sign the letter of support. No formal action was taken.

There being no additional other business, Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **adjourn the meeting of November 14, 2023 to executive session**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned to executive session at 6:56 p.m.

Chairman Amigh recalled the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve an increase in pay** for Road Crew Member Todd Lynn. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. The pay increase will be effective November 15, 2023.

There being no additional business, Chairman Amigh asked for a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Germaux made the motion and Supervisor Lusk seconded. The motion to adjourn passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Kami Bilek

Secretary