

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN
SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, November 8, 2013 – 1 PM
TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

MINUTES

OPENING; ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mach. Those present were Mr. Anderson, Mr. Avery, Mr. Lance, Mr. Shoemaker and Mayor Mach. Also present was Clerk Pizzaia and CFO Christine Rolef.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was conducted.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

Mayor Mach read the following statement: Notice of this Special Meeting has been sent to two official newspapers of Blairstown Township noting the date, time and agenda thereof in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Susan Price was congratulated on her win as Township Committee member for 2014. The Committee members were in agreement that Mrs. Price would be allowed to sit in on any closed session meetings that may take place for the remainder of 2013.

DISCUSSION – 2014 Budget

Mr. Anderson explained that this meeting is a pre-budget meeting for the Committee to discuss how they wish to proceed with the preparation of the 2014 budget. There was a discussion on the subcommittee system that has been used for the past several years. It was the consensus of opinion that this system has worked very well and that the Committee is in favor of continuing the use of this system. This year, all Committee members will rotate to participate in the budget process.

Mr. Anderson said that the goal, as in the past, is to avoid instituting a municipal tax. He said that the Committee will continue to look for areas to reduce spending.

Mr. Shoemaker suggested having an audit of the township vouchers in an attempt to reduce spending.

Mr. Lance would like to look into a way to reduce the township's burden regarding health benefit costs. Mr. Shoemaker said he would like to work with Mr. Lance on this.

Mayor Mach said that Mayor Perry of Hardwick approached him about a shared services agreement for a zoning official. He also anticipates that the COAH plan will need to be rewritten, and suggested that sufficient monies are budgeted for a Land Use Board planner.

With regard to the township's water department, Mr. Avery would like to have a maintenance plan in place. He would also like to correct the problems that now exist in the current water billing and meters. Mr. Anderson said that this would involve an ordinance change.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Susan Price, Alice Court, and Committee member-elect, said that she is on board with the ideas discussed today. She said that she is willing to assist with Mr. Shoemaker's suggestion about auditing the vouchers.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Avery made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Lance. The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Submitted by:

Phyllis E. Pizzaia, RMC
Municipal Clerk