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

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF JUNE 10, 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; representing Stiffler McGraw, Eric Banks; and Solicitor Patrick Fanelli, Esq. Ben Piper of Keller Engineers, representing Blair Township for the Zee Plaza Subdivision was also present. Road Foreman John Reed was absent.

Visitors present were Township residents Dodie Amigh, Jacob Wible, Joseph Pompa, Rita Pompa, Charlene Morgan, Jacqulin Fabina, Mike Conner, Sharon Baker, Kathy Culp, David Culp, Renee Wineland, Rick Wineland, Paul Riley, Rebecca Manna, Matt Manna, Jordan Settle, and Rich Moyer; and observers Bonita Shriver, President of the Blair County 2nd Amendment Coalition, Devon Henninger, Rachel Foor, Colette Costlow, Marlyn Gaffios, Martin J. Culp II, Deena Ketner, and Dennis Shiver.

Chairman Amigh stated that 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. Chairman Amigh asked that all cell phones be silenced during the meeting and announced that the public comment period would be moved to the front of the agenda. He stated that, as taxes have not been raised in Blair Township in thirteen years, he anticipated that the visitors present would be discussing either second amendment or stormwater concerns. Public comment may be limited to three (3) minutes per Township Resident and those wishing to address the Board of Supervisors on general township issues may do so at this time. Additionally, prior to votes being taken on items shown on the agenda, public comment may also be offered following discussion by the Board of Supervisors. Public comment may be limited to three (3) minutes per Township resident. Thos wishing to comment on specific agenda items are asked to defer their comments until those items are reached and discussed. For the record, it is requested that each speaker stand, if able, and clearly state his/her name. Chairman Amigh asked if there were any residents at the meeting that would like to discuss stormwater, and one resident stood.

Speaker number one, who did not state his name, stood and stated that he lives on Reservoir Road in Blair Township. He stated that the ditches on the South side of Reservoir Road tend to hold water that does not drain properly. His concern is the standing water that could potentially stagnate and seep into the groundwater, and then into well water. He also believes that the depth of the ditches is unsafe. He stated that he understands that the roads and ditches are maintained by PennDOT because they are State roads but believes that the Township has some responsibility to the residents to work with the State to rectify the issues. Chairman Amigh asked the resident to leave his contact information and the specific locations of concern. No additional stormwater concerns were discussed at this time.

Chairman Amigh asked for any additional public comments and, being none, stated that he was moving Agenda item number one to the front of the agenda. Chairman Amigh asked for those who wished to discuss Second Amendment issues to speak at this time. Blair Township resident, Renee Wineland addressed the Board of Supervisors. Renee said that she lives on Chimney Rocks Road in Blair Township on a 6.6 acre parcel of land. She stated that she lives along the wood-line and has many wild animals that

come onto her property. She has animals of her own and believes in the right to be able to protect her animals, her family, or herself if the need should arise. She feels that the terminology in the ordinance that specifies that "farmers" have the right to protect their livestock, but not homeowners should be changed. Chairman Amigh asked Ms. Wineland what the highest caliber of weapon she uses, and she replied that, if necessary, she would use bird-shot shotgun, a thirty-aught-six, or a pistol. Nothing more than would be necessary. Blair Township resident, Joe Pompa addressed the Board of Supervisors at this time. He stated that he lives on Mill Road in Blair Township. He believes that the ordinance was not well-written for what the Supervisors are trying to accomplish. He states that his family shoots targets and sights in their rifles for deer season on the property. He said that they shoot into the bank with a field behind it, and he doesn't believe it poses a safety risk. Chairman Amigh stated that since the property is over threehundred acres, it would not come anywhere near the boundary line that was suggested in the ordinance. Bonita Shriver, the President of the Blair County Second Amendment Coalition asked to speak at this time, acknowledging that, not being a Township resident, she understands the Board of Supervisors may allow her to speak at their discretion, and Chairman Amigh encouraged her to speak. Ms. Shriver thanked the Supervisors for the privilege of being able to speak on behalf of the residents of Blair Township. She stated that she reached out to the Gun Owners of America, and they had their team of lawyers look over the ordinance. She said they indicated that the State of Pennsylvania has preemptive law in place to prevent local government from passing gun safety regulations or additional gun safety laws that override State laws. Ms. Shriver stated that she understands gun safety but does not understand gun control. Chairman Amigh voiced his agreement. Chairman Amigh also stated that the Board of Supervisors all belong to the Blair County Second Amendment Coalition group, they all support second-amendment rights, two board members are military veterans, and they all fully support and understand the community's rights. Ms. Shriver thanked the Supervisors for their time. Speaker Number five, who did not provide her name, stood and addressed the Board of Supervisors at this time. She stated that she lives on a half-acre property on Reservoir Road in Blair Township. She is concerned that the ordinance would not allow her to protect herself or her family if a wild animal were to attack them while on her property. She stated that she believes the ordinance would punish her if she discharged a weapon in self-defense. Speaker number 1, who still did not provide his name, re-addressed the Board of Supervisors, this time regarding the firearms ordinance. He began by reading portions of the ordinance starting with Section 1, "The Board of Supervisors have determined that it is necessary to regulate the discharge of firearms for the protection of the public health and safety and general welfare of the residents, property owners, visitors and others within Blair Township, and that the unauthorized discharge of firearms be prohibited." This resident questioned the validity of the statement that the safety of the residents was in jeopardy. He implied that statistics were unavailable to determine whether or not the safety of the residents or private property damage required an ordinance and asked the Supervisors what evidence they had to support the need for an ordinance. Chairman Amigh answered by saying that they would get to that information, but this was a time for the Supervisors to listen to what the residents have to say. This resident then stated that the US Constitution offers us under the Fifth Amendment the right to due process and "innocent until proven guilty." He asked, if there are no substantial incidents of property damage or bodily harm, why are the Township residents being punished? He stated that there must be a balance of reasonable means of promoting safety without infringing on individual liberties. He stated that he does not believe that there is a balance in the current ordinance as it is written. Additional discussion was submitted for areas of the ordinance, with the general overview of the ordinance is that most of the safety issues are okay, but the rest is "malarkey". Blair Township Resident, Rich Moyer of Monastery Road addressed the Board of Supervisors. He stated that he believes the ordinance to read that if someone breaks into his home and he uses a weapon to protect his family, he would be in violation of the ordinance.

At this time, Blair Township Resident Dodie Amigh of Brooks Mills addressed the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Amigh stated that she wanted to preface her discussion by saying that while she is not opposed to an ordinance, she also carries a firearm, and she stands with others who would use it to protect her animals or family. But she believes there is a safety factor that needs to be addressed within the Township. Ms.

Amigh recalled an incident several years ago where a stray bullet hit her home while her children were playing in the yard. The incident was handled, and it hadn't happened for several years. But recently, another neighbor in Brooks Mills reported that he found a bullet lodged in his shed, and it had missed his grandchildren's playroom by only feet. She stated that there is a resident in the area who continues to discharge weapons on his property for hours, often rapidly firing at targets, prompting neighbors to call the Supervisors out of fear for their personal safety and what they feel is their right to peace and quiet in their residential neighborhood. Ms. Amigh asked that the residents work with the Supervisors to find common ground, rather than dismissing an ordinance entirely. Resident number 1 verified that research shows that rounds that are discharged from even a .9 mm gun can go through stacked two by fours at a distance greater than 200 yards and can travel at a straight line for an indefinite distance. The issue is negligence, not distance. At this time, Township resident Jacob Wible addressed the Board of Supervisors. He asked if he could address the Board in two capacities. One, as a resident of Blair Township and two, as one of the two Township auditors. He then asked for clarification on who wrote the ordinance. Chairman Amigh stated that the Township Solicitor drafted the ordinance. Mr. Wible began by stating that while he understands the reasoning behind the consideration of the ordinance, he staunchly opposes the proposed ordinance, citing its redundancy and his belief that it violates preemptive law and supersedes State law regarding the regulation of firearms. He stated that he takes issue with the ordinance because it exceeds the PA State law that outlines safety zones. Mr. Wible stated that he provided this State law to the Supervisors at the October 10, 2024 meeting when they began discussions on the proposed ordinance. Mr. Wible then read the definition of "Safety Zone" as laid out in the Pennsylvania Statute Title 34, State Game and Wildlife Code, Section 3505.0 focusing on the distance of a safety zones. Mr. Wible highlighted some "eyebrow raising" language that exceeds State law. Additionally, he presented a diagram showing an occupied structure, property lines, State game land boundaries, and location of hunting blinds in relation to those lines. Mr. Wible contends that by changing the regulations, property owners may not be able to legally hunt from their property, even if they were shooting toward State game lands. He also feels that all weapons should not be treated equally. As an auditor, Mr. Wible feels that due to its redundancy the ordinance is a frivolous waste of legal resources, employee time, and taxpayer dollars. Mr. Wible concluded his discussion with a quote by Thomas Jefferson. Chairman Amigh asked Mr. Wible to pull out his diagram again and point on it where he would place his shooting range, and Mr. Wible replied that he isn't talking about a shooting range. Chairman Amigh, after asking if there were any others who wished to have the floor, addressed the room in general. Chairman Amigh stated that the proposed ordinance was not meant to be a Second Amendment issue. The Board of Supervisors are not attempting to take anybody's rights away. There is no attempt to take anybody's guns or limit the possession or transportation of firearms. The issue is safety in the Township. There is a member of the community who purchased a property and uses that property for target practice and shooting range. That person continues to increase the frequency and caliber of the weapons being used. The concern is the safety and welfare of the surrounding community. Chairman Amigh stated that the measurement from the target to the nearest property line is one hundred yards. By the neighbors calculation, and what they can hear, the homeowner hits approximately twenty percent of the metal targets that he shoots at. That means eighty percent veer off course. Chairman Amigh reported that the average degree of miss for a shooter is ten degrees. In Brooks Mills, within the range of four hundred yards at ten degrees, there are thirty-eight homes that could be in the path of a trajectory. After additional discussion, Supervisor Germaux addressed the room. He thanked everyone for coming together to discuss their thoughts and frustrations civilly, and stated that he is a gun owner, and a property owner, and he has a shooting range on his property. He is not interested in taking anybody's rights away, but he also has a responsibility to protect the citizens of the Township and find a solution that would be in the best interest of every resident. He stated that nobody on the Board wants to infringe on their Second Amendment rights in any way.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **table Ordinance No. 2025-04: Ordinance Defining Firearms Discharge withing Blair Township**. He asked that the members of the BC 2nd Amendment Coalition

consider signing up for a committee to work together with the Supervisors to come to a solution or a revised ordinance regarding the discharge of firearms withing the Township. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion to table to ordinance. Supervisor Lusk added that he owns ten acres on Reservoir Road in Blair Township that borders the State game lands. He stated that he fully supports the rights of Blair Township residents and will work with them to find the best solution possible. With no additional discussion, Chairman Amigh called for a vote. The motion to **table Ordinance No. 2025-04 passed with a unanimous vote.**

Chairman Amigh invited any visitors who were here for the Ordinance discussion to remain for the rest of the meeting.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting of May 13, 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 May: Payroll \$35,533.07; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities \$72,648.56; Liquid Fuels \$740.70; Capital Reserve \$7,332.56, and Local Services Tax Account, \$1,652.00.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the total May disbursements in the amount of \$117,906.89.** Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Treasury Balance for May 2025 of \$2,258,005.68**. 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 May 2025 of \$282,601.03. 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 May** in the amount of \$339.11, the **Sam's Club Credit Card** in the amount of \$62.14, and the **Wex Bank Sunoco Fleet** gas card in the amount of \$2,318.05. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Amigh called for any additional public Comment, and there was none.

The Zee Plaza Minor Subdivision as prepared by Stiffler McGraw Real Estate Partnership was discussed. The proposed plan is a minor subdivision located at Zee Plaza, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. The Blair County Planning Commission has reviewed the plan and found it to be consistent with countywide planning efforts. Todd Holes of Stiffler McGraw submitted a shared drive and maintenance agreement for consideration. Ben Piper of Keller Engineers is representing Blair Township on this project and has prepared a review letter. Eric Banks reported that Stiffler McGraw plans to purchase the Zee Plaza property after the property is subdivided into two parcels; one for the veterinary office to retain, and one for Stiffler McGraw to utilize for office space. Ben Piper reported that there were some concerns about the water and sewer line that runs under the plaza, and Eric Banks confirmed that language was added to the plan that would allow for an easement for future maintenance or relocation. Ben Piper mentioned that water and sewer as-built plans will be submitted, and Eric agreed. Eric also reported that Stiffler McGraw is requesting a waiver for an existing encroachment on the setback along Green Street, stating that the building was constructed prior to the current SALDO requirements. The waiver request was not

submitted to the Township Office within twenty-four hours of the meeting; therefore, it was not shown on the agenda.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **add the waiver request to the agenda**, on the basis that the waiver was not provided to the secretary within twenty-four hours of the meeting. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion to add the waiver request to the agenda passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **approve the waiver of Ordinance 350-36.**C **Setbacks**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Zee Plaza Minor Subdivision plan**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Zee Plaza Shared Drive Agreement**. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek reported that the 2025 Line Painting Project bid requests were sent out to Alpha Space Control, Glen Abernathy, and the Altoona Builders Exchange to solicit bids for the project. Alpha Space Control, LLC was the only company to submit a bid to the Township. The bid that was submitted was for \$16,640.30. Kami reported that this was \$904.00 more than in 2024 but is not unexpected due to increases in materials and labor costs.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the bid of \$16,640.30 from Alpha Space Control, LLC for the 2025 Line Painting Project. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek reported that three bid packages were requested for the 2025-2026 stone season. Only two bid packages were returned. She reported that the sealed bid packages were opened at the Township Office at 2:15 on this day, June 10 with Kami Bilek and Office Clerk, Jennifer Wendt present.

The first bid package was from New Enterprise Stone & Lime and listed the following: Type 2 Anti-Skid was \$23.00 per ton delivered @ 400 Ton for a total cost of \$9,200.00. 2A Subbase was \$14.90 per ton delivered @ 600 Ton for a total cost of \$8,940.00. Aashto #1 was \$18.75 per ton delivered @ 100 Ton for a total cost of \$1,875.00 for a grand total cost of \$20,015.00.

The second bid package was from Grannas Brothers and listed the following: Type 2 Anti-Skid was \$23.00 per ton delivered @ 400 Ton for a total cost of \$9,200.00. 2A Subbase was \$15.00 per ton delivered @ 600 Ton for a total cost of \$9,000. Aashto #1 was \$20.00 per ton delivered @ 100 Ton for a total cost of \$2,000.00 for a grand total cost of \$20,200.00.

Kami reported that the low bid was New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co, Inc at \$20,015.00, citing only \$185.00 difference between the two. Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the 2025 Stone contract award to the lowest bidder, New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc.** Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The Jacqulin Fabina and Michael Conner variance request was discussed. The property is located at 129 McDonald Drive, Duncansville in Blair Township. The address was listed incorrectly on the Agenda as 123 McDonald Drive. The homeowners are requesting a variance for a twelve (12) by twenty (20) foot

shed be placed within eleven (11) feet of the front property line. Solicitor Fanelli has reviewed the variance and found no concerns with the variance as written.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Jacqulin Fabina and Michael Conner Variance agreement.** Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The Michael Koontz Variance request was discussed. The property is located at 834 Fox Chapel Drive. Mr. Koontz is requesting a variance in order to place a sixteen (16) by ten (10) foot shed within four (4) feet of both the rear and side property lines. Solicitor Fanelli has reviewed the variance agreement and has found no concerns with the variance as written.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Michael Koontz Variance agreement.** Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The Kathryn and Adam Campbell Variance request was discussed. The property is located at 1737 Reservoir Road. The homeowners are requesting a variance to place a twelve (12) by twenty-four (24) foot carport within ten (10) feet of the side property line. Solicitor Fanelli has reviewed the variance and found no concerns with the variance agreement as written.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Kathryn and Adam Campbell Variance agreement.** Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek reported that PennDOT submitted their Winter Maintenance Service Agreement for Blair Township to review for the 2025-2030 period. The agreement listed the only road that Blair Township will maintain as Newry Lane and broke the five-year payment schedule as follows: Year 1 will pay \$2,721.97. year 2 will pay \$2,776.41, year 3 will pay \$2,831.94, year 4 will pay \$2,888.58, year 5 will pay \$2,946.36. Kami reported that this is an increase of two percent annually with a total payout over the five-year period of \$14,165.25.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve participation in the 2025-2030 Municipal Winter Traffic Services Agreement with PennDOT. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The Barry and Charlene Morgan FEMA Flood Elevation Review LOMA Community Acknowledgement Form was discussed. The property owners are requesting that the Supervisors sign the required acknowledgement form for FEMA to remove the property located at 9207 Charger Highway Duncansville in Blair Township from the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program map. The property is higher than the existing map line for the hundred-year flood elevation; therefore, the line cannot be there and the flood map must be changed. The homeowners stated that they have been required to pay flood insurance even though their property is at a higher elevation than neighboring properties that are not currently included in the NFIP map.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve signing the Barry and Charlene Morgan FEMA Flood Elevation Community Acknowledgement Form. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The property located at 726 Pete's Way East, formerly known as the Craig and Melissa Plants property, or Pleasantview Phase 6, Lot 4 Stormwater Management Plan as prepared by the Eads Group was discussed. It was reported that the property owners, Craig and Melissa Plants had suspended the project and subsequently sold the property to Joe Crossman General Contractors. Joe Crossman submitted a

request to the Board of Supervisors to transfer the existing approved Stormwater management plan from Metz Builders and Eads Group to Crossman General Contractors. Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek reported that Joe Crossman provided a copy of the deed to the property, showing his ownership, as well as a signed copy of the Stormwater O&M Agreement to the Township office, and stated that Mr. Crossman is aware of the amount of the security deposit or bond agreement that is required to be submitted. He indicated that the stormwater management plan will be constructed as it was approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **conditionally approve the transfer of the Stormwater**Management Plan from Metz Builders to Joe Crossman General Contractors pending the receipt of security deposit or surety bond. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Joe Crossman General Contractors Stormwater O&M Agreement.** Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek requested that the old desktop computers from Police Department and Municipal Front office be recycled at Mark's Computers in Blair Township after the hard drives are removed and destroyed. Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve recycling the old desktop computers from the PD and Front Office.** Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Joel Harker submitted a request for a waiver or reduction of Stormwater Management fees in the amount of \$2,500, citing excessive costs as a result of the recent subdivision and land development project. A letter was submitted to the Township for consideration. Chairman Amigh reminded the Board of Supervisors that the Ordinance States that financial burden does not constitute a hardship when requesting a waiver of any part of the Stormwater Ordinance; therefore, a waiver of the stormwater fees would be inconsistent with the SWM Ordinance. He would be open to addressing a change in the Ordinance in the future related to commercial versus residential stormwater plans.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to deny the request for waiver or reduction of Stormwater Management fees of \$2,500. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Eric Banks presented the Board of Supervisors with a proposal for engineering services associated with stormwater improvements for the Brentwood Drive area of Blair Township. Eric stated that, as the ARPA money that was provided to the Township will need to be spent by the end of the year, his recommendation would be to put the money toward design and permitting for the Brentwood project. He indicated that by doing so, the Township may improve their chances of being awarded a grant due to the project being "shovel-ready". Eric recommended using the balance of the ARPA funds for MS4 improvements or stormwater equipment for direct improvement to the Township. Chairman Amigh addressed the room to explain how the Board of Supervisors have come to the decision to have the Township Engineer move forward with a proposal. He explained that the Board of Supervisors have been working toward a project in the Brentwood section of the Township, because that is one of the places in the Township that is hit hardest by severe weather. Chairman Amigh said that the Township has applied for Grants for several years in a row, but we have not been able to secure a grant due to the competitive nature of the grant process. The ARPA money was originally intended to be a match to the DCED Grant that was applied for, we would use the funds now and continue to apply for grants in the future.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve using ARPA expenditures for the Brentwood Storm Sewer System Improvements and MS4/equipment purchases. Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Under informational items, Eric Banks reported that the DCNR Parks Grant application was submitted, but reported no additional information at this time. Eric reported no additional information on the Jordan and Ashley Lankey Stormwater narrative. Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek reported that the homeowners at 555 Hillsideview Drive Duncansville had received a request and reminder from PMCA for a codes violation related to high grass/weeds due to a neighbor complaint. The homeowner asked for an extension to the request and reminder and Notice of Violation to gather information from the DCNR and the Blair County Conservation District. She stated that she had been working with both groups and stated that the weeds that the neighbors were complaining about were in fact specific local fauna that is designed to prevent bank erosion. The homeowner would like to make a formal presentation before the board of Supervisors at the July 8 meeting. The Supervisors found no issue with an extension of the Request and Reminder or Notice of Violation. Kami stated she will notify PMCA. No formal action was taken.

There being no additional business, Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **adjourn the meeting of June 10, 2025 to executive session.** Supervisor Lusk seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned to executive session at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully	Submitted	by
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Kami Bilek

Secretary