

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
Wednesday, July 14, 2010, 7 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 Mach. Those present were Mayor Mach, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Lance, Mr. Lascari (arrived at 7:30 pm) and Mr. Seal. Also present were Clerk Pizzaia and Township Attorney Robert Benbrook.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was conducted.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

Mayor Mach 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.

CLOSED SESSION – State Police/Possible Litigation; Police Department/Possible Litigation; Personnel

Mr. Lance made a motion to enter into 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 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: July 14, 2010

Attest:

Phyllis E. Pizzaia, RMC
Municipal Clerk

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

RESULTS OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Mach said that there were no results to announce from the Closed Session.

DISCUSSION ON SOIL REMEDIATION AT COMMUNITY CENTER

Mayor Mach explained that Whitman Company was asked for a proposal for the demolition of the Community Center. He introduced Mike Russo of Whitman Company and asked him to give a brief overview of the soil remediation project at the Community Center.

Mr. Russo explained that an engineering evaluation of the soil remediation project was made. The results showed that razing the building was the most economical way of completing the soil remediation and receiving a satisfactory report from the NJ State Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Russo explained that the estimate includes completing the remediation under the building, installing one monitoring well, disposing of impacted soil under the building, and two rounds of sampling of the monitoring well. Mr. Russo said that the estimate includes completion of this project with a No Further Action letter from the DEP.

Mr. Russo explained that the monitoring well will ensure that the water is clean. The DEP requires two separate samples.

Mayor Mach asked what would be placed on the ground where the building previously stood. Mr. Russo said that the estimate includes the placement of quarry processed stone to the present grade. Mr. Benbrook asked that Whitman include in their estimate that the grading be done in such a way that there is no increase in water run-off. Mr. Russo agreed to make this addition.

Mr. Lascari asked when this work could be performed. Mr. Russo said that after getting permit approvals, it would take approximately 10 days on site to complete the work.

Mr. Seal made a motion to accept the Whitman proposal of \$162,667.00 for the soil remediation and demolition of the Community Center. Mr. Lance seconded the motion. The Clerk was directed to make arrangements to have power disconnected from the building.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – up to 5 speakers/3 minutes each

Jay Anthony Giurkich and Richard Hanson, both from Bridge Street, explained that they skateboard in Footbridge Park and asked if the Committee had any objections to this activity in the park. Mr. Seal explained that there were problems in the past. Mr. Giurkich said that they have been diligent in cleaning up after themselves. Mr. Benbrook said that his only concern is from a liability standpoint. He asked them to present the Clerk with a letter as to what activities

they engage in, including any apparatus or structures involved. Upon receipt of the letter, the Clerk can determine from the insurance carrier if such activities are covered under the township's liability insurance. Mr. a Giurkich and Mr. Hanson agreed to provide this letter.

Beth Arena, High Street, spoke about the noise problems and other issues on High Street. She said that she and other residents are working with the State Police and our local police to rectify the situation. She stressed that it is important to have a local noise ordinance in place in order to have a solution to the problem on High Street. Ms. Arena distributed a copy of an ordinance from Independence Township dealing with noise.

Mr. Lascari said that he is working on this issue. He would like to have a model ordinance in place for attorney review and hopes to have this ordinance introduced by the September meeting.

John Nienstedt, Kishpaugh Road, spoke about a continuing problem of water seeping into his basement. Plastic covers were placed over the pipes as a test, and the water problem has ceased. The covers have been removed and there still is no water problem. Mr. Nienstedt wanted to know the status of the problem. Mr. Seal replied that no problem has been found, and no repairs have been made. Mr. Nienstedt would like the Committee to continue looking into the water problem. Mr. Seal and Mayor Mach both stated that the plastic is now removed and there has been no seepage, so there appears that there is no problem at this time.

Leone Samilson, Bridge Street, spoke about making a dog park in Blairstown. She said that no money is being requested, but a small piece of municipal property is needed for the park. She said that there are people in town who do not own large pieces of property and would like to have a fenced area where they could go and let their dogs run unleashed. She suggested property where the recycling center was located or where the Community Center is located.

Mr. Lascari recommended bringing this issue to the Recreation Committee. He also would like to see a concept on paper before going further.

Mr. Lascari said that he attended a meeting with Mayor Mach, Chief Mike Sullivan and Deputy Chief Darren Occhiuzzo of Blairstown Hose Company, and Jim Frick of Blair Academy. One of the purposes of this meeting was to discuss fire safety with regard to false alarms at the Academy and to perform drills at that location. Mr. Lascari said that he recently received letters from Blair Academy and waited until tonight's meeting to open them up. Mr. Lascari opened the mail, and announced that Blair Academy sent three checks, the first one to Blairstown Township in the amount of \$30,000; the second one to Blairstown Hose Company No. 1 in the amount of \$4,500, and the third to Blairstown Ambulance Corps in the amount of \$4,500. Mr. Lascari said that Blair Academy is a great partner in the community and the entire Committee was in agreement that this was a very generous donation to the township.

MINUTES

June 9, 2010 – Regular Meeting and Closed Session

June 28, 2010 – Emergency Meeting

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve all minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Anderson.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2010-02 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” Adoption, Second Reading
Committee Discussion**

There was no Committee discussion.

Public Hearing

Mayor Mach opened the Public Hearing. As there were no comments from the public on Ordinance 2010-02, the Public Hearing was closed.

Mr. Lance made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-02 on second reading, which was seconded by Mr. Lascari.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2010-03 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN, COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND, REVISE AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 17, “JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN TO REVISE THE BUDGET AND COLLECTION OF FEES Adoption, Second Reading
Committee Discussion**

Mayor Mach explained that this ordinance sets the manner by which the three participants in the court pay for court expenses.

Public Hearing

Mayor Mach opened the Public Hearing. As there were no comments from the public on Ordinance 2010-03, the Public Hearing was closed.

Mr. Lascari made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-03 on second reading, which was seconded by Mr. Seal.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2010-04 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 150, SECTION 6 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN ENTITLED “PUBLIC RECORDS” Introduction, First Reading
Committee Discussion**

There was no Committee discussion on Ordinance 2010-04.

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve Ordinance 2010-04 on first reading, which was seconded by Mr. Lascari.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-05 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “CHAPTER 186, VEHICLES MOTORIZED” Introduction, First Reading

Committee Discussion

Mr. Lascari said that this ordinance was amended to address residents who were abusing the current ordinance. Major changes include the times motorized vehicles could legally be allowed to operate, and fines were also increased. This ordinance addresses noise made by motorized vehicles.

Mr. Lance was concerned about whether the language in the ordinance would stand up in court. Mr. Benbrook said that this amendment lacks objective criteria and that noise is one of the most difficult things to legally enforce.

There was a discussion on other types of motorized vehicles, such as lawn motors. Mr. Benbrook said that these types of vehicles, which include farm machinery, can be exempted in the definition part of the original ordinance.

Mr. Lascari made a motion to approve Ordinance 2010-05 on first reading. There was no second of the motion. Mr. Lance said that he is uncomfortable with the fact that lawn mower and other such vehicles are not exempted. Mr. Lascari amended his motion to include verbiage stating that routine maintenance activities relating to lawn and landscaping be added to the ordinance. Mr. Lance seconded the motion.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2010—06 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS ENUMERATED WITHIN FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUNDING THEREOF Introduction, First Reading

Committee Discussion

Mayor Mach explained that this ordinance is to finance the repairs and overlay of Union Brick Road and Hoagland Road. Mr. Lascari remarked that both roads were in dire need of these repairs. There was no further Committee discussion.

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve Ordinance 2010-06 on first reading, which was seconded by Mr. Lascari.

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

Public Comment on the Consent Agenda Items Only

Debra Waldron, Maple Lane, asked if R.2010-096 included salaries for the Police Department. Mayor Mach replied that it includes salaries for employees who work in the Police Department.

CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS

- 1 – R.2010-093** Authorization to Pay Bills
- 2 – R.2010-094** Refund of Overpayment Due to State Tax Court Judgment
- 3 – R.2010-095** Payment of Court Fees and Costs
- 4 – R.2010-096** Fixing the Salaries and Wages of Officials, Appointees and Employees
- 5 – R.2010-097** Authorizing an Interlocal Service Agreement for a Joint Municipal Court
- 6 – R.2010-098** Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue and Appropriation
- 7 – R.2010-099** Authorization of Expenditures for Road Improvements
- 8 – Approval of Blue Light Permit Application** for Joseph C. DiGrazia, Blaiirstown Ambulance Corps

Mr. Seal made a motion to approve Items No. 1 through 8. Mr. Lance seconded the motion for discussion. Mr. Lance said that in reference to R.2010-096, he would like the hours for the Recreation Director set back to the original time of two days per week. Mr. Seal amended his motion to remove Item 4 – R.2010-096. Mr. Lance seconded the amended motion. The Consent Agenda was voted on, with the removal of R.2010-096.

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

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve R.2010-096, with a change in the Recreation Director to two days per week and a one-third reduction in salary and corresponding one-third reduction of hours worked. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Mr. Lascari said that he would like this matter discussed with the Recreation Director. There was a discussion on whether or not the hours of operation for the Recreation Department should be reduced. Mr. Anderson made a motion to table R.2010-096 until the August 11th meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Lance.

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Clerk – June Report
- Finance – June Report
- Fire Department May and June Reports
- Police Department – June Report
- Public Works Department –June Fuel Report
- Tax Collector – June Report
- Zoning Official

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1 – Route 94 traffic concerns – State approval received for left hand turn signal at Lambert Rd

- 2 – JCP&L billing – Mr. Lascari has completed input of data; to go to Environmental Commission for input
Mr. Lascari has a complete inventory of our street lights. He would like a representative from JCP&L come to an upcoming meeting for an informational update.
- 3 – Main Street concerns – road striping; feral cats; sidewalks
Mr. Lance said that the County agreed to mark the road and we would have to do the striping.
- 4 – Review of Noise Control Ordinance – model ordinance received from county
Mr. Lascari is working with Ms. Arena on this item.
- 5 – Cedar Lake Horse Farm – RFP results under review

One proposal was received and is still under review by the State. More information will be forthcoming.

- 6 – Service Electric Cable TV – extension of cable service
- 7 – Skylands Music Festival – timeline of events leading up to festival received from Mark Clifford

Nick Mohr was in attendance to discuss the progress of the festival. Preparations are proceeding well. Mr. Clifford has met with the police department, first aid squad and the fire department to address any concerns. There have been many discussions and arrangements regarding public safety.

Mr. Seal explained that the Skylands organizers would like permission to cut the lock on the electrical box at Sycamore Park. The power usage will be noted before and after the festival and a new lock will be placed on the service entrance upon completion. The township will be reimbursed for the cost of power usage for the festival. Mr. Mohr also requested that the township request the DCA to waive electrical permit fee. Mr. Lance made a motion to this effect, which was seconded by Mr. Lascari.

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

Anita Ardia, Dry Road, asked the Committee if the organizers of the Skylands Music Festival were being required to post a bond in the event of damages to Sycamore Park. Mr. Lance said that the Committee is not requiring the posting of a bond. Mr. Lance said that the organizers have committed to rectifying any problems. Mr. Mohr added that the festival takes pride in meeting all obligations and stated that all clean-up will be made as promised, and any damage would be addressed by the festival organizers.

Nancy Klein, Walnut Valley Road, asked about the soccer fields at Sycamore Park. Mr. Mohr said that the festival would be held at the back of Sycamore Park, behind the concession stand, and not on the soccer fields.

The Committee thanked Mr. Mohr for attending the meeting to answer the concerns of the Committee and the public.

COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE for information and possible action

- 1 – from James S. Simpson, Commissioner, NJ Dept. of Transportation, regarding *Municipal Aid, Bikeway, Center of Place, Safe Streets to Transit and Transit Village Programs* applications

Mayor Mach said that the Committee should be aware of this and asked the members to bring back any ideas to the next meeting.

- 2 – from Kimberley Harrington, Blairstown Elementary School, re: Proposal for Blairstown Elementary School Garden

Mayor Mach stated that he has concerns about the amount of fencing being purchased for the garden. Mr. Seal said that about three-quarters of the amount given to the garden club will be spent on fencing. The Clerk was requested to contact Ms. Harrington for clarification on the amount of fencing stated in the estimate.

- 3 – from Mary Jo Jerome, re: Bear Proof Garbage Cans

Mayor Mach explained that this communication is from a resident who is asking the Committee to purchase bear-proof garbage cans in bulk for residents to purchase because she feels that the price to purchase them individually is cost prohibitive. After discussion, the Committee was in agreement that it is not a function of the Committee to purchase and distribute these cans. Mayor Mach suggested that Ms. Jerome could contact local farm suppliers or household suppliers in Sussex County where there is an extreme bear problem. The Committee was in agreement with Mayor Mach's suggestion.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

There were no comments or questions from the public on the General Correspondence.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY

Mr. Benbrook asked the Committee to authorize the Clerk to set up a hearing date for the Police Department grievance that has been filed.

Mr. Benbrook asked the Committee to approve a resolution that amends the township's obligations to certain health benefits. He has been working with a representative from the Division of Pensions and needs the Committee to approve contingent upon any technical changes required by the State.

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve said resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Seal.

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

FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK

The Clerk asked for a motion to approve a Chapter 159 for unanticipated revenues and appropriations for the donation tonight of \$30,000 from Blair Academy. Mayor Mach made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lance.

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

FROM THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

COMMITTEEMAN ANDERSON

Mr. Anderson summarized the June report of Police Department incidents.

Officer Dalrymple and Officer Bee are due to step increases from Step II to Step I on June 13 and June 14, respectively. This increase will be retroactive to their appointment dates. Mr. Anderson made a motion to approve the step increases, which was seconded by Mr. Lascari.

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

Mr. Anderson said that he would like to give Officers Bee and Falcicchio the title of detective. A \$2,000 stipend goes along with this title. Officers Bee and Falcicchio would be sharing this stipend, starting July 1st. A half year's stipend would be due to each for a total of \$500.00 per officer. This amount would be included in their base pay and incorporated into their bi-weekly checks. Mr. Anderson made the motion and Mr. Lascari seconded the motion. Mr. Lascari questioned whether the position exists in the current contract. Mr. Anderson amended his motion upon the condition that the title exists.

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

Mr. Anderson addressed the current situation whereby the State refused to cover Blairstown Township during the four hours cut in the Police Department beginning July 1st. Mr. Anderson emphasized that the cuts were strictly for financial reasons. Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Benbrook to summarize the recent events regarding the Attorney General's Office and the Blairstown Police Department.

Mr. Benbrook stated that this started when the Committee cut the hours from 7am to 10pm to 7am to 6pm in an attempt to cut the police department budget. A letter was sent over a month in advance of the starting time in request for the State Police to cover these hours. In conversations with personnel at the Hope Barracks, there was no indication that this request would be denied. On June 17th a letter was received from Major O'Shea of the State Police, indicating that the State Police would not cover the additional four hours. Mr. Benbrook said that at the time of the request, the State Police had a legal obligation to cover these hours.

Mr. Benbrook gave a history of municipalities having issues with the State Police. In 2008, the State attempted to force municipalities to pay a portion of the cost incurred for having State Police. This was overturned by the Council on Unfunded Mandates. Last year, Stillwater Township disbanded their police department to go to full-time State Police coverage. The State told Stillwater that they would not afford them State Police coverage after a 90 day notice. Stillwater got an injunction and was set to go to court over the issue, but the Attorney General's Office decided not to contest the matter and Stillwater now has full time State Police Coverage.

However, on June 28th, the State budget was passed with a provision that no monies funded for the State of NJ can be used to expand State Police service for municipalities that are presently being served on a part-time basis. Blairstown attempted to argue this before the appellate division with the same argument used by Stillwater by emergent application. At the hearing, Mr. Benbrook was first advised of the provision in the budget that was passed two days prior to the hearing. The Statute that mandates the State Police is still in effect, but legally has been suspended due to the provision in the budget, and Mr. Benbrook is certain that this provision will be present in every future budget passed by the State of New Jersey.

Debra Waldron, Maple Lane, took exception with the fact that the Committee did not get written confirmation from the State Police that they would, in fact, cover the additional four (4) hours. Mr. Benbrook said that there was no indication that the State would not honor a statute that has been in place for 90 years or that the previously discussed budget provision would be in place.

Jodie Luker, McConachy Lane, asked the Committee if they are fully supportive of the Blairstown Police Department. Both Mayor Mach and Mr. Anderson responded that there are no plans to disband the police department, and that cuts were made for financial reasons.

Beth Arena, High Street, asked the Committee to look at Independence Township, which has a full-time police department, similar services, and operates their police department on a smaller budget.

Lois Brod, Cedar Glen Drive, asked if the size of the police department will remain the same. Mayor Mach replied that the coverage hours will remain the same. Mr. Benbrook added that personnel may change in order to make the coverage hours work.

Carol Cook, Four Corners Road, said that there have been an increase of break-ins and because these occurrences are not reported in the paper, people feel that nothing is going on. She would like to see a police blotter in the paper so residents are informed on criminal activities.

David GaNung, Stillwater Township, asked if the township will be appealing the decision by the Attorney General on the police issue. Mr. Benbrook said that the Committee has not yet had an opportunity to weigh their options.

COMMITTEEMAN LANCE

Mr. Lance reported that workers broke a telephone line during construction work at Blair Academy. Carl Stoddard of the Department of Public Works had to monitor the well that evening because the phone line monitored the well automatically. All operations are back to normal.

Stothoff gave an estimate for drilling and installing a second well for approximately \$50,000. A second well is needed, and since it appears that the township will not be selling the water company, he would like permission to meet with Bill Gleba of Finelli Engineering to start plans to drill a new well. Mr. Lance made a motion to authorize himself and Mr. Seal to meet with Bill Gleba of Finelli Engineering for the purpose of locating a second water well and to get bid documents. The motion was seconded by Mr. Seal.

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

Mr. Lance said that the CFO has been working on changes to the current township code regarding the water department. New rates have been suggested which will incur a 50% increase in water rates. Mr. Lance reviewed the other changes suggested in the ordinance. It was also suggested to take all references to sewers out of the ordinance. Mr. Lance asked the Committee to review the changes and to give him feedback before the next meeting.

COMMITTEEMAN LASCARI

Mr. Lascari announced that the new website will be in place in the very near future.

Mr. Lascari summarized the recent activities of the Blairstown Hose Company No. 1. He reported that the new fire tanker is being built and could be delivered around Labor Day. He said that he would like the Committee to give thought to the idea of having the Historic Preservation Commission store items in the back office currently being used by the Department of Community Affairs. If this idea is not agreeable, he would like the Committee to come up with alternative ideas.

COMMITTEEMAN SEAL

One new recalibrated meter has been installed in the water department and is running 90 gallons a minute slower than the one it replaced. The second meter is in the process of being recalibrated. When the second meter is returned, we will be getting a price estimate for going down the same casing either fracturing or drilling deeper.

Mr. Seal has quotes for the repairs needed for the municipal building roof. He would like either the Mayor or Mr. Lance to review them so the work can proceed.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

Mr. Rodman reviewed the two estimates regarding the Paulina Dam. This is a standard procedure required by the Department of Environmental Protection, State Historic Preservation Commission for an archeological and architectural study. One quote is from McCabe and Associates, Inc. for \$6,500.00 and the second quote is from Grubb and Associates, Inc. for

\$8,779.00. Both quotes cover essentially the same services. Mr. Rodman is recommending awarding the project to McCabe for \$6,500.00, a professional services contract. Mr. Lance made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Seal.

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

Mr. Lascari asked if this can be paid for with Open Space funds. Mr. Benbrook will research to ascertain if this is permissible.

MAYOR MACH

With regard to the League of Municipalities' convention this year, anyone wishing to attend needs to justify why they want to attend and what seminars or events they plan on attending.

There has been notification from the Council on Affordable Housing that the 2.5% development fee has been reinstated as of July 1, 2010. The DCA is going to confirm this.

On July 21, there will be a tour of the Township with Senator Doherty and Assemblymen Peterson and DiMaio.

Local mayors will be meeting on Thursday, July 15th to discuss common issues.

Mayor Mach said the Municipal Housing Liaison is requesting a building inspector to inspect a local unit ready to be inhabited, as required by law. The DCA will not perform these inspections. The MHL contacted David Peck, inspector in Hardwick, who has agreed to perform these inspections for \$30.00 per inspection. The MHL anticipates a need for five (5) inspections, for a total of \$150.00. This money will come out of the COAH administrative fees. The MHL will be directed to draw up an agreement outlining the scope of work to be performed by Mr. Peck. Mayor Mach made a motion to this effect, which was seconded by Mr. Lascari.

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

FROM THE PUBLIC

Lindsay Amabile, High Street, spoke about the dangerous conditions that exist on High Street. She said that many times there are 10 to 20 men loitering on the road, drinking and making noise all hours of the night. She wanted the Committee to know that the two men who spoke earlier regarding skateboarding are a part of this group she is speaking about. They bring in so many vehicles that residents have trouble parking at their own homes. It is not safe to let her children play outside. There have been numerous calls to our local police and the State Police, but they cannot do anything. She asked the Committee to pass a noise ordinance which would give the police a mechanism by which to control this.

There was a discussion by the Committee on what could be done to help Ms. Amabile. The Committee was in agreement to begin with the Zoning Official to see what can be done through his office. Mayor Mach asked Mr. Benbrook to work with Mr. Lance on drafting a "stacking" ordinance.

Anthony Zaremba, former Blairstown Police Special, asked the Committee to state the reason he is no longer employed with the township. He has heard many rumors to the effect that he was fired. The Committee verified that Mr. Zaremba was let go due to financial constraints and was not fired.

Fred Cook, Four Corners Road, pointed out that the Police website has not been updated for months. Mr. Lascari said that the individual responsible for making updates has been out, but he will try to get the site updated.

Mr. Cook would also like a police blotter on the website so the residents can be made aware of the good job the police are doing.

Anita Ardia, Dry Road, asked if repairs are going to be made to Givens Belet. Mr. Lance said that attention has been focused on the Community Center and decisions have not yet been made on repairs to Givens Belet.

Mr. and Mrs. Nienstendt, Kishpaugh Road, asked again about their problem with water seepage and what the township plans to do about it. Mr. Seal reiterated that it his belief that the Neinstedts have a water table problem and that there is nothing further for the township to do.

Herman Shoemaker, Bingham Lane, said that the Business Association would like to have a function on Main Street the second Friday of each month beginning in August. They will have a portrait artist and a deejay. This would involve the closing of Main Street. Mr. Shoemaker was instructed to contact Warren County since Main Street is a county road.

Mr. Shoemaker asked for direction on the structure at the triangle on Main Street. The Committee said that the structure could be moved.

Greg Smith, Smith Road, asked about the piece of property bought by Michael Campbell and if it has closed. Mr. Benbrook replied that Mr. Campbell is working with the Department of Environmental Protection on the property, after which the property should close.

Margaret Thomas, Dry Road, expressed concern over the trees at the Municipal Building being watered. She was told that our maintenance man does, in fact, water them on a daily basis.

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no further comments from the public, Mr. Lascari made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mayor Mach, with all members voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 am.

Submitted by:

Phyllis E. Pizzaia, RMC
Municipal Clerk