

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
Wednesday, July 11, 2012, 7:15 PM**

MINUTES

Regular meeting begins at 7:30 pm or immediately following Closed Session, whichever comes last.

OPENING; ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Anderson. Those present were Mr. Lance, Mr. Mach, Mr. Seal, and Mayor Anderson. Also present were Township Attorney Robert Benbrook and Clerk Pizzaia. Mr. Shoemaker was absent.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was conducted.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

Mayor Anderson read the following statement: Notice of this meeting has been sent to two newspapers of general circulation in which notice was given of the date, time, place and general agenda in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

CLOSED SESSION –Litigation/Zoning Official; COAH/Possible Purchase of Property

Mr. Seal made a motion to enter into Closed Session, which was seconded by Mr. Mach, with all members in favor.

WHEREAS, the Blairstown Township Committee needs to discuss matters relating to the issues as listed above; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee believes it to be in the best interest of the public to discuss these matters in Closed Session;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Blairstown, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that it shall meet in Closed Session to discuss only the subjects mentioned above, the results of which may be made public immediately thereafter or at a later date.

Dated: July 11, 2012

Attest:

Phyllis E. Pizzaia, RMC
Municipal Clerk

RESULTS OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Seal made a motion to come out of Closed Session, which was seconded by Mr. Lance, with all members in favor.

Mayor Anderson said that an ongoing legal matter concerning the Zoning Official was discussed in Closed Session. Also discussed was a possible purchase of property with regard to COAH. No action is being taken as a result of the Closed Session discussions.

PUBLIC COMMENT – up to 5 speakers/3 minutes each

Brianna Johnson of the MOMs group spoke about the playground the group would like to build at Sycamore Park. Ms. Johnson said she looked at a space in the park that she believes is suitable. She is asking for Committee approval so the group can begin fundraising. Ms. Johnson showed pictures of parks that occupy similar sized spaces.

Mayor Anderson said that the information presented was helpful to the Committee, but he would like to defer any decision to next month's meeting, when Mr. Shoemaker will be in attendance. Mr. Benbrook expressed concern over proximity to the ball fields for litigation purposes. Ms. Johnson said that Leather and Associates, the professional company they will be hiring, will take all safety matters into consideration.

Ms. Johnson will meet with Mr. Shoemaker and the DPW foreman before the August meeting to measure the exact area in question, which is approximately 1/3 of an acre.

MINUTES

June 13, 2012 – Regular Meeting Minutes and Closed Session Minutes

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting, which was seconded by Mayor Anderson.

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

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Seal.

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

Public Comment on the Consent Agenda Items Only

There were no comments from the public on the Consent Agenda

CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS

- 1 – R.2012-079 Authorization to Pay Bills
- 2 – R.2012-080 Redemption of Certification of Tax Sale No. 2010-06
- 3 – R.2012-081 Redemption of Certification of Tax Sale No. 2012-23
- 4 – R.2012-082 Redemption of Certification of Tax Sale No. 2012-10

- 5 – **R.2012-083** Redemption of Certification of Tax Sale No. 2012-14
- 6 – **Approval of Application** for Blue Light Permit– Jeremy Stoddart, Blairstown Hose Co. No. 1
- 7 – **Approval of Application** for Red Light Permit–Darren Occhiuzzo, Blairstown Hose Co. No. 1
- 8 – **Approval of Application** for Blue Light Permit–Sal P. Lascari, Blairstown Hose Co. No. 1

Mayor Anderson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Seal.

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Clerk – June Report
- Finance – June Finance and Fuel Reports
- Fire Department – March, April, May, and June Reports
- Police Department – June Report
- Tax Collector – June Report
- Municipal Court of North Warren – May Report
- Warren County Health Department – June 8, 2012

Mr. Mach made a motion to accept the department reports, which was seconded by Mr. Lance.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1 – JCP&L billing – list submitted to JCP&L – Mr. Shoemaker wrote letter requesting action

Mr. Mach said that JCP&L has responded to the request regarding the lights. They have provided the Committee with a spreadsheet of lights that have been turned off or repaired.

- 2 – Service Electric Cable TV – letter sent to SECTV; SECTV is investigating extension of service

Mr. Mach said that SECTV has not responded to the township’s request for extension of service. Negotiations will begin regarding a new contract and the public hearing will be held during the regular September meeting.

- 3 – Hazardous Obstructions at Blairstown Airport – waiting for map from State
- 4 – Review of Recreation Ordinance – Fair Share Reimbursement

COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE for information and possible action

- 1 – from Robert Benbrook, Township Attorney, re: Agreement Providing for the Employment of Police Director

Mr. Benbrook said that he recommends that the Committee approve the agreement. Mr. Mach said that the salary payment in Section 5.1 should be changed from bi-monthly to semi-monthly to conform to our salary ordinance.

Mr. Mach made a motion to approve the agreement, which was seconded by Mr. Lance.

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

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE (See attached sheet)

There were no comments or questions from the public on the General Correspondence list.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY

Mr. Benbrook had nothing to report.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK

The Clerk had nothing to report.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

COMMITTEEMAN LANCE

Mr. Lance spoke about the need to have the parking lot at Sycamore Park resurfaced. He asked Carl Stoddart, DPW Foreman, to get a price for oil and chipping of the area. Mr. Stoddart got a price of \$17,800 to oil and chip the parking lot and the driveway coming into the lot. This is a pre-bid price received from the Morris County Cooperative. It is recommended to add QP and then oil and chip for better adhesion. Mr. Mach requested that an additional layer of chipping be used for extended longevity. The Committee agreed to this. Mr. Lance made a motion to approve the job consisting of QP and two layers of oil and chipping for a price not to exceed 35,000. The monies will come from the Open Space fund. Mr. Mach seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Lance received an estimate to have the barns on the Jones Farm torn down and materials removed. Mr. Lance is concerned about a clause in the quotation regarding the presence of asbestos and lead. Mayor Anderson said that Ted Rodman, Township Engineer, will be in attendance later tonight to address this.

COMMITTEEMAN MACH

Mr. Mach read the highlights from the June Police Department report. Mr. Mach reported that Sgt. Losey ordered the necessary parts to repair the speed trailer and made the repairs himself, saving the township \$1,000.00. Mr. Mach and the rest of the Committee commended Sgt. Losey for his actions.

With regard to COAH, Mr. Mach said that two bills went forward to extend the time during which municipalities had to spend the COAH funds. Governor Christie has vetoed the bills and the matter is now in appellate court.

Governor Christie has also vetoed the bill that would have returned energy tax monies to the municipalities. Mr. Mach said that this matter will be revisited next year.

Mr. Mach reported that the Army Corps of Engineers walked around the flood areas on June 28th. They will get back to the township with recommendations.

The contract process for Service Election Cable TV is beginning. The public hearing for this will be held during the regular Committee meeting on September 9th.

COMMITTEEMAN SEAL

Mr. Seal commended Mr. Mach for getting the Army Corps of Engineers to visit Blairstown and to assist with the flooding problem.

Mr. Seal said the reverse 9-1-1 system is now operational and will call township water users with alerts. The automatic start-up on the generator is still being worked on.

MAYOR ANDERSON

Mayor Anderson read a report from the Senior Advisory Committee announcing their upcoming trips and events.

Mayor Anderson said that the Department of Community Affairs will be extending their hours, servicing both Hardwick and Knowlton residents from the Blairstown location.

The Fourth of July celebration was a tremendous success. He congratulated Paul Avery and all others who worked on the event.

Mayor Anderson thanked Mr. Mach for all of the work he put into the effort to get energy tax monies restored to the municipalities. He said that the Committee was disappointed in the outcome, but will be pushing for this again next year.

FROM THE PUBLIC

Mayor Anderson opened the meeting to the public.

Kevin Doell, Heller Hill Road, asked about the bid process for the Sycamore Park parking area. Mr. Lance informed Mr. Doell that the pricing is under the purchasing coop called the Morris County Cooperative. Mr. Lance explained that various items and services are pre-bid so the municipalities save time and money by purchasing from the coop.

Mr. Doell also suggested that the Committee consider salvaging materials from the Jones Farm.

Paul Avery, Mohican Road, said that the Fourth of July celebration went very well and thanked the Committee for their support. He said that he would like to introduce Miss Liberty Bell at the next Committee meeting.

Mr. Avery asked about the progress of the Police contract. Mr. Mach responded that the process is ongoing.

As there were no further comments, Mayor Anderson closed the public portion.

Ted Rodman, Township Engineer, updated the Committee on the soil and water remediation project at the Walnut Valley Fire House. He said that the DEP has changed the regulations on well sampling from 1000 ft. to 500 ft. This will reduce the amount of wells to be tested from 20 to approximately 8 to 10 wells. Whitman Company is in the process of beginning the well samples.

Mr. Rodman spoke to the DCA and was told that the township is required to have a demolition permit to take down the barns at Jones Farm. The DCA is requiring a written certification that there is no asbestos or lead on site. Whitman Company told Mr. Rodman that they would charge between \$800.00 to \$1,000.00 for this certification, providing that no such materials are present.

Two of the wastewater maps have been submitted to the DEP as required. They have been reviewed and approved by the DEP. Remington & Vernick Engineers, the company hired to prepare the wastewater plan, is continuing to work on this project.

With regard to Sand Hill Road, the County is replacing a culvert under the road near Vail Road. The road will be closed during the replacement.

Mr. Rodman reported that there will be another preconstruction meeting on the Jacksonburg Road repair in the next couple of months. Mr. Rodman will inform the State and the construction company hired by the State that the township may be reconsidering the available options concerning traffic patterns during the reconstruction.

Mr. Rodman and Carl Stoddart met with a contractor for emergency pumps for Cedarville Road. A price of \$40,000 for a rental pump was given. After discussion, the Committee agreed that this matter needs to be looked into further. Mr. Rodman will continue to meet with Mr. Stoddart on this matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Seal made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Mach. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by:

Phyllis E. Pizzaia, RMC
Municipal Clerk