

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN  
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
Wednesday, November 7, 2012, 7:30 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. Shoemaker, and Mayor Anderson. Also present were Township Attorney Robert Benbrook and Clerk Pizzaia. Mr. Seal 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.

Mayor Anderson announced that due to the ongoing emergency situation caused by Hurricane Sandy, the daily OEM meeting will be held at this time. Mayor Anderson said that this was Day #13 of these meetings that are being held to update and coordinate emergency personnel.

Mayor Anderson asked Nick Mohr, OEM Coordinator, to begin the update. Mr. Mohr started by saying that he couldn't have had a better crew to work with and thanked everyone for their hard work and cooperation. Mr. Mohr said that although many residents are still without power, the storm could have been worse since there was no flooding and the residents still have homes to go to.

Calvin Inscho, OEM Deputy Coordinator and fire department representative, said that Blairstown Hose Company No. 1 has been busy with calls. The worst seems to be over and the department is getting back to normal.

Robert Gara, Police Director, said that the Police Department has been busy with traffic control and fuel issues regarding the odd/even rule.

Robert Haberstadt, Blairstown Ambulance Corps, said that their personnel have been busy with the regular calls, along with welfare checks on individuals with no heat.

Dr. Fogelson, North Warren Regional High School Supervisor, said that the school reopened today, and all seemed to go smoothly.

Pam Rusweiler, Blairstown Elementary School, said that the elementary school reopened today as well. She said that all went well.

Mayor Anderson asked if the public had any questions on the emergency situation. Mary Flynn, Conrad Court, asked if there was a source of information to let the public know which gas stations are open. Mr. Lance said that WRNJ out of Hackettstown was providing this information through its listeners. Mr. Lance also said that there are no lines at the gas stations in Pennsylvania at this time.

Evelyn Constantine, Gaisler Road, said that she still has no power. Mr. Mach assured her that it is being worked on.

Mr. Shoemaker asked about school attendance. Dr. Fogelson said that attendance at North Warren Regional High School was approximately 76%. Ms. Rusweiler said that attendance at Blairstown Elementary School was approximately 80%.

As there were no further comments or questions, Mayor Anderson closed this portion to the public and resumed the regularly scheduled meeting.

## **MINUTES**

October 10, 2012 – Regular and Closed Session Meeting Minutes (Mr. Mach absent)

Mr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Regular and Closed Session minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Lance.

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

### **ORDINANCE 2012 – 06            AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 29 ENTITLED “HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE” Adoption, Second Reading**

#### **Committee Discussion**

Mr. Lance explained that this ordinance amendment allows for three (3) alternate members, which will be beneficial to the group during summer months when attendance is down.

#### **Public Hearing Open/Close**

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2012-06. As there were no comments or questions, Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing.

Mr. Shoemaker made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-06 on second reading, which was seconded by Mr. Lance.

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

**ORDINANCE 2012 – 07            AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 156 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN ENTITLED “SEX OFFENDERS” Adoption, Second Reading**  
**Committee Discussion**

Mr. Lance said that this ordinance has been declared unconstitutional. He was the proponent of this ordinance and is disappointed by the ruling, but the ordinance needs to be repealed.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2012-07. As there were no comments or questions, Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing.

Mr. Lance made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-07 on second reading, which was seconded by Mr. Shoemaker.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS**

- 1 – R.2012-113**      Authorization to Pay Bills
- 2 – R.2012-114**      Redemption of Certification of Sale No. 2012-11
- 3 – R.2012-115**      Authorization to Release Escrow Funds
- 4 – R.2012-116**      Authorization to Release Driveway Bond
- 5 – R.2012-117**      Authorization to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Contract with the NJDOT for the Reconstruction of Sand Hill Road Project
- 6 – R.2012-118**      Approval of Supplemental Change Order for North Warren Regional School District Safe Routes to School Project
- 7 – Application for Charitable Clothing Bin**, Turnkey Enterprises, applicant, for location at First United Methodist Church, Stillwater Road

Mr. Mach asked to have #5 removed from the Consent Agenda. Mr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve #1-4 and #6-7, which was seconded by Mr. Lance.

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

With regard to #5, Mr. Mach asked how much grant money was needed to repair Sand Hill Road. Mr. Mach said that it is not a highly travelled road and other roads are in much more need of repair, such as Mud Pond Road and Belcher Road. Mr. Lance said that roads that connect to county roads are much more successful in obtaining grant monies, which is why the Township Engineer filed the grant application for Sand Hill Road repairs.

Mr. Mach made a motion to approve R.2012-117, which was seconded by Mr. Lance.

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

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Clerk October Report  
Finance – October Finance and Fuel Reports  
Police Department – September Report  
Tax Collector – October Report  
Municipal Court of North Warren – September Report  
Warren County Health Department – October 5, 2012

Mayor Anderson stated that the Department Reports would be held over until the December meeting, as department heads could not prepare them due to a lack of power in the Municipal Building.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 1 – Service Electric Cable TV –SECTV is preparing draft ordinance for franchise renewal  
Mr. Lance said that since the Masonic Lodge is used as a warming station during emergencies, he would like to ask SECTV to install a connection in the building. Mr. Benbrook will send a letter requesting this.
- 2 – Hazardous Obstructions at Blairstown Airport – Mr. Benbrook to contact State regarding map  
Mr. Benbrook will make one last attempt to get a response on this matter.
- 3 – Review of Recreation Ordinance – Fair Share Reimbursement  
This will be revisited during the next year.

## **COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE** for information and possible action

- 1 – Shared Services Agreement between Blairstown Township and Hardwick Township  
Relative to Plowing and Salting of Certain Roads within the Township of Blairstown and the Township of Hardwick

Mayor Anderson explained that for years, Blairstown Township has salted and sanded a portion of East Crisman Road that extends into Hardwick Township, and Hardwick Township has salted and sanded a portion of Maines Lane that extends into Blairstown Township. This agreement makes the arrangement an official shared services agreement, which is beneficial to both municipalities towards points for the Best Practices list instituted by Governor Christie.

Mr. Mach made a motion to authorize Mayor Anderson to enter into this agreement, which was seconded by Mr. Shoemaker.

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

Mayor Anderson asked Mr. Benbrook to comment on the status of the Shared Services Agreement between Blairstown Township and Hardwick Township regarding fire protection.

Mr. Benbrook said that two changes have been made in the current draft. The first change deals with the sections of Hardwick that the Blairstown Hose Company will cover. Mr. Benbrook will ensure that the final draft excludes a portion in Hardwick that fronts on Route 80.

The second change deals with grant monies. Mr. Benbrook will make sure that the final draft states that any grant monies received by Hardwick will be applied as a credit towards their obligation to make a \$5,000.00 a year capital contribution.

A correction in the official name of the fire company to Blairstown Hose Company No. 1 will also be made in the agreement.

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE (See attached sheet)**

There were no comments or questions on the General Correspondence List.

**FROM THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY**

Mr. Benbrook reported that he is proceeding with the tax foreclosures. He is also working on a lawsuit that has been filed against the police department regarding an allegation of false arrest.

**FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK**

The Clerk reminded the public that the Free Rabies Clinic is scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 12pm. The clinic will be held at the Public Works building on Lambert Road.

**FROM THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEEMAN LANCE**

Mr. Lance thanked everyone who assisted in the emergency operations from Hurricane Sandy. He felt that Blairstown was extremely organized.

He congratulated Mayor Anderson and Committeeman-elect Paul Avery for their wins on the Township Committee.

Mr. Lance made a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-119, which authorizes the transfer of funds. Mr. Mach seconded the motion.

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

**COMMITTEEMAN MACH**

Mr. Mach also expressed his gratitude to the emergency workers during and after the storm. He particularly wished to thank Nick Mohr, who exhibited excellent organizational and people skills. Mr. Mach said that Mr. Mohr is very professional and a pleasure to work with.

The Municipal Housing Liaison has asked for permission to solicit applicants to fulfill the group house requirements of the township's COAH plan. Mr. Mach told her to proceed, and the Committee was in agreement with this.

The Environmental Commission cancelled their Energy Fair that was to be held tonight at the library due to the impending storm.

Mr. Mach reported that Ted Rodman, Township Engineer, rewrote the grant application for repairs to the Paulina Dam as requested by Warren County MCCTFC. The revised grant request is for \$81,000.00, which will cover the stone front on the training walls that is being required by the State.

A meeting that was scheduled with the Wallkill River Watershed coordinator has been postponed. The meeting will deal with water management along the Paulinskill River upstream.

#### COMMITTEEMAN SEAL

Mr. Seal was absent but submitted a written report that Mayor Anderson read. Mr. Seal reported that the DPW workers did a commendable job during and after Hurricane Sandy. Mr. Seal said that the water company operated smoothly with the exception of a small problem with the generator. He would like to install a battery maintained trickle charger and perhaps a block or oil pan heater. Mr. Seal also suggests that a DPW employee run the generator for a short period of time once a week to avoid any problems in the future. Mr. Seal also pointed out that even though the village area was without services during this extreme storm, they still had water thanks to the DPW employees.

All Committee members agreed that the DPW workers did an exceptional job of clearing the roadways during the storm.

#### COMMITTEEMAN SHOEMAKER

Mr. Shoemaker reiterated that the DPW employees did an exceptional job during and after Hurricane Sandy.

With regard to the box trailer that was requested to be located at Sycamore Park, Mr. Shoemaker spoke with Carl Stoddart about the location. It is proposed to be located in the back out of view from the road. After discussion, the Committee was not inclined to approve this request. The main concern is that the trailer will rust and become an eyesore. Mr. Lance said that if the request is granted, the trailer should be painted and Mr. Mach felt that shrubs should be planted around it.

Mr. Shoemaker reported that lines were painted on Mohican Road and Belcher Road.

#### MAYOR ANDERSON

Mayor Anderson said that he and Mr. Mach are continuing to work with JCP&L regarding power outages throughout the township. According to the last report by JCP&L, approximately 18% of the township is still without power.

Mayor Anderson also expressed his thanks to the emergency workers who made a difficult situation during Hurricane Sandy much better for so many residents.

Mayor Anderson introduced Skip Constantine, Gaisler Road, and Tom Thurgood of Hope Township, who are proposing to erect a building on property donated by the township. The building is to be used as a wrestling center. Ken Skuba of Blairstown has agreed to donate the building, which is proposed to be 10,000 sq. ft., and Mr. Constantine and Mr. Thurgood are asking for property from the township. They are here tonight to determine if the Committee has an interest in having this building located in Blairstown. Mr. Mach said that he thinks it is a good idea, but he would like a subcommittee formed to work on the details. He also said that the Land Use Board would need to be consulted to see if there are any objections in the plans.

Mr. Benbrook asked if the wrestling organization was non-profit. Mr. Constantine said that it is non-profit. Mr. Benbrook said that if the Committee is in favor of this project, the property would be leased to the wrestling organization for \$1.00, similar to the arrangement with the Ambulance Corps. Mr. Shoemaker asked if there would be any ramifications to leasing township property to a private organization. Mr. Benbrook said that he would have to research this, but feels that it would not be a problem since the building would be used by the public. Mr. Benbrook does feel, however, that the building cannot be used as a profit-making venture. After discussion, the Committee decided to hold off on any decisions until January 2013, at which time a subcommittee would be formed.

#### **TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

Ted Rodman, Township Engineer, reported that Whitman Company is in the process of taking water samples from residences surrounding Walnut Valley Firehouse.

Mr. Rodman also reported that the Phase 1B Study of the Paulina Dam, which is required by the State, is underway. One phase of the study was postponed because of the storm, but should be rescheduled in the next week or so. This is the last requirement to be completed before the township can get the necessary permits.

#### **FROM THE PUBLIC**

Lorraine Meister, Briar Hill Lane, asked Mr. Mach when her cable television would be restored. Mr. Mach said that he doesn't know, but suggested that she call the company directly.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

As there were no further comments from the public, Mr. Lance made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Shoemaker, with all members present in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Submitted by:

Phyllis E. Pizzaia, RMC  
Municipal Clerk