

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

Wednesday, April 8, 2009, 6:30 PM

M I N U T E S

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

OPENING; ROLL CALL

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

The **FLAG SALUTE** was conducted.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

Mayor Mach read the following statement: Notice of this meeting has been sent to three 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 –Possible Acquisition of Property; Contracts – Wastewater Management

Mr. Lance made a motion to enter closed session, which was seconded by Mr. Seal, with all members voting 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 such 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 Executive Session to discuss only the matters mentioned above, the results of which may be made public immediately thereafter or at a later date.

Dated: April 8, 2009

Attest:

Phyllis E. Pizzaia, RMC

Municipal Clerk

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

RESULTS OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Mach stated that there were no results of Closed Session.

MINUTES

March 11, 2009 – Regular Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Seal and seconded by Mr. Lance, with all members voting in favor.

March 11, 2009 – Closed Session

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Lance and seconded by Mr. Anderson, with all members voting in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT (up to 5 speakers/3 minutes each)

Kenneth Skuba, Dry Road, spoke about the Police Director. Mr. Skuba said that he had dealt with the director a couple of months ago and found him to be helpful and had felt that he was doing a very good job. He was here tonight to speak about a recent incident involving his daughter and some youths. Mr. Skuba advised his daughter to contact the Police Department. Mr. Skuba felt that the police were not assisting his daughter, so he contacted the police himself. He then contacted the director, who, in his opinion, was reluctant to assist him. Mr. Skuba wanted the Committee to know that he feels the director should be more willing to become involved when a resident needs his assistance.

Richard Jones, Route 94, asked about the unnamed road that was vacated by ordinance at the March meeting. Mr. Jones was under the impression that the road abutted his property. After discussion, it was determined that the vacated road, in fact, was not adjacent to his property.

PROCLAMATION – April 2009 Proclaimed as AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Mayor Mach read the proclamation. Mrs. Arlene Castellucci accepted the proclamation and spoke about her involvement with this cause through her granddaughter. He said that through education and awareness, her granddaughter is able to accomplish many tasks that previously were not possible. She feels that through public awareness and special education, individuals with autism can be afforded a higher quality of life.

BLAIRSTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2009-10 BUDGET PRESENTATION by Mark Saalfield, Superintendent and Molly Petty, Business Administrator

Mr. Saalfield thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present the budget at this meeting. He said that the budget was approved at the March 30th meeting of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Petty went over the 2009-10 budget figures, stating that the bottom line tax increase with proposed tax levy would be \$45.00 on the average value assessed home. Mr. Saalfield stated that out of 62 school districts for K-6 in the State of NJ, Blairstown has the lowest administrative costs. Blairstown Elementary School has this distinction for the third year in a row.

Mr. Saalfield explained the highlights of the 2009-10 budget, which included technological and instructional upgrades and improvements, and tuition and transportation costs. Costs also include health benefit costs and maintenance items.

Mr. Saalfield outlined cost savings measures, which include the use of a curriculum coordinator shared by several municipal school systems, a shared Child Study Team, and transportation contracts shared with other sending units. The school system also realizes savings through snow removal assistance by the Blairstown Dept. of Public Works and the PTG donations that help pay for computers, cultural events, class trips and other worthwhile projects. Mr. Saalfield also wished to acknowledge the many volunteers who help throughout the year and perform services at no cost to the school.

Mayor Mach thanked the Blairstown Elementary School representatives for their presentation and also thanked them for their efforts in keeping costs down during these difficult financial times.

Mayor Mach reminded the audience that School Election Day is April 21st. The polls are open from 2pm to 9pm.

NORTH WARREN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL 2009-10 BUDGET PRESENTATION by Mary Alice Landis, and Lisa Murphy, Board of Education Reps., and Christina Sharkey, Business Administrator

Ms. Landis spoke about the budget goals for the 2009-10 school year, which include increasing academic achievement, cost confinement and improving safety and security. Other goals include preventative maintenance of the school facilities and capital improvement projects, such as a needed roof repair, a significant cost in the budget.

Ms. Sharkey explained the tax levy, which is based on a formula involving equalized property values, the number of elementary school students in the sending municipality and the number of middle and high school students from the sending municipality. This year, the tax levy for Blairstown has an increase of 2 percent. The tax rate for Blairstown is \$0.55 per \$100, which is a 3 cent increase from the 2008-09

budget. This amounts to a \$122.33 annual increase on an average assessed property of \$375,274.

Paul Avery, Mohican Road, questioned Ms. Murphy on whether the assessed values on property went down. Ms. Murphy stated that the equalized and assessed property values have gone down. Mr. Lance stated that this is normal due to tax appeals which occur after a revaluation.

Mayor Mach thanked the representatives from North Warren Regional High School for making their presentation.

ORDINANCE NO. 2009-04 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 19, "LAND DEVELOPMENT," SECTION 402B OF THE CODE OF BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP ENTITLED "CHRISTMAS TREE SALES" – Adoption, Second Reading

Committee Discussion – There was no Committee discussion on Ordinance 2009-04.

Public Hearing

Mr. Lascari made a motion to open the Public Hearing, which was seconded by Mr. Lance, with all members in favor.

George Black, Gaisler Road, spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment to the ordinance. He said that it will now allow the sale of Christmas trees and decorative items anywhere in Blairstown, which will hurt Blairstown farmers. He stated that he is totally against the passage of this ordinance.

Peter McKenna, Mohican Road, said that he agrees with Mr. Black in that this ordinance will hurt local farmers.

Mr. John Burke, Jolly Holly Christmas Tree Farm, spoke against the passage of this ordinance. He feels that this will intensify the competition this Christmas season and the Blairstown tree farmers will suffer.

Mr. Benbrook stated that State Statute must not be circumvented. If the ordinance were to be written the way Mr. Black would like, commerce laws would be violated.

Mr. Venturi, owner of Blairstown Country Florist, complained about local businesses who sell flowers as an off-shoot of their businesses. He feels that the A&P and Rite Aid should not be allowed to sell flowers. He said his business mainly survives on major holidays and these stores are destroying his business. Mr. Benbrook emphasized that it is not the job of the Committee to decide which businesses sell what items. If the business is allowed to sell legally, the Committee has no say in the matter.

Mr. Venturi also questioned a piece of property off of Route 94 where a local farmer sets up and sells Christmas trees and wreaths. It was questioned whether this property was owned by the State or privately owned. The Committee was in agreement that if the property is State owned, the farmer would not be permitted to sell at this location.

Mr. Lance made a motion to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Mr. Anderson with all members voting in favor.

Mr. Seal made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2009-04 on second reading, which was seconded by Mr. Lance. Mr. Lance said that there seems to be one vendor causing this controversy on the triangle property off of Route 94. If, in fact, he is on State property, the State will take measures to have him cease this activity. Mr. Lascari would like David Diehl, Zoning Official, to look into this matter.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2009-05 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND “AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE POSITION OF MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIAISON FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADMINISTERING BLAIRSTOWN’S AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THE FAIR HOUSING ACT”

Introduction, First Reading

Mayor Mach explained that this ordinance fulfills a COAH requirement that the township appoint an Administrative Agent to market and qualify people for affordable housing.

Committee Discussion - There was no Committee discussion.

Mr. Lance made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2009-05 on first reading, which was seconded by Mr. Lascari.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2009-06 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 19-609 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN ENTITLED “DEVELOPMENT FEES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING”

Introduction, First Reading

Mayor Mach explained that this is an ordinance that increases residential development fees from 1% to 1 ½% and non-residential development fees from 2% to 2 ½%. This ordinance has been approved by COAH and needs to be adopted by the Township Committee.

Mr. Lascari made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2009-06 on first reading, which was seconded by Mr. Lance.

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

There will be a Special Meeting at the end of April to conduct the Public Hearings on Ordinances 2009-05 and 2009-06 and to adopt them on second reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2009-07 – AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH CHAPTER 80 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN ENTITLED “CHARITABLE DONATION CLOTHING BINS” –

Introduction, First Reading

Committee Discussion – Mr. Lance inquired why this ordinance was necessary. Mr. Benbrook stated that it has been mandated by State Statute. Mr. Seal said that this ordinance gives the township more control over this type of activity.

Mr. Lance made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2009-07 on first reading, which was seconded by Mr. Seal.

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

Public Comment on the Consent Agenda Items Only – There were no comments on the Consent Agenda from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS

- 1 – R.2009-053** Authorization to Pay Bills
- 2 – R.2009-054** Authorization to Make Emergency Appropriation for Oil Tank Remediation
- 3 – R.2009-055** Approval and Adoption of Notice of Claim Form for PAIC
- 4 – R.2009-056** Redemption Tax Certificate 2008-09
- 5 – R.2009-057** Authorization to enter into agreement with MSI for computer maintenance
- 6 – R.2009-058** Authorization to enter into contract with Warren County to receive 2009 Municipal Alliance Grant Funding in the Amount of \$5,907.00
- 7 – R.2009-059** Honoring Our Troops in “Support our Troops Day”
- 8 – Application for Special Permit for Social Affair** – Rotary Club of Blairstown on April 17, 2009, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
- 9 – Application for Special Permit for Social Affair** – American Legion Post on May, 2009, from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm
- 10 – Application for Red Light Permit** – Scott Durl Lester, Blairstown Ambulance Corps

Motion to approve by _____, 2nd _____ Roll Call

Mr. Lascari requested that item no. 5 be removed from the Consent Agenda. Mr. Lascari made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, except for Item #5, which was seconded by Mr. Seal.

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

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve Item #5 for discussion, which was seconded by Mr. Lascari.

Mr. Lascari and Mr. Lance both felt that the price should be negotiated. Mr. Lance also was concerned that the administrative offices and the Police Department had different computer service providers. He felt that consolidation might result in cost savings. Mr. Lascari would like to see if the services provided could be scaled back in order to save money. Mr. Lance withdrew his motion to approve, and Mr. Lascari made a motion to table the MSI computer agreement for further research. Mr. Lance seconded the motion.

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

INTRODUCTION OF 2009 BUDGET

R.2009-060A Delayed Introduction of 2009 Municipal Budget

R.2009-060B Special Items of General Revenue

R.2009-060C Introduction of 2009 Municipal Budget by Title Only

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Lascari. Mayor Mach announced that the budget will be available for review in the Clerk's Office and also at the library.

Mr. Lance said that this budget was particularly difficult to work on. He feels that this budget has not been cut enough, as the township is spending far more in excess than it is bringing in. If the trend continues, the surplus will be spent down to zero in three years, which would necessitate a municipal tax. Mr. Lance is in favor of instituting drastic cuts. He said that if the township wishes to maintain the present staffing level and programs, then he sees a municipal tax in three years, probably around three cents per hundred dollars.

Mr. Seal suggested having Mr. Benbrook research the gross receipts agreement. He pointed to the fact that the State continues to reduce the energy tax amount payable to the municipality. Mr. Seal suggested joining forces with other municipalities with energy plants, such as Alloway, in strongly voicing our objections to the State. Mr. Benbrook said that writing letters will be ineffectual, but contacting other municipalities like Mr. Seal suggested and joining forces might be worthwhile. Mr. Benbrook said that he will research this.

Mr. Lance said that one area that needs to be addressed is tax collection. He said the collection rate is at 96%, which he feels is inadequate. He said there should have been a tax sale already this year and homeowners who are delinquent should be told that after November 11th their properties are subject to tax sale.

With regard to staffing levels, Mr. Lance made the recommendation to reduce the Clerk's Office staff from four people to two; to cut the recycling center out completely; to not fill the vacancy in the Department of Public Works; to cut back

the Public Safety Director to four days a week and cut his salary by 20%; and to put a hiring freeze on the municipality.

Mr. Seal asked why the township does not charge different groups for using our facilities. He pointed to the Farmers Market and the County meals program, both of which use township facilities for free. He said this doesn't amount to much, but every dollar counts. Mr. Seal also objected to cutting the DPW employee when the Seniors Club used a third of their budget to finance a luncheon. Mr. Seal also said that if the DPW employee is not hired, the Committee should be prepared to listen to complaints that some things aren't getting done. The Committee was in agreement that the public will have to get used to diminished services if they want to avoid having a municipal tax.

Mr. Benbrook suggested sending out a newsletter in the tax bill outlining the budget facts summarized by Mr. Lance. The Committee was in agreement that this would be a good way to let the residents know exactly what is going on financially in the township and how the Committee is struggling to stave off a municipal tax.

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Clerk's Office – March Report
Construction – March Report
Finance Office – March Report
Police Department – March Report
Public Works Department – March Fuel Report
Tax Collector – March Report
Zoning Officer -1st Quarter, 2009
Warren County Health Department – March 6th Report

Mr. Seal made a motion to accept the Department Reports, which was seconded by Mr. Lance, with all members voting in favor.

Mr. Lascari said that he would like the collection rate by quarter on the Tax Collector report from this point on. Mr. Lascari will speak to the Tax Collector about this.

There was a discussion about the interest rate received by the township. Mayor Mach said that the CFO has been asked to get proposals for a better interest rate. He will speak to her again on this matter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1 – Rte. 94 Traffic Concerns – Letter sent to DOT on 8/31 outlining Blaiirstown's major concerns; awaiting State approval for Pedestrian Crossing Signs

No action taken.

- 2 – JCP&L billing – Mr. Lascari in process inputting data
Mr. Lascari said that he is continuing to work on this.
- 3 – Senior Citizen Advisory Committee – Options under consideration
No action taken.
- 4 – Main Street concerns – Informational meeting held on 3/23
Mr. Lascari will discuss this during his Committee report.
- 5 – Review of Noise Control Ordinance – Model ordinance received
No action taken.
- 6 – Cedar Lake Horse Farm – waiting for RFP from State
No action taken.
- 7 – Repairs to Givens Belet building – B. DePuy compiling list of most needed repairs
No action taken.
- 8 – Bear Cave Road traffic – Township Engineer to give input
No action taken.
- 9 – Wastewater Management Plan –requesting revised proposals from Hatch Mott MacDonald, Finelli; draft letter to be sent to DEP
This was addressed earlier in the meeting.
- 10 – Heller Hill Road stone wall
No action taken.
- 11 – Service Electric Cable TV – extension of cable service
Mr. Lascari said he has a draft letter which he will present to Mr. Benbrook for his opinion before it is sent out.
- 12 – Digital Maps/Environmental Commission
No action taken.

COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE for information and possible action

- 1 – from NJ Dept. of Transportation, re: Benton Road, 2009 Municipal Aid

Mayor Mach announced that Blairstown received \$85,000 for an overlay for Benton Road.

- 2 – from Marvin Hilts, Parade Committee Chairman, regarding 64th Annual Memorial Day Parade

Mayor Mach stated that the Memorial Day Parade will be held on May 24th at noon.

- 3 – from Robert Goltz, Warren County Chamber of Commerce, to Committee and Police Director, regarding Fourth of July Spirit of Americana Celebration on July 4, 2009

The Spirit of Americana Celebration will be held from 11am to 4pm at Footbridge Park.

- 4 – from Edward Smith, Co-Chair, Blairstown Rotary, regarding Fourth of July fireworks display

The Rotary is requesting \$3,000.00 towards the cost of the fireworks display for the Fourth of July celebration. Mayor Mach said that this money has been appropriated in the budget. The Clerk will advise Mr. Smith that this money is in place.

- 5 – from John A. Scocozza, President, Mingle Road Association, requesting rating adjustment for private road

The Committee discussed the Mingle Road Association's request to change their rate from a level three difficulty rating to a level four. Mr. Lascari made a motion to approve this change from a level three to level four rating, which was seconded by Mr. Lance. Mr. Anderson said that he drove this road and believes that it is similar in character to other roads with a level three rating.

Roll call vote: AYE – Lascari
 NAY – Anderson, Lance, Seal, Mach

The Clerk will send a letter to Mr. Scocozza, advising him of the Committee decision.

- 6 – from Blairstown Historic Preservation Commission, requesting a meeting with Committee regarding preservation of Historic Blairstown District

Mr. Anderson read this letter in request of a meeting with the Committee for the purpose of creating a protective ordinance for the Blairstown Historic District. Mayor Mach said that he is opposed to having an ordinance in place that would dictate to historic district homeowners what they can and cannot do. If, however, the Commission is seeking grant monies to assist these homeowners to maintain their properties, then he is not opposed to that. The Committee will keep an open dialog with the Historic Preservation Commission on this matter.

- 7 – from Thomas Palmieri, President, North Warren Democratic Club, regarding tree planting in memory of Frank Kelly

The North Warren Democratic Club is seeking permission to plant a tree on the Municipal Building grounds to honor the memory of Frank Kelly. The Committee was in favor of this idea, provided the Democratic Club would be purchasing the tree. The Shade Tree Committee will be notified.

- 8 – from NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection, regarding Blairstown's 2009 Clean Communities Entitlement of \$12,937.63

This money goes towards roadside clean-up. Mr. Lascari said he would like Maureen DeSimone, Recycling Coordinator, to organize a cleanup in the near future, as there is a great deal of litter along the roadways. The Committee felt it was best to split the money in half to organize two clean-ups, one immediately and one in the fall. Mr. Lascari will speak to Mrs. DeSimone about this.

- 9 – from David P. Gallant, Warren County Dir. of Public Safety, regarding award of COPS grant

Mayor Mach explained that this letter is to recommend that all radio purchases by Warren County municipalities be coordinated with this office. This communication has been forwarded to the Director of Police.

- 10 – from Patricia Sagan, Recreation Dir., regarding use of Footbridge Park for Farmers Market

This memorandum from Mrs. Sagan confirms that Footbridge Park cannot be used by the Farmers Market to sell for profit. Mayor Mach indicated that he suggested the Blairstown Elementary School parking lot as a suitable location for the market. This was suggested to Mrs. Doell of the Farmers Market, but she expressed interest in continuing the market at Givens Belet. Mr. Seal reiterated his thought that they should be charged a clean-up fee since they are a for-profit group, perhaps beginning next year.

- 11 – from Kevin Doell to Jim Chenard, Chairman, Environmental Commission, seeking appointment to Environmental Commission

Mr. Lascari made a motion to approve Kevin Doell as member of the Environmental Commission, which was seconded by Mr. Lance.

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

- 12 – from Alex DeCroce, Assembly Republican Leader, regarding FY2010 State budget

Mayor Mach explained this communication, which is seeking a resolution to be passed by the Committee in opposition of Governor Corzine's FY 2010 budget. This resolution emphasizes the tax burden placed on New Jersey homeowners. Mayor Mach read the entire resolution to the audience. Mr. Lance made a motion to pass this resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Seal.

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

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE (See attached sheet)

There were no comments on the General Correspondence.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY

Mr. Benbrook had nothing more to report on.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK

The Clerk reported that the flyers on the Spring Clean-up have gone out and that residents have begun to pick up their vouchers from the Municipal Building. Residents who are unable to get to the building during the weekday can get them from the Blairstown Recycling Center on Saturday morning.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

COMMITTEEMAN ANDERSON

Mr. Anderson read a letter from Police Director Krisak, advising that Officer Scott Johnsen has completed all necessary training and recommends that he be elevated from Trainee status to Probationary status. Mr. Anderson made a motion to move Officer Johnsen to Probationary Officer with an effective date of March 4, 2009. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lascari.

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

Mr. Anderson read the highlights of the Police Report for the month of March.

Mr. Anderson said that a partial plan for the exit door at the back of the building has been received.

He expects to receive structural plans soon and then quotes will be solicited.

COMMITTEEMAN LANCE

Mr. Lance said that he covered everything when he spoke about the budget and had nothing else this evening.

COMMITTEEMAN LASCARI

Mr. Lascari said that the Ambulance Squad would like to temporarily house their rescue vehicle in the Fire Station. This matter was brought to the Committee because of a possible insurance issue. Mr. Lance said that Sharon Cooper should be notified. Mr. Lascari made a motion to approve, with the stipulation that the Ambulance Squad provide proof of insurance. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mach, with all members in favor.

Mr. Lascari said that the tanker specifications are being finalized and will be reviewed by Mr. Benbrook. The Committee will meet with the Fire Company at the next meeting to discuss the fire tanker specifications.

Mr. Lascari said that he is making a motion to have Mr. Benbrook review a contract with Paetec before Mayor Mach signs it. This contract for telephone service will save the township \$5,956.00. Other municipalities are using this company and are realizing significant savings. Mr. Lance seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Lascari reported that the Main Street meeting went well and was well-attended. The consensus was that they want to keep Main Street a two-way street. Ted Rodman is looking at the parking situation. Other concerns were additional parking on Vail Street, painting parking lines on Main Street, signage diverting heavy vehicles, and the cat situation. Mr. Lascari said he intends to summarize the main issues in writing for the rest of the Committee.

Mr. Lascari spoke with Ralph Price, Construction Official, regarding soliciting surrounding towns to join as one Construction Department with Blairstown as the lead. Mr. Lascari made a motion to this effect, with letters being sent to Knowlton, Frelinghuysen, Hope, Hardwick, Stillwater and White. Mayor Lance seconded the motion, with all members in favor. Mr. Lascari said he will draft the letter.

COMMITTEEMAN SEAL

Mr. Seal said that he was planning to report on the proposal regarding the Construction Department that Mr. Lascari outlined. He has nothing further to report.

MAYOR MACH

Mayor Mach reported that Molly Petty from Blairstown Elementary School has agreed to take over the administrative duties of the Municipal Alliance.

Mayor Mach attended a recent Mayors Meeting. A major topic was shared services, which will be discussed again at a future meeting. Mayor Mach also attended a meeting on the County level and shared services was discussed. It was decided at this meeting to have a subcommittee of three members.

Arbor Day is April 24th. A Tree will be planted for Lois Konkle and another tree in memory of Frank Kelly.

Mayor Mach spoke about the puddle in front of the old Blirstown Press Building. He would like to contact the new owner informing him that this is a public nuisance. Mr. Benbrook was directed to send the owner a letter to this effect.

FROM THE PUBLIC

Herman Shoemaker, Bingham Lane, reported that the street sign at Carhart and Vail is lying on the ground. He also stated that he feels that now is the right economic environment to make the tough decisions in budget cuts as outlined by Mr. Lance earlier in the meeting.

Paul Avery, Mohican Road, said he is pleased that the Committee is taking action on the old Blirstown Press Building. He is also pleased with the way the Main Street meeting was conducted and felt that it was productive.

Mr. Lascari made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Anderson, with all members voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 pm.

Submitted by:

Phyllis E. Pizzaia, RMC
Municipal Clerk