

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

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF APRIL 9, 2024

Vice-Chairman Brad Germaux 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, who participated via telephone; Supervisor Brad Germaux; Supervisor Lou Lusk; 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 present were Dodie Amigh, Tracey Hostler, and Mr. Steve Ritchey.

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 Lusk made a motion to **approve the minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting of March 12, 2024** with no additions or corrections. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of March: Payroll \$30,181.99; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities \$60,663.92; Liquid Fuels \$1,265.18; Capital Reserve \$1,719.79; and Local Services Tax, \$4,445.64.

Supervisor Lusk made a motion to **approve the total March disbursements in the amount of \$98,276.52**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Lusk made a motion to **approve the Treasury Balance for March 2024 of \$1,868,688.41**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Vice-Chairman Germaux invited public comment. Blair Township Resident, Steve Ritchey, owner of 164 River Road, reported that he is having issues with the neighboring properties on River Road accumulating junk on their properties. He stated that he had spoken with Marianne Coats at PMCA, but doesn't feel as if the problem is being resolved quickly enough, and now he believes that two of the properties are currently vacant. Mr. Ritchey was told that the Codes Officer would continue working with the property owners on River Road to remedy the problem. Mr. Ritchey voiced his thanks to the Supervisors that the problems with flooding and erosion along the roadway are listed on the evening's agenda, and voiced his concern about the log jam in the river that he feels contributes to road flooding. Chairman Amigh stated that the Township must follow DEP guidelines regarding the river. Supervisor Lusk stated that he is looking into working with the National Guard or other groups to clear that portion of the River.

There being no additional public comment, Supervisor Germaux continued the meeting agenda.

Dave Claybaugh with Kuharchik, Inc. has reported that the four-way blinking light at Monastery Road and Rt. 36, Charger Highway needs to be replaced. Kuharchik has temporarily repaired the light until a

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decision can be made on its replacement. Road Foreman, John Reed recommends contacting PennDOT to possibly complete a traffic study to see if the blinking light is needed. Kuharchik has submitted an estimate for both replacing the four-way blinker with another four-way blinker and replacing the existing blinker with one-directional yellow flashing lights with reflective backing. The estimates range from \$9,050 to \$13,970. There may be grants available to replace the old system with a complete new system.

Supervisor Lusk made a motion to **approve moving forward with working with PennDOT to perform a traffic study on Monastery Road and Charger Highway**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Chairman Amigh made a motion to **approve Eric Banks to move forward with information on grants**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Chairman Amigh made a motion to **table replacement of the four-way blinking light** until additional information is available. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Penn Tech Ventures and Larson Design Group held a virtual meeting on Wednesday, April 3 with Chairman Amigh and Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek, along with representatives from PennDOT to discuss a new Dollar General project located along Dunnings Highway in Blair Township. The basis for the meeting was to discuss Blair Township requirements and ordinances for land development, as well as PennDOT HOP requirements. The discussion centered around preliminary plans that were informally presented. The developer discussed drainage, parking requirements, and sidewalk requirements, and indicated they would likely be attaching waiver requests when the preliminary land development plans are submitted. Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek stated that she would send copies of the Land Development Ordinance to the Developer. Penn Tech Ventures sent a Transportation Impact Study (TIS) Scoping Meeting Application with the points discussed during the meeting and asked that Chairman Amigh would sign on behalf of the Township.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **approve signing the TIS Scoping Meeting Application**. Supervisor Lusk Seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Lusk made a motion to **approve the solicitation of bids by phone or in writing for the 2024 Line Painting Project**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Lusk made a motion to **approve advertising to solicit bids (due by 5/10/2024) for the 2024-2025 Stone Bids**. The stone bids for the 24-25 year are 400T of Type 2 Anti-Skid; 200 T 2A Subbase; and 100T of Aashto #1. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The Blair Township cellular phone plan was recently updated to a Public Safety plan, saving the Township \$79.65 per month. The new plan offers preferential service to all first responders. All existing cell phones are past-due for an upgrade. Verizon has several offers for new cell phones between \$49.99 and \$149.99. The Blair Township Police Department and Road Foreman John Reed will upgrade their cell phones from iPhone 8 to iPhone 14, at \$49.99 each. The mounted devices in the Police Cruisers will not be upgraded at this time, but service will fall under the Public Safety Plan.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **approve the purchase of iPhone 14s for participating Township personnel**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Engineer Eric Banks reported on the Brentwood Flood Mitigation Grant process. Eric reported that an updated resolution and documents would be submitted next month. He stated that the cost estimate had

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decreased by \$500 below the 2023 estimates, and that the grant match is expected to stay the same at \$143,395.00.

Blair Township Resident Tracey Hostler attended to give the supervisors an update on her mouse infestation. She provided information to the Board of Supervisors that she had printed from the UJS Portal that indicated that her next-door-neighbor who owns the allegedly infested home had entered a guilty plea and paid the fines for the citation she had received. Tracey reported that the homeowner has still not returned to the property to clean it out. Solicitor Fanelli stated that there are a couple options the Township has moving forward. One would be to continue citing the homeowner, anticipating that fines will increase with each citation; and two, to have a company come in to clean out the property and then place a lien on the property with the amount of costs incurred to do so. After discussion, the Supervisors agreed that the Police Department should issue another citation, and possibly additional citations if the problem is not rectified. Chairman Amigh asked the Township Office to call for pricing to have the property cleaned out. Additionally, Chief Peacock stated that he would discuss the issue with the District Magistrate to explain the severity of the problem, hoping that the District Magistrate would increase the costs and fines each time, if necessary.

Chairman Amigh asked if the Freedom Township Volunteer Fire Department had notified the Township of the structure burn class that occurred on Reservoir Road on Sunday, March 24. He also raised questions as to whether the homeowner had filed for the necessary demolition permits. Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek stated that she would look into whether the permits were obtained and stated that she does not recall being notified by Freedom Township VFD but would investigate further.

Chairman Amigh stated that he and Engineer Eric Banks went to Holliday Hills during a period of heavy rains to monitor the drainage from that area. Eric reported that he had obtained a copy of the stormwater plans and stated that he believes that there is piping underneath the existing playground but stated that there is no way to determine if it's adequate just by looking at it. Eric stated that he will work with Hollidaysburg Borough to make sure that all stormwater systems are functioning properly. Eric stated that Hollidaysburg Borough is in a transition period regarding personnel, so he plans to wait until permanent staff has been hired before contacting them.

The potential for a Solar Ordinance was discussed. Solicitor Fanelli stated that he will draft a Solar Ordinance for review at next month's Supervisors Meeting.

Under Other Business, the Blair Township Sanitary Sewer Ordinance was reviewed. Solicitor Fanelli stated that the current ordinance sufficiently outlines that current homeowners would be required to tap onto sanitary sewer lines constructed within a certain distance of the home.

There being no other business, Supervisor Lusk made a motion to **adjourn the meeting of April 9, 2024**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted by

Kami Bilek

Secretary