

**BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2012 – 6 PM**

M I N U T E S

OPENING CEREMONIES – The meeting was called to order at 6pm. Those present were Mr. Anderson, Mr. Lance, Mr. Mach, Mr. Seal and Mr. Shoemaker.

INVOCATION – Rev. David Harvey of the First Presbyterian Church gave the invocation.

The **FLAG SALUTE** was conducted.

The following SUNSHINE STATEMENT was read by Clerk Pizzaia:

Notice of this meeting has been sent to two newspapers of general circulation in the Township of Blairstown in which notice of the date, time, place and general agenda were set forth in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

DETERMINATION OF THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASSERS

Elected Official – Stephen J. Lance

Clerk Pizzaia administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Lance

Elected Official – Herman P. Shoemaker

Elizabeth Patterson, Esq., Mr. Shoemaker's daughter, administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Shoemaker

NOMINATION FOR MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2012

A motion to appoint Frank Anderson as Mayor for 2012 was made by Mr. Mach and seconded by Mr. Lance.

Roll call vote: AYE – Anderson, Lance, Mach, Seal, Shoemaker

The Oath of Office was administered to Mayor Anderson by Clerk Pizzaia.

Mayor Anderson chaired the remainder of the meeting.

NOMINATION FOR DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2012

The nomination of Richard Mach as Deputy Mayor was made by Mayor Anderson and seconded by Mr. Seal.

Roll call vote: AYE – Lance, Mach, Seal, Shoemaker, Anderson

The Oath of Office was administered to Deputy Mayor Mach by Clerk Pizzaia.

RESOLUTIONS: (Committee may adopt all as one consent agenda unit, ask to have certain ones pulled for discussion and vote on the remainder, or decide to vote on each resolution separately)

R.2012-001 Various One Year Appointments – Compensated

R.2012-002 Various Appointments – Non-compensated

- R.2012-003 Cancel Water Utility Balances under \$5.00
- R.2012-004 Appointing Local Emergency Planning Committee Members
- R.2012-005 Resolution of the Township of Blairstown, Fixing the Rate of Interest to be charged on Delinquent Taxes and Authorize Tax Collector to hold Annual Tax Sale
- R.2012-006 Resolution Complying with Open Public Meetings Act
- R.2012-007 Resolution Designating Authorized Signatures
- R.2012-010 Resolution Authorizing Investment of Idle Funds and Fund Transfers
- R.2012-009 Resolution Adopting a Cash Management Plan
- R.2012-010 Resolution Contracting for Professional Services without Competitive Bidding in Accordance with the Local Public Contract Law - Various
- R.2012-011 Resolution Contracting for Professional Services without Competitive Bidding in Accordance with the Local Public Contract Law – Municipal Accountants (Auditor)
- R.2012-012 Resolution Designating Official Newspapers
- R.2012-013 Resolution Canceling Certain Real Estate Property Tax Balances
- R.2012-014 Resolution Authorizing Tax Assessor and Township Attorney to Handle Roll Back Taxes Complaints
- R.2012-015 Resolution Instituting a Fee for Duplicate Tax Sale Certificates
- R.2012-016 Resolution Fixing the Rate of Interest to be charged on Delinquent Water Accounts
- R.2012-017 Authorizing Temporary Appropriations as Provided by N.J.S.A. 4:19
- R.2012-018 Authorization to Transfer Funds
- R.2012-019 Authorization to Pay Vouchers and Claims

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Mr. Lance and was seconded by Mr. Mach.

Roll call vote: AYE –Lance, Mach, Seal, Shoemaker, Anderson

FROM THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Mach thanked Mayor Anderson for taking over as mayor. Mayor Anderson responded by thanking Mr. Mach for his years of service as mayor.

Mr. Lance congratulated Mayor Anderson for his appointment as mayor, and Mr. Mach as deputy mayor. Mr. Lance welcomed Mr. Shoemaker to the Committee and said that he is looking forward to continuing to serve with Mr. Seal.

Mr. Seal thanked Mr. Lance for his kind words, and congratulated Mr. Shoemaker for his election win.

Mr. Shoemaker thanked the voters for electing him to the Township Committee.

Mayor Anderson thanked the Committee for their support and expressed his pride in being a part of a Committee that has worked so hard for the good of the community.

Mayor Anderson said that getting the fiscal matters under control was the primary concern of the Committee in 2005. In 2005, the Committee was faced with a \$5.354 million budget with a quickly depleting surplus. In 2006, the budget was reduced to \$4.958 million, \$4.918 million in 2007, \$4.904 million in 2008, \$4.858 million in 2009, \$4.581 million in 2010, and \$4.215 million in 2011.

From 2005 to 2011, the budget has been reduced by \$1.139 million, which amounts to a 22% cut in government spending. Mayor Anderson said that hard choices were made during these years in order to avoid a municipal tax.

Mayor Anderson thanked the volunteers of the community such as the fire department, ambulance squad, sports organizations, the seniors, and meals on wheels. These are the most important people, as they perform vital services for the community on a volunteer basis and reduce the cost of municipal government.

Mayor Anderson thanked Mr. Lance for his years of service as mayor and acknowledged that he was a major force in correcting financial, operational and personnel issues. He thanked Mr. Mach for his fiscal responsibility, his thorough knowledge of issues at hand, his support of his fellow Committee members, and his work ethic. Mayor Anderson thanked former Committee member Lascari for his analytical and personal skills, adding that he will be missed. Mayor Anderson thanked Mr. Seal for being instrumental in making sure that the roads are plowed and repaired. Mr. Seal's expertise in this area has helped in keeping costs down. Mayor Anderson welcomed Mr. Shoemaker to the Committee and said that he is looking forward to working with him.

Mayor Anderson thanked the public for their continuing support and trust in him. He also thanked the municipal employees for their professionalism. He thanked his wife for her support and patience throughout the years.

Mayor Anderson asked for everyone's continued support as we move forward in this new year. He said that Blairstown is a shining example of what good government can be, and that our best days are before us.

Mayor Anderson introduced Senator Steven Oroho and asked him to say a few words. Senator Oroho congratulated Mr. Lance and Mr. Shoemaker for their election wins and also congratulated Mayor Anderson on being chosen as mayor. He said that it is an honor to have Blairstown Township in the 24th District and he looks forward to working with the Committee.

FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURN

Mr. Lance made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Anderson, with all members voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 pm.

Submitted by:

Phyllis E. Pizzaia, RMC
Municipal Clerk