

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

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF OCTOBER 28, 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; Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek; Police Chief Roger Peacock; Road Foreman, John Reed; and representing Stiffler McGraw, Eric Banks. Supervisor Lou Lusk was absent. Solicitor Patrick Fanelli, Esq. was unable to attend due to a previously scheduled meeting.

Visitors present was Township resident Ralph Galbraith; Blair Township Auditor Jacob Wible; Assistant Chief Eric Schmitt, Chief Brandon DiBona, and Deputy Chief Mark Slovaker of the Phoenix Volunteer Fire Department; Ron Henry of the Freedom Township Volunteer Fire Department; Deputy Chief Brynn Gable, and Chief William Lloyd from Duncansville Volunteer Fire Department; and Deputy Chief Bill Van Atta, and Robert Smith III from Geeseytown Volunteer Fire Department.

Chairman Amigh stated that public comment is welcome and invited in accordance with 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.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the minutes of the Monthly Business Meeting of September 9, 2025** with no additions or corrections. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with two (2) yes votes.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the minutes of the Special Business Meeting of October 21, 2025**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with two (2) yes votes.

Disbursements for the month of September: Payroll \$51,840.41, which includes employee liability reimbursements; General Fund disbursements and payroll liabilities \$95,663.03; Liquid Fuels \$50,185.08, which included payment for road paving; Capital Reserve \$650.00, and Local Services Tax Account, \$1,652.00

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the total September disbursements in the amount of \$199,990.52**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Treasury Balance for September 2025 of \$2,222,712.55**. 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 September 2025 of \$263,028.14**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

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Supervisor Germaux made a motion to approve the **FNB Credit Card Statement for the month of September** in the amount of **\$1,340.21**, the **Sam's Club Credit Card Statement** in the amount of **\$190.28** for the annual subscription, and the **Wex Bank Sunoco Fleet** gas card in the amount of **\$1,259.22**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Chairman Amigh opened public comment at this time and announced that anyone 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. Those wishing to comment on specific items listed on the agenda are asked to defer their comments until those items are reached and discussed. For the record, it is requested each speaker stand, if able, and clearly state his/her name.

Blair Township resident, Ralph Galbraith of Brooks Boulevard addressed the Board of Supervisors, asking to once again discuss the Blair Township burning ordinance. Mr. Galbraith recalled instances of neighbors burning into the evening hours and stated there were instances in the past where there were trailers burned where the fire department had been called. He also recalled instances of foam rubber being burned and informed the Board of Supervisors of the toxins that were released from the burning of those items. To his recollection, the burning that took place from the junkyard was in June 2024, and the most recent burning from the neighbors was on August 22, 2025. Chairman Amigh asked Mr. Galbraith if there has been an improvement since the last public meeting, and Mr. Galbraith stated that he has not noticed an incident of burning since then. Chairman Amigh stated that the neighbor in question had been informed of the ordinance and had agreed not to burn. Chairman Amigh stated that the Township follows the general requirements of the PA Department of Environmental Protection for its burning regulations and feels that the Ordinance should remain as it stands. Chairman Amigh asked for Mr. Galbraith to bring his concerns to his State Representatives, and if he does so he will be glad to speak with the Representative to discuss additional options.

Chairman Amigh called for additional public comment and there was none.

Chairman Amigh welcomed representatives from the four area volunteer fire departments that serve Blair Township to the podium at this time to address the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Ron Henry, Fire Chief of the Freedom Township Volunteer Fire Department spoke on behalf of the four departments present, stating that they are requesting the Township implement a fire tax to the residents of Blair Township to be divided between the serving fire departments. Mr. Henry stated that several Counties and Townships in the area are implementing a fire tax due to the need for funding. He said that in Blair Township, regardless of where the emergency call is, one or all of the fire departments responds to that call. Some points that were addressed were the continued need for fire protection, reliable funding that cannot always be obtained by fundraising due to the decline of volunteer firefighters. Every dollar goes toward fire protection not general expenses such as utilities and fuel, better equipment, and dependable fire protection. It was explained that the costs of running a fire company continue to increase, including the cost of maintenance to fire apparatus. The combined fire departments hope to participate in a workshop with the Supervisors to discuss in greater detail the needs of the fire departments. Additional discussion included the cost of outfitting firefighters, the amount of work each firefighter is responsible for, including fundraising, and the lack of volunteer firefighters and paid firefighters Statewide. Chairman Amigh asked if the Fire Departments billed homeowners for services, and it was confirmed that insurance companies are billed for reimbursement of supplies or recovery of costs but stated that they do not bill the homeowner for

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amounts over and above what the insurance companies pay. Chairman Amigh asked if there was a fire tax implemented, would they continue to bill, and the consensus was they would still bill for cost recovery. Chairman Amigh asked what the minimum training certifications are for fire fighters. It was stated that all firefighters must have a minimum number of hours of training prior to being able to fight a fire. Chairman Amigh asked who enters and tracks income versus expenses. It was reported that all services are voluntary, but some Volunteer Fire Departments pay accountants to prepare their financial statements while others rely solely on their volunteer secretary treasurers. Additionally, some VFCs employ grant writers while others rely on volunteers. Chairman Amigh asked if the four companies had considered combining into one coalition. Chairman Amigh asked if they would consider combining into a coalition if a fire tax were to be implemented. The combined chiefs stated that they treat it as a coalition already; that whoever arrives on scene first takes command of the situation. Chairman Amigh stated that at this time, a coalition would be for oversight of resources and finances, not to define who is in charge. Chairman Amigh asked if the chiefs spoke with other areas in the County that have implemented a fire tax, and they had not.

Chairman Amigh voiced his gratitude for all the work for the Volunteer Fire Fighters do in Blair Township and his understanding that they go above and beyond what is expected, and he understands how difficult it is to raise money through grants and fundraising.

Ordinance No 2025-04: Exception to the pool enclosure requirements to the extent the pool otherwise meets certain applicable safety standards was discussed. The purpose for the ordinance was so that the use of certain safety enclosures that met Uniform Construction Code safety standards could be utilized within the Township. The Ordinance was advertised for inspection in the Altoona Mirror on September 23, 2025. One Township resident asked to review it for inspection, and no comments or issues were reported. Solicitor Fanelli reviewed the Ordinance and found no exceptions to its adoption.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **approve Ordinance No. 2025-04: Swimming Pool Enclosures**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Eric Banks requested signatures on the LSA Funding Commitment Letter and permit applications for the upcoming **Brentwood Stormwater Project**. Eric reported that the pipe type was changed from 48" pipe to elliptical pipe to allow additional water to flow and to avoid other utility lines. Eric stated that the application letter is to submit the application for the Stormwater project to the DEP. Chairman Amigh asked for any additional discussion and there was none.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **approve signing the Brentwood LSA Grant application Funding Commitment Letter**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **approve signing the permit applications for the Brentwood Stormwater project**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek requested that the conference room furniture be listed on Municibid for sale once the new office furniture is received. The new office furniture is to be purchased with grant monies that remained after the Police Department renovations were completed. Supervisor

Germaux made a motion to **approve listing the conference room furniture for sale on Municibid**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Eric Banks discussed the Ireland Lane Pole Building Land Development Plan as prepared by Keller Engineers for Kandko, LLC. The proposed project is located on Ireland Lane in Blair Township. The project will include stormwater facilities to control stormwater from the site. Eric reported that they are waiting for Chapter 102 approval from the Blair County Conservation District, and approval from Newry Borough for access to the site. The Developer is requesting waivers from Ordinance No. 350-45 B: Curbs, which he takes no exception to. The Blair Township Planning Commission has reviewed the plans and has recommended conditional approval, pending all outstanding engineer's comments being addressed. Eric reported that the plan had originally asked for waivers for parking but has since been revised to show the correct amount of parking. Blair Township is still waiting for the Stormwater O&M Agreement to be submitted. After clarification of the location, Chairman Amigh asked for a conditional approval of the Land Development plan.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the waiver to Ordinance No. 350-45B: Curbs**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with two (2) yes votes.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **conditionally approve the Ireland Lane Pole Building Land Development Plan** pending all outstanding engineer's comments are met. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **conditionally approve the Ireland Lane Stormwater Management Plan** pending the O&M Agreement is received and signed.

Chief Roger Peacock submitted the updated Blair Township Police Department Policies and Procedures Manual to Solicitor Pat Fanelli for review. Solicitor Fanelli made some minor changes and returned the copies to Chief Peacock for his review and approval. Both parties are in agreement with the policies and procedures manual as it stands, and Chief Peacock is requesting approval from the Board of Supervisors. A copy of the manual was provided to the Supervisors for their review. After additional minor discussion, Chairman Amigh called for a motion to approve.

Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **approve the Blair Township Police Department Policies and Procedures Manual**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Darla J. Fagans has requested a variance of the setback requirement for the property located at 2156 Reservoir Road Hollidaysburg in Blair Township. The request is due to the construction of a walk-out landing and stairs that will be constructed within twenty-five (25) feet of the front property line, requiring a ten (10) foot variance. The existing structure encroaches on the front setback by five feet six inches (5' 6"). There is no requirement for a Highway Occupancy permit, as there is no opening onto Reservoir Road. Solicitor Fanelli had reviewed the variance and had no comments.

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

Scott and Lauren Trimarco submitted a revised Variance Agreement. The original variance agreement was approved at the August 12, 2025 Supervisor's meeting. The homeowner had

incorrectly listed the dimensions and location of the pole building on the original variance. The updated variance shows the pole building located on 1204 Robin Lane Duncansville. The homeowner is requesting a variance of ten (10) feet in order to construct a pole barn within five (5) feet of the side setback of the side property line. The Trimarcos own both properties and are asking to complete a variance with themselves. Solicitor Fanelli reviewed the agreement and had no objections.

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

Property Owner, Robert Claar has submitted a request for a holding tank cleaning contract at the request of Blair County Sanitation Committee Sewage Enforcement Officer, Luke Helsel. The request is so that he may place a holding tank on his property located on Reservoir Road in Blair Township in accordance with the Sewage Facilities Act of 1966, as amended (35 P. S. 750. 1 et seq). The agreement is between Mr. Claar and Ken Wertz Hauling and Septic, Inc. The property owner plans to build a small office on the property for a business in the future.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **approve the Holding Tank Cleaning Contract**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Road Foreman John Reed requested that Road Crew member Lou Legory be officially recognized as the Assistant Road Foreman. John reported that Lou has been performing the road foreman duties when John Reed uses his earned paid time off and he feels that he should be recognized for taking on the added responsibilities. The potential for a pay increase was discussed but no formal action was taken at this time.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **approve making Lou Legory Assistant Road Foreman effective immediately**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek reported that the annual Kuharchik Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement was submitted to the Township for review and approval. Kuharchik has maintained the signal lights for Blair Township for the past several years. The pricing has not changed from the previous year. The agreement was provided to the Supervisors and Solicitor for review.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **approve the annual Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement as presented**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

The Joel Harker Post Development Stormwater Management Plan as prepared by Penn-Dell Engineering was submitted to the Township for review. The project is located on Harker Farm Lane in Blair Township. Eric Banks reported that the project shows four (4) rock sumps. Eric reported that there are outstanding engineering comments, and the project is not ready for approval at this time.

Chairman Amigh made a motion to **table the Harker Post Development Stormwater Management Plan pending additional information and answers to engineer's comments**. Supervisor Germaux seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes.

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Chairman Amigh reported that the Township had received a notification from Newry Borough that they had plans to close East Allegheny Street/Shamrock Lane in Newry Borough, which is at the end of Catfish Road in Blair Township due to a failing box culvert that runs under the road at the stream between the Borough and Blair Township. John Reed stated that Newry Borough had contacted him previously, asking him to verify that the culvert did not belong to Blair Township. It was confirmed multiple times that the culvert was in Newry Borough. Newry Borough claims that they do not have the funds to repair the box culvert; therefore, the only solution is to close the road. Eric Banks reported that he spoke with the Engineer from Newry Borough, who stated that his research showed the road being a turn-back road from PennDOT. Eric stated that if it is determined that Newry owns the culvert, Newry Borough will shut it down due to the inability to pay for its repairs. They felt they should notify Blair Township prior to doing so, because it will have a larger impact on Blair Township. It was discussed that emergency services would be greatly impacted by closing Catfish Road, as it is approximately six miles to re-route around the road closure. School buses and road services will be impacted, as well. Chairman Amigh recommended making our State representatives aware of the situation to get their input and assistance, and Supervisor Germaux and Engineer Eric Banks agreed. No formal action was taken at this time.

Kami Bilek updated the Supervisors of the Managed Services Agreements. She reported that several emails had been sent out for requests for proposals, one additional quote was received, and two more are expected within the next week. Supervisor Germaux **made a motion to table the approval of Managed Services Agreements**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion to table passed with two (2) yes votes.

Under informational items, Eric Banks reported no new information on the DCNR Parks Grant. Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek reported that the 2024 State Auditor General Pension Audit was completed and there were no comments or findings. The one comment that was reported in 2019 was corrected. Secretary/Treasurer Kami Bilek also reported that both the Highway Department and Police Department had submitted their 2026 budget requests and the budget proposals would be submitted prior to the November meeting for review. The 2026 budgets will need to be advertised for inspection no later than November 18, 2025 in order to meet the twenty-day inspection period.

With no further business, Chairman Amigh asked for a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Germaux made a motion to **adjourn the meeting of October 28, 2025**. Chairman Amigh seconded the motion. The motion passed with two (2) yes votes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Kami Bilek
Secretary