

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

**Wednesday, May 13, 2009, 6:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

*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**

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 Litigation – Remediation at Community Center; Personnel - Staffing**

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

Dated: May 13, 2009

Attest:

Phyllis E. Pizzaia, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

## RESULTS OF CLOSED SESSION

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

Mayor Mach explained that the Closed Session dealt with the leaking oil tank remediation situation at the Community Center. The expense for the remediation at this point is somewhere around \$250,000.

The affected oil has been removed and the hole has been backfilled. Another firm has been hired to review what has been done so far. The immediate problem is how to pay for this work. Ted Rodman, Township Engineer, has found a DEP 0% interest 10-year loan for a maximum amount of \$500,000. Mayor Mach asked for a motion to make application to the DEP, Bureau of Contract and Fund Management, for a loan for the remediation work. Mr. Lance made this motion with an additional stipulation that the \$25,000 check in the May 13<sup>th</sup> bill listing to Core Engineering be voided and reissued until after said application is filed with the DEP. Mr. Seal seconded the motion. Mr. Lance amended his motion to include a \$500.00 application fee to be sent with the application. Mr. Seal seconded the motion to include the amendment.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Seal to execute a contract with Whitman, the environmental company hired to oversee the remediation project. Mr. Lance seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Mach announced that a Special Meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm for the purpose of discussing the oil tank remediation project, the Paulina Dam repairs, bid specifications for the fire tanker, and the possible hiring of a Department of Public Works employee.

Mayor Mach stated that an error was discovered in the Water Department Invitation to Bid package that went out to prospective bidders. A Second Amendment needs to be voted on, which changes Article 3.7 that changes the word **Buyer** to **Seller**. Mr. Lance made the motion to approve this amendment to the bid specifications, which was seconded by Mr. Seal.

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

**PROCLAMATION – May 2009 Proclaimed as OLDER AMERICANS MONTH**

Mayor Mach explained that tonight's awarding of certificates to Blirstown's older citizens stemmed from a proclamation sent by Warren County Division of Aging and Disabled. Mayor Mach read the Proclamation in full.

RESOLUTION 2009 – 070 In Appreciation of Blirstown's Older Citizens  
Mayor Mach read Resolution 2009-070 in full. The resolution honors Blirstown residents who have contributed at least five years of volunteer service to Blirstown and are 65 years of age or older. Mr. Lance made a motion to approve said resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Anderson.

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

At this point, the honorees were asked to come forward to receive their Certificates of Appreciation. Those being honored were: James Sikkes, Blanche Kelly, Richard Jones, Ann Sandberg, James Gilmore, Sr., Elwyn Barker, Tom Gross, Margaret Thomas, Rosalie Murray, Barbara Green, William Horsey, Bill Seal, Richard Mach, and Anita Ardia.

Mayor Mach thanked all of the recipients for giving their time to benefit the community. He especially thanked Anita Ardia for all of her hard work in organizing this ceremony and following through on all the details involved.

Mayor Mach also read Anita Ardia's letter of nomination for Blanche Kelly to be named Warren County's Senior Citizen of the Year.

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

Carol Cook, Four Corners Road, spoke about NORWESCAP. She indicated that the Senior Nutrition Program has been relocated from the Community Center to St. Jude's. She asked that Susan Lennon, Seniors Coordinator, be kept apprised of the situation at Community Center. Mayor Mach said that he has spoken to Ms. Lennon and told her that he will keep her informed of any new developments at the Center and any possible date that the Nutrition Program can move back to Community Center. Mrs. Cook also informed Mayor Mach that some of the tarp has come off of the soil. Mayor Mach said that he will have this taken care of.

Mary Flynn, Conrad Court, spoke about a column called "Community Calendar" that the Press has agreed to publish. She urged people with news of events to contact the paper with information on community events.

Kevin Doell, Heller Hill Road, spoke about the Sustainable Jersey resolution the Environmental Commission would like the Committee to approve. Sustainable Jersey is essentially a roadmap for municipalities to follow in order to improve the

quality of life for its residents. It includes items such as conservation, energy efficiency, etc. The first step for a municipality to participate is approving a resolution that Mr. Doell has provided to Mr. Lascari. Over 100 New Jersey municipalities have already become participating members. The next step is to form a Green Team, which is made up of community members. Mr. Doell asked the Committee to consider passing this resolution tonight, which will get the township on the way for approval.

Jonathan Maesel, North Warren Business Council, came before the Committee to introduce himself. He is the current Chair of the North Warren Business Council, a council of the Warren County Regional Chamber of Commerce. The NWBC covers the four towns of Blairstown, Hardwick, Frelinghuysen and Knowlton. They had their first meeting last month and will meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Post Time Pub at 4:30pm. He invited everyone to attend.

Livia Coleman, East Avenue, voiced her concerns over the soil excavated at Community Center and wondered what would happen in case of flood. She would also like to know what effects the oil contamination could have on vegetation in the immediate area. Mayor Mach told Ms. Coleman that the soil will be moved to a remediation site as soon as possible, but the township must work under the direction of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Ms. Coleman also asked the Committee to expedite the efforts towards providing a tanker for the fire company.

### **DISCUSSION – Municipal Building Staffing**

Mr. Lascari recapped his proposal from the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, which included cutting back the hours of the Police Director from five days to four days per week, to close the Recycling Center on Wednesday, cutting the Recreation Director 1 ½ hours per week and cutting the Assistant Tax Assessor 1 hour per week. The Office Assistant role would be eliminated, and the receptionist would be reduced from five days to three days. The CFO would be reduced four hours per week.

After reviewing the budget, Mr. Lascari made this new proposal:

Police Director from five days to four days per week

Close the Recycling Center on Wednesday

Office Assistant role would be eliminated, effective May 15<sup>th</sup>, with severance pay to June 30<sup>th</sup>

Receptionist would be eliminated, effective May 15<sup>th</sup>, with severance pay to June 30<sup>th</sup> and family benefits to December 31, 2009

TACO position to be reduced to three days per week, with the two remaining days flexible

Treasurer Assistant to be reduced to three days per week, with the two remaining days flexible

No change to CFO, Recreation Director and Assistant Tax Assessor hours  
The discussion was opened to the public at this time.

Anita Ardia, Dry Road, spoke in favor of Patricia Williams and her proficiency in the receptionist role. She also said that the configuration of the building calls for a receptionist in place.

Frederick Cook, Four Corners Road, asked the Committee to consider reducing the Open Space Tax and applying it as a general tax to pay for the cut employees. Mayor Mach stated that this would open the door to a municipal tax, something that this committee is dedicated towards avoiding as long as possible.

Herman Shoemaker, Bingham Lane, congratulated the Committee for making these difficult decisions for the benefit of the residents.

Paul Avery, Mohican Road, agreed with Mr. Shoemaker. He felt that these decisions were necessary to the budget.

Peg Scannelli, Kishpaugh Road, asked how the building would operate without a receptionist. Mr. Lascari said that the details have not been worked out, but signage will be in place to direct residents to the proper location.

Mrs. Ardia asked Mr. Benbrook if it is possible through referendum to change a percentage of the Open Space Tax to use as a general revenue source. Mr. Benbrook said that this is not a possibility.

We are limited by State Statute as to what we can do with the Open Space Tax, and using towards another purpose is not legally an option.

As there were no other comments from the public on the personnel matters, Mr. Lascari made a motion to terminate the positions of Receptionist and Office Assistant as of May 15<sup>th</sup> with the severance packages as previously outlined, and to make all other changes as outlined effective May 18<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Mr. Anderson seconded the motion.

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

## **MINUTES**

April 8, 2009 – Regular Meeting and Closed Session

A motion was made by Mr. Seal to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Anderson, with all members in favor.

April 27, 2009 – Special Meeting and Closed Session

A motion was made by Mr. Lance to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Seal, with all members in favor.

April 30, 2009 – Emergency Meeting and Closed Session

A motion was made by Mr. Lascari to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Anderson, with all members in favor.

### **ADOPTION OF 2009 BUDGET**

**PUBLIC HEARING – Copies of the 2009 Budget have been made available to the public and a copy has been filed with the library as well as the Synopsis being published in the local newspaper**

The public hearing was opened to the public. Mr. Lance stated that the budget is \$50,000 lower than last year's budget.

Peter McKenna, Mohican Road, asked if there were any provisions made in the budget to cover a portion of the \$500,000 loan for the park proposed on the Gorab property. Mr. Lance said that it had not and that he feels that this loan approval should be rejected by the Committee at tonight's meeting in view of the economic situation. Mr. McKenna agreed.

Anita Ardia, Dry Road, said that she understands that times are difficult financially, but the township still needs to provide essential services such as road repairs.

Herman Shoemaker, Bingham Lane, asked if the 500,000 loan for the oil tank remediation was accounted for in the budget. Mr. Lance replied that it was not, but would like to know if it is possible to pay for this out of Open Space Tax monies, since the Community Center is totally used for recreational purposes and Walnut Valley is partially used for recreational purposes. Mr. Benbrook was directed to research this.

As there were no further comments from the public, Mayor Mach closed the public hearing.

### **RESOLUTION**

#### **R.2009-071 Adoption of the 2009 Budget**

A motion was made by Mr. Lance to adopt the budget, which was seconded by Mayor Mach.

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

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

#### **Adoption, Second Reading**

Committee Discussion

There was no Committee discussion.

Mayor Mach opened the public hearing for Ordinance 2009-07. As there were no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed. Mr. Lance made a

motion to adopt said ordinance on second reading, which was seconded by Mr. Lascari.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2009-08 – AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR DPW EQUIPMENT AND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS ENUMERATED WITHIN FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUNDING THEREOF**

**Introduction, First Reading**

Committee Discussion

There was no Committee discussion.

Mr. Lance made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2009-08 on introduction, which was seconded by Mr. Seal.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2009-09 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES AND WAGES OF THE OFFICIALS, APPOINTEES AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY SALARY RANGE”**

**Introduction, First Reading**

Committee Discussion

Mr. Lascari asked if the positions that were eliminated tonight should remain in this ordinance. Mayor Mach said they should be because retroactive pay on the salaries from January 1<sup>st</sup> to the time of termination will be made.

Mr. Lance made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2009-08 on introduction, which was seconded by Mr. Seal.

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

**Public Comment on the Consent Agenda Items Only**

**CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS**

- 1 – R.2009-072** Authorization to Pay Bills
- 2 – R.2009-073** Refunding 2009 Tax Payment of \$1,844.95
- 3 – R.2009-074** Cancelling Year End Tax Penalties on B2101, L8 and 8X
- 4 – R.2009-075** Appointment of Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator
- 5 – R.2009-076** Authorization for Mayor to Sign Contract for Green Acres to Purchase McVilla Property from Blairstown Township
- 6 – R.2009-077** Authorization to Hire Wesley Geczi as Driver/Laborer in DPW
- 7 – R.2009-078** Authorization to Institute an Installment Payment Plan for Delinquent Taxes
- 8 – R.2009-079** Authorization for Clerk to Sign Discharge of Mortgage on B504, L6A
- 9 – R.2009-080** Amendment to Binding Arbitration Statute
- 10 – R.2009-081** Authorization to Submit Grant Application for Salt Storage Shed

**11 – Application for Blue Light Permit for Members of Blairstown Hose Company No.**

**1:** – Scott Bedell, Brian Rosemeier, Eric Usinowicz, David Weber

Mr. Seal asked to have R.2009-077 removed from the Consent Agenda, and Mr. Lance requested that R.2009-078 be removed.

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of R.2009-077 and R.2009-078, which was seconded by Mr. Lascari. Mr. Lance amended his motion to include removing a check payable to Core Engineering in the amount of \$25,000.00, to be reissued after the application for the loan for remediation is filed with the DEP. Mr. Lascari amended his second to the motion.

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

It was agreed to table R.2009-077 from the Consent Agenda until the next meeting.

With regard to R.2009-078, Mr. Lance said he spoke to the auditor earlier and there is no State Statute that allows this. Mr. Lance made a motion to deny R.2009-078, which was seconded by Mr. Lascari.

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

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Clerk – April Report

Construction – April Report

Finance – April Report

Police Department – April Report

Public Works Department – April Fuel Report

Tax Collector – April Report

Warren County Health Department – April 8<sup>th</sup> Report; May 8<sup>th</sup> Report

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1 – Rte. 94 Traffic Concerns – Letter sent to DOT on 8/31 outlining Blairstown's major concerns; State approval for Pedestrian Crossing Sign received for Carhart Street

This will be addressed later under Committee Correspondence

2 – JCP&L billing – Mr. Lascari in process inputting data  
No action taken.

3 – Senior Citizen Advisory Committee – Options under consideration  
No action taken.

- 4 – Main Street concerns – Informational meeting held on 3/23  
Mr. Lascari will be summarizing this meeting in writing for the Committee
- 5 – Review of Noise Control Ordinance – Model ordinance received  
No action taken.
- 6 – Cedar Lake Horse Farm – waiting for RFP from State  
The Clerk will write to Marci Green of the DEP inquiring as to the status of this RFP
- 7 – Repairs to Givens Belet building – B. DePuy compiling list of most needed repairs
- 8 – Bear Cave Road traffic – Township Engineer to give input  
Mr. Anderson has received a survey from the Director of Public Safety on this, indicating that there are no major traffic problems. This will be removed from the list.
- 9 – Wastewater Management Plan –requesting revised proposals from Hatch Mott MacDonald, Finelli; letter sent to DEP  
No action taken.
- 10 – Heller Hill Road stone wall  
No action taken.
- 11 – Service Electric Cable TV – extension of cable service  
No action taken.
- 12 – Digital Maps/Environmental Commission  
No action taken.
- 13 – Fire tanker bid specifications  
Mr. Lascari is working on this with members of the Fire Company.

**COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE for information and possible action**

- 1 – from John DiMaio, Assemblyman, regarding Governor Corzine's reallocation of \$4 million from the EMT Training Fund to the general treasury  
Mayor Mach explained that Governor Corzine has taken away monies allocated for mandatory EMT training.
- 2 – from NJ Dept. of Transportation, re: Authorization to Install "In-Street Pedestrian Signs" – Route 94 and Carhart Street and permit application for same  
One of the three requested signs has been approved; the other two signs do not meet state guidelines. Mr. Lance made a motion to submit the application to the DOT for the In-Street Pedestrian Sign at Route 94 and

Carhart and to authorize the payment of the application and permits fees for same. The motion was seconded by Mr. Seal.

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

- 3 – from Mark N. Mauriello, DEP, regarding approval of application for a Green Acres loan of \$500,000  
This is the loan for Gorab Park – Phase I. Mr. Lance said that because of the layoffs tonight and current unexpected debt the township is facing, he feels that the Committee should turn down this loan. He made a motion to decline the loan, which was seconded by Mr. Anderson. Mr. Lascari said that the Committee should first consult with the Recreation Committee for their input. Mr. Anderson said that the State still has not allocated these funds, so he would agree to wait to see what happens. Mr. Anderson rescinded his second for this reason. As there was no seconding of Mr. Lance's motion, the motion failed.
- 4 – from Paul LoMonaco, President, North Warren Little League, requesting permission to place sponsor signs on fences at Sycamore Park and Walnut Valley fields  
Mayor Mach pointed out that David Diehl, Zoning Officer, recommended against placement of signs at Walnut Valley field, but the Committee was in agreement that there was no compelling reason not to let them do so. Mr. Lascari made a motion to approve this request, which was seconded by Mr. Lance, with all members in favor.
- 5 – from Patricia Sagan, Recreation Dir., regarding request by North Warren Little League to repair and modify batting cage at Walnut Valley field  
Mr. Lascari made a motion to approve this request, which was seconded by Mr. Lance.  
Mr. Lance said that remediation work might take place at this location. The motion and second was changed to allow this request, contingent upon the timing of any possible remediation work and with the review of the Township Engineer. All members voted in favor.
- 6 – from Renee Reiss, COAH, re: Technical Amendment to Blairstown Township's Housing Element and Fair Share Plan  
Mayor Mach explained that this letter in receipt of our minor amendment, and that this amendment along with the plan for substantive certification will be considered by COAH at their June meeting.
- 7 – from Sergio Chavarria, HQW Architects, LLC, re: Municipal Building New Exit Door Fee Proposal  
Mr. Anderson said that the Committee initially approved \$2,000 for the work. HQW Architects has sent a proposal for the entire job not to exceed \$2,800. Mr. Anderson made a motion to amend the approval of this work to HQW

Architects for an amount not to exceed \$2,800, which was seconded by Mr. Lascari.

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

- 8 – from Thomas Krisak, Police Director, re: Vehicle Repairs for 1999 Ford Crown Vic  
Mr. Lance made a motion to authorize the repairs to this vehicle, which was seconded by Mr. Anderson. The quoted price is \$4,156.97.

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

- 9 – from Ted Rodman, Township Engineer, re: Grater LLC, Soil Removal Permit, B904, L7&8  
Mr. Rodman has recommended to the Committee that this permit be approved with Grater LLC submitting a check in the amount of \$3,750 to the township and another in the amount of \$500 for escrow. Mayor Mach made a motion to approve the permit, with the conditions outlined in Mr. Rodman's letter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lascari.

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

- 10 – from Roger Thomas, re: Airport Hanger/COAH  
Mayor Mach explained that he is recommending that the Committee base the COAH fees on the \$426,781 assessment. Mr. Lance made a motion to this effect, which was seconded by Mayor Mach. All members voted in favor.
- 11 – from Robert Benbrook, Township Attorney, re: Blairstown Electric, Inc., B1208, L6  
Mr. Benbrook requested that the owner of Blairstown Electric make certain improvements, which were complied with. Mr. Greg Smith, owner was in attendance, and requested that the township sell to him an approximate 10 ft. by 20 ft. piece of property abutting his property. Mr. Benbrook explained that all contiguous property owners would be allowed to bid on this in a private bidding process. The Committee requested that Mr. Benbrook make the necessary arrangements to hold a private bid on this property.

Mr. Smith also requested that the township waive any construction fees in order for him to remediate his property. Mr. Lance spoke in favor of doing so, but Mr. Seal and Mr. Anderson felt that it was setting a precedent and they are not in favor of doing this. Mayor Mach asked for an approximate amount of fees to be waived. Mr. Smith was not sure. The Committee asked him to submit a firm number and return for a decision.

12 – from William G. Dressel, Jr., Executive Director, NJLM, re: Additional Municipal Transportation Funding Proposed for FY 2010

Mayor Mach said that this letter is for informational purposes only and requires no action on the part of the Committee.

**DISCUSSION with Ted Rodman Township Engineer – Paulina Dam**

In September, 2008 there was a letter from DEP saying repairs had to be made to Paulina Dam by June 1, 2009. At that time, the township got a proposal that came to \$109,000 for engineering work for the repairs. There was Committee discussion on whether it would be cheaper to take the dam out. Last month, talk about hydroelectric power came into play that may fit in with dam. Mr. Rodman is looking into whether this is feasible.

Ted Rodman contacted the DEP about an extension deadline. The DEP is worried about the safety of abutments and talked with Mr. Rodman about stabilization requirements. The \$109,000 may be able to be cut in half. Right now the DEP suggested we send a letter outlining temporary work that may be done. Mr. Rodman estimated a maximum of \$6,000 to be spent by the township in order to submit a plan to the DEP by June 1, 2009, outlining the temporary work to be performed, which will get the township a one year extension.

Mayor Mach said that this seems straight forward. In order to get a one year extension, the township must pay \$6,000 for temporary remediation work. A motion to spend up to \$6,000 for the engineering cost for remediation work on Paulina Dam was made by Mr. Lance and seconded by Mr. Seal.

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

**FROM THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY**

Mr. Benbrook discussed the revised contract for the sale of the McVilla property to Green Acres for \$136,200. Mayor Mach indicated that authorization to sign this contract was already approved in the Consent Agenda earlier this meeting.

**FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK**

The Clerk had nothing to report.

**FROM THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEEMAN ANDERSON**

Mr. Anderson said he received a letter from the Deer Run Private Road Assoc asking that their road be moved from a 3 to a 4. Mr. Anderson said that he will visit the road within the month and report back to the Committee on his findings.

The Senior Citizens Advisory Committee is still in progress. He thanked Anita Ardia for her help in resolving many of the issues involving the seniors in the past year.

#### COMMITTEEMAN LANCE

Mr. Lance announced that the township was awarded a \$65,000 Department of Transportation grant for the Safe Routes to School Program. This grant is for a sidewalk at North Warren Regional High School. He thanked Mr. Rodman for keeping on top of this project until it was approved.

The township received a refund of insurance surplus funds in the amount of \$8,995, to be applied as a credit to the next insurance bill.

The Open Space Trust Fund has a balance of \$350,000. When the McVilla property is sold, the \$136,200 will go back into the Open Space Fund. Mr. Lance made motion to move \$250,000 of Open Space Trust Fund monies over to create a reserve for the payment of the Open Space debt. This keeps the funds from being spent. Mayor Mach seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Lance has been in constant contact with Mr. Saalfield of Blairstown Elementary School, who is concerned about the remediation site at Community Center and the students' safety. Mr. Lance has assured him the township has taken every precaution and the situation is under control.

#### COMMITTEEMAN LASCARI

Mr. Lascari has been very active in finalizing the bid specifications for the fire department tanker.

Mr. Lascari had a meeting with the fire department members and they indicated that PEOSHA requires a venting system for the fire house. This system vents the fumes from the building when the trucks are running with the station doors closed. Mayor Mach would like verification on whether this is a mandate from PEOSHA and absolutely required. Mr. Lascari will research this matter.

Mr. Lascari said that the agreement with the Fire Company and the Township stipulates that the fire station would be outfitted with the same grade generator as installed in the municipal building. There was disagreement among the Committee whether this is accurate. Mr. Benbrook will review the contract for a definitive answer.

Mr. Lascari spoke to the fire department regarding physicals for new applicants and fit tests for current members. The fire company by-laws state that new members are required to submit to drug testing. Mr. Lascari negotiated a fee of \$100 per test from National Drug Testing in Belvidere.

Mr. Lascari asked Mr. Benbrook if the Sustainable Jersey resolution was acceptable. Mr. Benbrook said he read it and feels that it is acceptable, as long as it does not tie

the township to anything financially. Mr. Doell said that it does not. Mr. Lascari made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Lance.

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

#### COMMITTEEMAN SEAL

Mr. Seal said that the grass at the fields is growing quickly due to the rain, keeping the DEP busy.

Mr. Seal asked Mr. Lascari if he had written the letter to be sent to several municipalities regarding shared Construction Office services. Mr. Lascari said he has not finalized this, but he will have the letter finished by Monday.

#### MAYOR MACH

The Planning Board meeting has been cancelled due to lack of activity.

The Shade Tree Committee planted two trees on the Municipal Building property, one in memory of Frank Kelly, former Committeeman and Mayor, and the other in honor of Lois Konkle, retired Records Clerk.

A Meeting of Mayors took place and shared services were discussed. Also discussed was the possibility of regionalizing services for special needs children in order to realize cost savings. This will be looked into.

There were 361 vouchers issued for Spring Clean-up. The landfill took in 88 tons of materials and the total cost to Blairstown was \$8,860.00.

Mayor Mach said that the Census Bureau is going door to door taking preliminary information. They will have proper identification when approaching residents.

#### **FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Mach opened the meeting to the public.

Herman Shoemaker, Bingham Lane, said that the street sign for Water and Main is missing. The Carhart and Main Street sign is also missing.

Mr. Avery, Mohican Road, thanked the Committee for the action taken on the old Press Building.

As there were no further comments from the public, Mr. Lance made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Lascari, with all members in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 pm.

Submitted by:

Phyllis E. Pizzaia, RMC  
Municipal Clerk