

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN
SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, December 22, 2014 – 2 PM
TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

MINUTES

OPENING; ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Shoemaker. Those present were Mr. Anderson, Mr. Avery, Mr. Lance, Mrs. Price and Mayor Shoemaker. Also present were Deputy Clerk Marion Spriggs and Township Attorney Robert Benbrook.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was conducted.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

Mayor Shoemaker 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.

DISCUSSION – Insurance

Mayor Shoemaker said that the current contract with our insurance carrier expires at the end of this year so the Committee needs to decide whether to stay with Statewide Insurance or to contract with another carrier. The two carriers being considered are Statewide Insurance and PAIC.

Sharon Cooper, Risk Management Consultant, summarized the proposals from the two carriers and the different options. (The summary sheet is attached.) There was a discussion on the differences in coverage for general liability, automobile liability and law enforcement liability. After discussion, it was the consensus of opinion that it would be in the best interest of the township to stay with Statewide Insurance Fund.

Mrs. Price made a motion to accept the proposal of Statewide Insurance for the year 2015, which was seconded by Mr. Lance.

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

DISCUSSION – Professional Services

Mrs. Price requested that Sharon Cooper and James Gilmore speak briefly and answer questions regarding the appointment as Risk Management Consultant.

Sharon Cooper said that she started her career in Blairstown and summarized the various companies and municipalities for which she has worked.

Mrs. Price expressed her displeasure with the way in which the insurance coverage was handled over the fire truck that was purchased early in 2014. She said that she believes that Mr. Gilmore would be the better choice for appointment as Risk Management Consultant.

James Gilmore of Gallagher Bollinger spoke about his qualifications and his prior years as Blairstown's Risk Management Consultant.

Mrs. Price spoke about the two audit firms being considered for appointment, Nisivoccia, LLP, and Ardito and Ardito. She said that she believes it is a good practice to employ a different firm after so many years. Mayor Shoemaker was in agreement.

With regard to professional services for a township attorney, Mrs. Price suggested hiring Benbrook & Benbrook for a three month term, and to solicit proposals for this service. Mr. Lance and Mr. Anderson said that they are not in favor of appointing another firm and have been satisfied with Mr. Benbrook's services.

Mrs. Price suggested having a Committee member assigned as liaison to insurance and offered to act as this liaison. She also distributed memoranda to the rest of the Committee regarding meeting protocol and recreation costs and comparisons with other municipalities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat DePalma, Frog Pond Road, said that she and her neighbors are requesting speed limit signs on this road. Mayor Shoemaker said that the DPW will be placing two speed limit signs on the street.

Ms. DePalma also said she appreciates Mrs. Price's attention to the budget. She also questioned the state of some of the township's roads and the need for repairs.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Avery. The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 pm.

Submitted by:

Phyllis E. Pizzaia, RMC
Municipal Clerk