

**BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2013 – 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. Avery, Mr. Lance, Mr. Mach 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 – Frank W. Anderson

Clerk Pizzaia administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Anderson

Elected Official – Paul Avery

Clerk Pizzaia administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Avery

NOMINATION FOR MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2013

A motion to appoint Richard Mach as Mayor for 2013 was made by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Lance.

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

The Oath of Office was administered to Richard Mach by Senator Steven Oroho.

Mayor Mach chaired the remainder of the meeting.

NOMINATION FOR DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2013

The nomination of Frank W. Anderson as Deputy Mayor was made by Mr. Lance and seconded by Mayor Mach.

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

The Oath of Office was administered to Mr. Anderson by Assemblywoman Allison Littell McHose.

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.2013-001 Various One Year Appointments – Compensated

R.2013-002 Various Appointments – Non-compensated

- R.2013-003 Cancel Water Utility Balances under \$5.00
- R.2013-004 Appointing Local Emergency Planning Committee Members
- R.2013-005 Resolution of the Township of Blirstown, Fixing the Rate of Interest to be charged on Delinquent Taxes and Authorize Tax Collector to hold Annual Tax Sale
- R.2013-006 Resolution Complying with Open Public Meetings Act
- R.2013-007 Resolution Designating Authorized Signatures
- R.2013-010 Resolution Authorizing Investment of Idle Funds and Fund Transfers
- R.2013-009 Resolution Adopting a Cash Management Plan
- R.2013-010 Resolution Contracting for Professional Services without Competitive Bidding in Accordance with the Local Public Contract Law - Various
- R.2013-011 Resolution Contracting for Professional Services without Competitive Bidding in Accordance with the Local Public Contract Law – Municipal Accountants (Auditor)
- R.2013-012 Resolution Designating Official Newspapers
- R.2013-013 Resolution Canceling Certain Real Estate Property Tax Balances
- R.2013-014 Resolution Authorizing Tax Assessor and Township Attorney to Handle Roll Back Taxes Complaints
- R.2013-015 Resolution Instituting a Fee for Duplicate Tax Sale Certificates
- R.2013-016 Resolution Fixing the Rate of Interest to be charged on Delinquent Water Accounts

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Mr. Shoemaker and was seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

FROM THE COMMITTEE

Mayor Mach thanked Senator Oroho and Assemblywoman McHose for attending tonight’s meeting and for administering the oaths of office.

Mayor Mach thanked Mr. Anderson for a successful year of handling the mayoral duties. During Mayor Anderson’s term, the Planning and Zoning Boards were joined into a single Land Use Board, which will aid in the continuity of board members. Mayor Mach also thanked the members of the Land Use Board, who adjusted to the new board with ease. Also under Mayor Anderson’s term was the creation of an inter-local agreement between Blirstown and Hardwick for fire services. Mayor Mach also thanked the Committee Members for allowing him to serve as Mayor for another year.

Mayor Mach said that Hurricane Sandy was a testament to the spirit of community amongst the residents and the emergency service workers. Under the direction of the new OEM Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator, the entire storm and aftermath operations progressed seamlessly. The Masonic Lodge, North Warren Regional High School, local churches and our Police Department and municipal employees were also an important part of the emergency operations.

Mayor Mach also acknowledged local volunteer groups who are willing to raise money for various projects. At this time, the MOM’s Club is raising money for a park and another group is raising money to build a dog park.

Mayor Mach said that a major goal in 2013 will be to maintain a zero municipal tax. This is becoming harder and this year will be a challenge. The township will continue in its efforts to get the energy tax monies returned to the municipality. Mayor Mach will be working with Senator Oroho towards this goal.

Deputy Mayor Anderson said that he is proud to have served as Mayor in 2012. He thanked the municipal employees for their hard work. He was in agreement with Mayor Mach that Hurricane Sandy showed the spirit of volunteerism within the community. He thanked all of those involved with the emergency operations.

Mr. Lance congratulated Mr. Avery for being elected to the Township Committee. He is working towards maintaining a zero municipal tax by reigning in more costs. Mr. Lance congratulated Mr. Anderson and Mr. Avery for their election wins. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Shoemaker said that the residents are fortunate in having a governing body of such high caliber over the past several years. He feels proud to be able to work with his fellow elected officials towards the betterment of Blirstown. Mr. Shoemaker congratulated Mr. Anderson and Mr. Avery on their election wins.

Mr. Avery said that he is proud to be a part of this community and is proud to be serving with the rest of the Committee. He is ready to begin his duties as Committeeman.

FROM THE PUBLIC

Assemblywoman Littell McHose stated that she was very pleased with the way all of the communities came together during the Hurricane Sandy emergency. She said she is looking forward to working with the Committee another year and thanked the Committee for inviting her to tonight's meeting.

Senator Oroho congratulated Mr. Anderson and Mr. Avery on their election wins. He said that it is a pleasure working with the Blirstown Committee because of the constant communication he receives, which allows him to stay informed with his constituents.

Rev. David Harvey thanked Mr. Shoemaker and Mr. Avery for organizing such a successful Fourth of July Celebration.

Mary Flynn, Conrad Court, congratulated Mr. Avery on his election win.

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 6:34 pm.

Submitted by:

Phyllis E. Pizzaia, RMC
Municipal Clerk