

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

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF MAY 13, 2025

Chairman Paul Amigh 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, 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.

Visitor, Blair Township resident and Blair Township Water & Sewer Authority Chairperson, Ed Silvetti was present.

Chairman Amigh announced that there will be an executive session to discuss the possibility of property acquisition at the conclusion of the Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting.

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 April 8, 2025**, with no additions or corrections. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with a unanimous vote.

Disbursements for the month of April: Payroll \$38,174.89; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities \$81,021.55; Liquid Fuels \$20,495.09; and Local Services Tax Account, \$10,331.40.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the total April disbursements in the amount of \$150,022.93**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Treasury Balance for April 2025 of \$2,143,595.70**. 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 April 2025 of \$272,627.03**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the **FNB Credit Card Statement for the month of April** in the amount of \$524.53 and the **Wex Bank Sunoco Fleet** gas card in the amount of \$1,632.52. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Amigh invited public comment. Blair Township Water & Sewer Authority Chairman, Ed Silvetti was on the agenda to address the Board of Supervisors but asked that he be allowed to address the Board at this time. Mr. Silvetti said that what prompted him to want to speak to the Board of Supervisors is the inevitability of the retirement of the Authority manager and the office manager in the upcoming

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years and the need for a succession plan. Mr. Silveti brought up several key points of the Authority as it stands. The Authority owns no sewage treatment plant; it owns no water source; it is essentially a retailer; it costs substantial money to run the authority between the staff and the management of underground pipes. Mr. Silveti believes that there must be a better way to manage the Authority in the future. He offered suggestions such as selling to a private entity; partnering with an adjoining authority or attempting a joint authority with a neighboring township or borough; contracting with an outside management company; leaving it as it is, although he believes it is inherently inefficient; or having the Township run the water and sewer authority and hiring on the current water and sewer staff as Township employees, which would likely benefit their staff members. Mr. Silveti stated that hiring a manager to oversee the management of both the Township and the Water and Sewer Authority would basically pay for itself out of the income generated by the BTWSA. Mr. Silveti stated that it would be a long and difficult task, but doable.

Supervisor Amigh asked Mr. Silveti if this were something the Township would consider, would he be willing to allow the Township to call him for advice or be willing to take the lead on the project, and Mr. Silveti stated that he would help under an advisory capacity only and would defer to the DCED for any guidance they could provide.

The **Greendown Acres Site Expansion** plan as prepared by Clearwell Engineering was discussed. Eric banks reported that no new information has been received. The municipal review period ends on June 9, 2025. Kami Bilek reported that she reached out to the developer on several occasions but has not received a request for an extension of the review period. Eric recommended denying the plan for reasons outlined in the Stiffler McGraw review letter dated October 16, 2024.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **deny the Greendown Acres Site Expansion Plan**, for the reasons outlined in the Stiffler McGraw review letter. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to deny the plan passed with a unanimous vote.

Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek reported that two sealed bid packages for the 2025 Liquid Fuels Road Paving Project were received. The bids were opened at 3:00 p.m. today, with Township clerk, Jennifer Wendt as witness. The first bid received was from Grannas Bros. Stone & Asphalt Co., Inc. The cost per square yard for base repairs was \$85.00, and \$118.00 per ton for superpave wearing course 9.5 mm in place, for a total cost of \$54,667.00. The second bid received was from New Enterprise Stone & Lime Company, Inc. The cost per square yard for base repairs was \$80.10, and \$106.15 per ton for superpave wearing course 9.5 mm in place, for a total cost of \$50,460.65. The contract will be signed and awarded once the required documents are received and reviewed by the Solicitor.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the 2025 road paving award to New Enterprise Stone & Lime Company, Inc pending the Solicitor's review of required documents**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the solicitation of bids by phone or in writing for the 2025 Line Painting Project**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve advertising to solicit bids (due by 6/10/25) for the 2025-2026 Stone Bids**. The stone bids for the 25-26 year are 400T of Type 2 Anti-Skid; 200 T 2A Subbase; and 100T of Aashto #1. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

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Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek reported that the CPA Firm retained by the Township to complete the annual DCED Audit, Ritchey, Ritchey, & Koontz, PC, has completed the 2024 year-end audit and submitted it to the DCED. The audit information is ready to be posted for advertisement in the Altoona Mirror. The accompanying letter of representation will need to be signed by the Chairman of the Board.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve posting the results of the DCED audit in the Altoona Mirror**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve signing the Ritchey, Ritchey & Koontz letter of representation**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Keller Engineers resubmitted an amendment to Blair Township's Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan. Resolution No. 2025-06 outlines changes to the current Sewage Facilities Plan to include sewage facilities to an additional approximately 205 structures that are currently utilizing on-lot systems. Eric reported that the submission addressed all the comments from Stiffler McGraw's previous review. Eric stated that there is one item that he would note, and that is that there is some work to be done in the flood plain and will need a floodplain permit. Solicitor Fanelli stated that there was a minor modification of the proposed resolution, specifically to the paragraph which states that the Township does not guarantee any specific approval under the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, Stormwater Ordinance, or other similar land use regulations. With those changes. Solicitor Fanelli has no objection to the Resolution as presented. Eric confirmed that the project engineer voiced understanding that all the required permitting and applicable land development and stormwater management ordinances would be followed during the project.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve Resolution No. 2025-06: Resolution for Plan Revision to Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek reported that the Blair County Commissioner's had voted to decertify the Blair County Tourism Agency, Explore Altoona. The agenda item had been tabled in a prior meeting, but due to the vote at the County level a formal vote was no longer needed. Chairman Amigh stated that since no formal vote was required, he was in favor of allowing the agenda item to fall off the agenda, and the other Supervisors concurred. Visitor Ed Silvetti discussed his thoughts on other area's tourism and his hope for the future of Blair County tourism. No additional action was taken.

Ordinance No. 2025-04: Ordinance Regulating the Discharging of Firearms within the Township was discussed. Solicitor Fanelli stated that the Ordinance was ready to be advertised for public inspection prior to adoption at the June 10, 2025 meeting. Supervisor Germaux confirmed with Solicitor Fanelli that the distance from the property boundary is to be two hundred (200) yards, as discussed previously and Solicitor Fanelli confirmed that to be true. Also discussed was the ability to hunt within the Township limits with written permission of a homeowner or authorized representative and while following all applicable game laws, limitations on discharging firearms before dawn or after dusk, and others. With no additional discussion, Chairman Amigh called for a motion to approve advertising of Ordinance No. 2025-04.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **advertise Ordinance No. 2025-04**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek reported that the 2024 Bandit 75XP Woodchipper was delivered to the Highway Garage. Road Foreman John Reed said that with the high winds and bad weather, the road crew

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has been using the chipper and has been able to save trips to the compost facility, going approximately 1/3 fewer trips than before. The total cost for the woodchipper was \$23,500. The Supervisors approved the expenditures in the 2025 budget. Per the budget, \$15,000 was to be taken from the Liquid Fuels fund and \$8,500 was to be taken from the Local Service Tax account. Kami asked for the funds to be released from each account to pay for the woodchipper.

Supervisor Lusk made a motion to **approve releasing \$15,000 from Liquid Fuels and \$8,500 from LST account to purchase the 2024 Bandit 75XP Woodchipper for the Highway Department.** Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Stiffler McGraw has requested approval to submit an application for the People, Parks, & Community Grant to be used for the Mountain Home Community Park project in Brooks Mills. Engineer Eric Banks reported that this is just a small grant but will help with the park project down the road. Chairman Amigh asked for any questions or comments and there were none. Resolution No. 2025-07 allows for Stiffler McGraw to submit the grant on behalf of the Township.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve Stiffler McGraw to submit a grant application for the People, Parks, and Community Grant.** Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve Resolution No. 2025-07.** Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek reported that the Spencer Dodson Variance Agreement was submitted to the Township for review and approval. The property is located at 422 Elliot Street in Brooks Mills. Mr. Dodson has requested the variance agreement so that he may install an above ground swimming pool in his backyard. Solicitor Fanelli reviewed the variance and has no exceptions to the agreement.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Spencer Dodson Variance Agreement.** Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Road Foreman John Reed has asked that funds be allocated to the Highway Department to add an extension to the side of the salt shed to store a trailer from the main garage in order to make room for the new woodchipper. He received a quote from Cove Lumber for approximately \$5,000. John stated that the garage crew will do the construction. He is asking that the funds be taken from excess ARPA funds that were allocated to building improvements and not needed in 2024.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the purchase of materials to extend the salt shed.** Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Under informational items, Eric Banks reported no new information on the Parks Grant application. Kami Bilek reported that the Blair Township Police Department and Codes Enforcement have closed the 416 Cedarcrest Drive infestation case after their most recent inspection, and no further violations have been noted.

Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek gave a brief report on the 2025 PSATS Conference that she attended in Hershey. It was reported that one of the focuses of the conference this year is Statewide Zoning laws and PSATS encouragement to local municipalities to become familiar with those potential laws and mandates and work with legislators; PSATS encouraged local leaders to have open communication with EMS companies and Fire Departments to make sure that they are being supported by their local government and communities. The PSATS Board of Directors asked that each Township and Municipality promote

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America250, the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It was suggested that Blair Township come up with some ideas to include the community in celebrating and discussed the possibility of a scavenger hunt with local businesses, and a community picnic. Kami also reported that in one of the workshops she attended, it was suggested that all municipalities should review and update their code of conduct policies to make sure they are current including internet and phone policies. Chairman Amigh agreed it would be beneficial to make sure the policies are up-to-date. It was reported that the overwhelming feeling at the PSATS Conference as a Secretary/Treasurer was one of gratitude for the current Blair Township Board of Supervisors and the Solicitor and Township Engineer for the support and knowledge that they provide on a daily basis and the work that they do for the residents of Blair Township.

Secretary/Kami Bilek also reported that the Police Department and Municipal office computers were delivered. She contacted A.J. Delorme to install them. Eric Banks reported no new information on the Jordan and Ashley Lankey stormwater narrative.

Under other business, John Reed reported that the Duncansville Borough had contacted him to request the Township either donate or sell to them an old ditch bucket that has been sitting at the Township Garage. John reported that the bucket has a crack in it and needs welded.

Supervisor Lusk made a motion to **donate the ditch bucket to the Duncansville Borough**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Ed Silveti wished to bring to the attention of the Board of Supervisors the Federal Budget proposal to potentially cut CDBG funds in the coming year. He stated that he had brought it to the attention of the Blair Township Water & Sewer Authority Board and wanted to make the Supervisors aware of it because of the implications it may have on the sewer project and the CDBG funds the Supervisors allocated toward sewer laterals. Mr. Silveti stated that he doesn't believe it will be eliminated, but we will have to wait and see.

There being no additional business, Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **adjourn the meeting of May 13, 2025 to executive session**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned to executive session at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Kami Bilek

Secretary