

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

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF JULY 9, 2024

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; Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek; Police Chief Roger Peacock; Road Foreman John Reed; representing Stiffler McGraw, Eric Banks; Solicitor Patrick Fanelli, Esq.; and Appointed Auditor, Jacob Wible. Visitors include Bryce Martellacci from BTPD; Brandon, Heather, and Brynn Pfister; Richard Altiero and Lynn Haller, regarding fireworks; and Holly Buchanan regarding a variance request.

Public comment is welcome and invited in accordance with the Township policy and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Right to Know provisions and Sunshine Act.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting of June 11, 2024** with no additions or corrections. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with two (2) yes votes.

Disbursements for the month of May: Payroll \$29,703.40; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities \$78,284.44; Liquid Fuels \$2,003.28; Capital Reserve \$575.00 Local Services Tax, \$55,325.94.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the total June disbursements in the amount of \$165,892.06**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Treasury Balance for June 2024 of \$1,978,385.19**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the **"Specific Service Investment Account Funds" Treasury Balance for June 2024 of \$168,710.06**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Chairman Amigh invited public comment at this time. Blair Township Richard Altiero addressed the Board of Supervisors regarding his concerns over fireworks being set off around his property during the July 4th celebrations. Mr. Altiero stated that there were burn marks on his porch, and debris on his roof, cars, and on his lawn. He stated that it is irresponsible for people to light fireworks during the dry weather in a neighborhood where there is a risk of fire. Mr. Altiero stated that the fireworks laws state that fireworks are not to be set off within one hundred fifty feet of any structure or vehicle. He suggested an ordinance that would ban fireworks in the Township. After discussion, Solicitor Fanelli stated that it is not lawful for a municipality to make a law that would be stricter than the laws of Pennsylvania; therefore neither a general ban on fireworks, nor an ordinance that increases the distance from a home would be allowed. Chairman Amigh stated that fireworks may be covered under the nuisance ordinance, but that it would be up to the homeowners to alert 911 dispatch immediately if there is a violation, as the individual would need to be seen by the Police in the act of violation for a citation to be issued. Chief Peacock stated

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that they can increase police presence in the area if they are notified of the possibility of fireworks, and during periods of activity. Township resident Lynn Haller stated that homes on her block were also setting off fireworks and it worries her because of how close the homes are together. Chief Peacock stated that he will speak with the Patrol Officers and ask them to increase patrol in these neighborhoods during times of increased activity, but some of the burden still falls on the Township residents to report violations as they happen. Chairman Amigh called for additional Public Comment, and there was none.

Officer Bryce Martellacci completed his training at the IUP Police Academy on June 18, 2024. Officer Martellacci's first day on duty was June 24, 2024. He begins his career at Blair Township as Police Officer 1. Officer Martellacci was sworn into office by District Judge Paula Aigner on June 24. Supervisor Germaux led Officer Martellacci in reaffirming his Oath of Office before the board of Supervisors.

David Cunningham from Keller Engineers submitted a request to the Township Office for a waiver of Subdivision and Land Development review fees for the Reservoir Road Sanitary Wastewater project proposed pump stations located at two (2) properties along Reservoir Road. The total review fees for both properties is \$400.00.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **approve the waiver of SALDO fees for Wastewater Pump Stations**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Larson Design Group has submitted preliminary plans and SALDO Application for a Dollar General store to be located at 16474 Dunnings Highway, Duncansville. The developer has requested a waiver to Ordinance Section 350-48: Parking, reducing the number of required parking spaces from 54 to 33, and Ordinance Section 344-21: Sidewalks. Eric Banks reported that he would like more clarification on how the number of parking spaces has been determined to be thirty-three (33) prior to making a recommendation. Eric stated that the Blair Township Planning Commission has recommended tabling the waiver of parking spaces.

Eric Banks reported that the Blair Township Planning Commission has also recommended tabling the waiver request for sidewalks. Chairman Amigh stated that it is clearly stated in the Land Development Ordinance that sidewalks are required, and he believes that the addition of the Dollar General will significantly increase pedestrian traffic in the area. Eric also stated that there are several Engineer comments that need to be addressed. He recommends tabling the land development plan, stating that the Blair Township Planning Commission has recommended tabling the plan, as well.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **table the Dollar General Land Development plan**. Supervisor Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **table the request for Waiver of Ordinance Section 350-48: Parking Spaces**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **reject the request for Waiver of Ordinance Section 344-21: Sidewalks**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

The Greendown Acres Site Development as prepared by Clearwell Engineering was discussed. The proposed project is located along Catfish Road, Duncansville. Eric Banks reported that no additional information has been received to date. The Blair Township Planning Commission has requested the Board of Supervisors table the plan.

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Chairman Amigh made a motion to **table the Greendown Acres Expansion plan**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Scott and Holly Buchanan prepared and submitted a Variance Agreement to the Township for Review. The Variance request is for a Twenty (20) foot by Twelve (12) foot shed to be placed within the appropriate setback areas for both side and rear properties of the property located at 1202 Robin Ln, Duncansville. Solicitor Fanelli reviewed the Variance Agreement and has found it to be acceptable to be recorded at the Blair County Courthouse.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **approve the Buchanan Variance Agreement**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

John Reed stated that the Road Crew Members had requested their daily hours be changed from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in order to match the hours of other Road Crews in the area. Chairman Amigh asked that he be given some time to look into the matter in greater detail prior to making a decision.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **Table the request** until additional information can be obtained. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Under informational items, Eric Banks reported that he had received some information on the River Road Repair, and had a discussion with the Army Corps of Engineers. Eric stated that he is still waiting on information regarding the cost and availability of assistance. Eric believes that they offer services for planning efforts, but not necessarily permitting and construction efforts. He stated that there may be other non-Federal sponsors that may be able to assist with those efforts.

Road Foreman John Reed reported that the new Boom Mower is scheduled to be delivered on Thursday, July 11. The payment for the mower will be paid out of Capital Reserve Funds and will be partially reimbursed from grant monies held in escrow from a DCED Local Shares Grant awarded to the Township previously.

Chief Roger Peacock announced that the new Police Car had been delivered. Officer Calhoun has been driving it, and reports that it works great. Chief Peacock also stated that the new laptops and equipment has been received at no cost to the Township due to the County grant that was received. He stated that the laptops will be installed in the Police cruisers soon and expects that three vehicles can be upgraded in a day.

Chairman Amigh called for other business, and there being none, Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **adjourn the meeting of July 9, 2024 to executive session**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with two (2) yes votes. The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Kami Bilek

Secretary