

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN  
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 7:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by Mayor Shoemaker. Those present were Mr. Avery, Mrs. Dalton, Mr. Lance, Mrs. Van Valkenburg and Mayor Shoemaker. Also present were Clerk Leidner and Attorney Kevin Benbrook, Robert Gara, Police Director, Christine Rolef, Treasurer.

The **FLAG SALUTE** was conducted.

**SUNSHINE STATEMENT**

Mayor Shoemaker 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.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – up to 5 speakers, 3 minutes each

Rev. David Tillisch – 10 Stillwater Road – First United Methodist Church – Addressed a letter that he sent to the Township Committee. Mr. Tillisch showed the Township Committee a sample of the brown tap water that comes into his residence about every 6 months. This problem seems to coincide with the flushing of hydrants. Mr. Tillisch is asking the Committee for two things. First, that the residents be notified when the flushing will be occurring, not just having it noted on the water bills. Second, Mr. Tillisch would like to work with the town in finding out why this is happening. Mr. Tillisch also shared pictures from when this happened in May and October.

Mr. Avery stated that the Township is working on getting the word out when flushing will be occurring.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg suggested that when the water meters are read a note should be left at each location letting the residents know when the hydrant flushing will be occurring.

Lori Ditaranto – 7 Doe Drive – Ms. Ditaranto was thrilled when she learned about discussions being had regarding extending the hours of the police department. She gave accolades to the State Polices as they have been very responsive on the occasions when her family has had to call them. Having local police easily accessible is very important. Also, Ms. Ditaranto would like more information about the possible installation of sewers in the village.

Mayor Shoemaker informed Ms. Ditaranto and the rest of the public that the previous meeting where a presentation about the sewers was made, was for the members of the Township Committee to be given accurate facts and numbers for this project. There will be more public meetings held in a larger venue to allow all members of the public to speak.

Jean O'Brien – 16 East Avenue – Questioned if the galvanized pipes are in the ground, isn't that a problem. She wondered if this is the reason the water is brown.

Mayor Shoemaker explained that galvanized means that it does not rust. The water mains are cast iron.

Frank Anderson – 41 Polkville Road - Urged all of the Township Committee members to be fiscally responsible. Over 10 years that Mr. Anderson was in office the budget was reduced over 26% but still kept the beauty of Blairstown. Mr. Anderson recommended that the sewer project should go for referendum. Also he noted that once you begin extended police coverage you can't undo it. Extending police hours may require a municipal tax.

Mayor Shoemaker made mention that when the Township was discussing the Police Department hours about 10 years ago it was explained that if a municipality has State Police coverage and then decides to provide its own police coverage there is no going back. Once the coverage for the municipality is taken out of the state budget it is gone forever.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg noted that before a decision is made regarding expanding the police hours there should be a public meeting at a larger venue, possibly North Warren, to give the members of the public the opportunity to voice their opinion.

Mary Stone & Kurt Snegel– 81 Mohican Road and William Salvadore – 83 Mohican Road- Last meeting the residents explained their request for 30/40 tons of shot rock to correct a drainage issue that is causing water to go over the road and washing out the private road which is access to their property. It was discovered that the pipe below the road is completely collapsed. The pipe that runs parallel to the road is the issue.

Mr. Avery has noted that the residents have done everything that was asked of them to try to alleviate this problem which included trenches. The municipal rate for the stone from Tilcon is \$30.00 per ton. The municipality would pay \$900- \$1200.00 for stone, plus \$1800.00 to spread the stone. The Township would pay \$2900.00 of the cost.

Mayor Shoemaker made mention that this will be discussed later in the meeting.

Gina Trish – 26 East Avenue – open Line of communication among property owners regarding water not being potable. Why sewers now? NJAC 79A Cesspools and inspections for real estate transfers can't happen any longer, so residents can't sell their homes. Sharing the system with Blair Academy and low interest rates and government grants to assist with this project make it a good time for this project in her opinion. Mrs. Trish explained her personal reasons for the need for this system.

#### **PRESENTATION –**

**Titan Mechanical** – Is proposing a temporary ice skating rink at Sycamore Park. This temporary rink would be put into place in December and taken down in March. The hours of operation will be 10-6, 7 days a week. The proposed entrance fee will be \$10.00 per person and will include skate rental. Titan Mechanical will provide everything. The rink will be for recreational use only. There will be no ice hockey. The owners of Titan Mechanical will be onsite during the hours of operation. There will be 3 skate guards at all times. The Township Insurance carrier has approved adding the temporary ice rink to our policy. Township Attorney Benbrook noted this could be described as an extraordinary unspecifiable service because it is so unique since the fee that is

being charged is not coming back to the Township, going instead to Titan Mechanical. This money will be used to operate the ice rink and everything that goes along with it. Titan Mechanical is not looking for anything from the Township; this is their way of giving back to the community.

Mayor Shoemaker made a motion to pursue the ice skating rink proposed by Titan Mechanical and authorize the Township Attorney to draft a lease. The motion was seconded by Mr. Avery.

Roll call vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker.  
All ayes: Motion carried.

**Blairstown Hose Company** – Fire Chief Darren Occhiuzzo along with the truck Committee Dave Peck, Assistant Chief- Calvin Inscho, Captain - Mike Rumsey, Firefighter - Sal Bedell. Darren thanked the Township Committee for everything as this is his last year as Fire Chief. The Mayor and Township Committee thanked Darren for his service. Dave Peck presented the Township Committee with a blue print and the specs for a new Attack Truck. This truck would replace the current first line pumper that is 13 years old. By NFPA standards they consider a truck that is 15 years old or older a second line piece of equipment. The manufacturers estimated cost of this truck is \$550,000.00. Mrs. Van Valkenburg asked if the fire company has approached the other municipalities that they serve to contribute to this purchase, specifically Hardwick & Frelinghuysen. The target date for the truck acquisition would be 2018. Manufacturers are advising that every year the truck goes up 4%. The truck has everything included. The Mayor stated that In the meantime it behooves the committee to develop parameters as to what financial contributions should be received from other municipalities for the fire services provided by Blairstown Hose Company. Then the Township Committee can begin to negotiate with those two communities. Christine Rolef, CFO requested that the fire company also get pricing on a truck that does not include all of the equipment. Get a price for the truck that is not turn key ready.

## **MINUTES**

October 12, 2016 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Avery made a motion to approve the October 12, 2016 minutes, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

Roll call vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker.  
Abstain: Lance

## **ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE 2016-10 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2016-02 “FIXING THE SALARY 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**  
Second Reading, Adoption

Mayor Shoemaker made note that this just sets the salary range of each position in the municipality.

A motion was made by Mayor Shoemaker to open the Public Hearing, Mr. Avery seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All ayes, motion carried.

There were no comments or questions from the public.

A motion was made by Mayor Shoemaker to open the Public Hearing, Mr. Avery seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Lance made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2016-10 on second reading, which was seconded by Mayor Shoemaker.

Roll call vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker.

All ayes: Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE 2016-11 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2016-03 AN ORDINANCE GRANTING MUNICIPAL CONSENT TO THE ISSUANCE OF A FRANCISE TO SERVICE ELECTRIC CABLE T.V. OF NEW JERSEY, INC., TO CONSTRUCT, OWN, OPERATE, EXTEND AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN, COUNTY OF WARREN, SETTING FORTH CONDITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE GRANT OF SAID MUNICIPAL CONSENT AND PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION AND USE OF SAID SYSTEM  
(Adoption, Second Reading TO BE HELD DECEMBER 14, 2016)**

Attorney Kevin Benbrook explained that the public hearing for this Ordinance will be held on December 14, 2016 due to a publication issue.

**BOND ORDINANCE 2016-12 – BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$350,000 FOR PHASE II CONSTRUCTION OF A BACK UP WELL FOR THE WATER DEPARTMENT IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$350,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION**

Introduction, First Reading

Christine Rolef, CFO explained that this is Phase II for the well. This is for everything else needed to get the back-up well up and working. Phase 1 was for the actual back-up well. Ordinances normally don't go over a 2 year period, therefore we need to have the Introduction in November and the Adoption in December, including the estoppel period so that it is good to go at the end of December. This is necessary to be able to have this project on schedule with the DEP deadline requirements.

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2016-12 on first reading, which was seconded by Mr. Avery.

Roll call vote: AYE: Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker.

All ayes: Motion Carried

**ORDINANCE 2016-13 – ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 142-36 B: FIXING CERTAIN RECREATIONAL USE FEES**

Introduction, First Reading

Pat Sagan, Recreation Director explained that it has come time to charge fees for the use of athletic fields from outside organizations, such as the traveling teams and clubs. Not Blairstown Teams. These fees will help with the facilities maintenance cost. The fee schedule is broken out in for each user type. An application for Use of Facilities will be required to be submitted. The completed application will be distributed to the proper municipal departments for review. Once it is reviewed and complete and the fees are received the Application for Use will be placed on the agenda for approval by the Township Committee.

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve Ordinance 2016-13 on first reading, which was seconded Mr. Avery.

Roll call vote: AYE: Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker.  
All ayes: Motion Carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1 - **R.2016 – 107** Authorization to Pay Bills
- 2 - **R.2016 – 108** Redemption of Certification of Sale No. 2015-005
- 3 - **R.2016 – 109** Redemption of Certification of Sale No. 2016-001
- 4 - **R.2016 – 110** Resolution in Support of Realigning of the Warren County Agricultural Development Area (ADA) in Blairstown Township
- 5 - **R.2016 – 111** Appointment of Payroll Clerk – Maureen DeSimone
- 6 - **R.2016 – 112** Appointment of Webmaster and Newsletter Coordinator- Linda Leidner
- 7 - **R.2016 – 113** Appointment of OEM Administrative Assistant – Linda Leidner
- 8 - **R.2016 - 114** Appointment of Accounts Payable Clerk – Lori Nienstedt

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

Roll call vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker.  
All ayes: Motion carried.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

- Clerk – October Report
- DPW – October Report
- Finance – October Finance and Fuel Reports
- Fire Department – No Report
- Police Department – October Report
- Tax Collector – October Report
- Warren County Health Department – October 7, 2016 Report

Mr. Lance made a motion to accept the Department Reports, which was seconded by Mayor Shoemaker.

Voice vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker  
All ayes: Motion carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Energy Aggregation** – This was a presentation made last month. Mayor Shoemaker asked what the Committees feelings were regarding this. A major concern is that it is an opt out program rather than an opt in. Other municipalities in the area are involved in this program. The consensus of the Committee is that there is no interest in participating at this time.

**Water runoff at 51 Mohican Road** - Mayor Shoemaker made note that there are other properties in Blirstown that are affected with water runoff issues due to the town being hilly. Mrs. Van Valkenburg remarked that because there is an issue with the pipe under the road collapsing, this is a unique situation. The Township Attorney made note that because the underground pipe is the issue granting the approval of the shot rock repair would not be setting a precedent for other private properties that have similar water runoff issues within the Township. The Township is fixing a public pipe in an indirect fashion. Mayor Shoemaker will be asking Carl Stoddart to get a scope examination of the pipes and determine what the issues are.

Mr. Avery made a motion to approve the purchase of shot rock with the spreading of shot rock not to exceed \$2900.00, Mrs. Van Valkenburg seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: AYE: Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker.  
All ayes: Motion Carried.

**Sewer Update - Mr. Avery** reported that we are moving ahead with exploring the feasibility of the sewers. Also exploring what grants and loans may be available as well. There may be grants to help residents with tapping into the system and hook ups. Mrs. Van Valkenburg highly recommends a meeting at a large venue that gets the information out there from the professionals and the Township Committee. All residents should be given the opportunity to voice their opinion.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Zoning Officer Request to review and revise municipal fees. David Diehl has asked that the Clothing Bin Fees and other zoning related fees that need to be adjusted. Township Clerk Leidner recommended that a Fee Ordinance be adopted in the New Year to deal with several different fees that need to be reviewed. The Committee was in favor of this recommendation.
2. Creation of a subcommittee to address the commercial bus and truck traffic in the Bridge Street area. After a discussion the Township Committee decided that this issue needs to go to the County. Mayor Shoemaker with the assistance of the Township Engineer will craft a letter to the County regarding this issue.
3. Discussion – Hickory Hollow Lane Snow Removal – Mr. Benbrook mentioned that he has seen the Correspondence and has discussed it with Ms. Rolef. Mr. Benbrook will send a letter of response as in the past. Mrs. Rolef explained that this is becoming a harassment issue

## **COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE** for information and possible action

1. From EDC – Greater Blirstown Area is an Official Appalachian Trail Community. Blirstown is the first community in the State of New Jersey to gain this designation. The Township Committee acknowledged the groups involved. The Historic Preservation Committee prepared the historical narrative on the application. The BEC was involved as well. Tremendous accolades for everyone's hard work.

2. From Roger W. Thomas, Land Use Board Attorney – Regarding North Warren Regional High School. There were two items received. The first was regarding dead buffer trees in the solar panel zone. Debbie Walron, Chairwoman spoke regarding this issue. There were two resolutions that were passed. The trees were to be planted as a screening to mitigate the site damage from the solar panels. This is an enforcement issue that the Zoning Officer has to address. Mayor Shoemaker will ask the Zoning Officer to take a look at the situation and ask him to make a recommendation as to how to fix the issue.

The Township Committee also received a letter regarding the Zone change at North Warren. Mayor Benbrook explained that the last time there was meeting with the Board of Education the Committee asked them to go back to the Land Use Board and talk about the possibility of a conditional use zone. It seems that the Board does not want to incur that expense. Mrs. Van Valkenburg asked the Superintendent the last time she was at the Township Committee meeting if there were any plans for any new buildings in the near future; she indicated that there were none. Mrs. Van Valkenburg also explained that the Township will be working on the Master Plan over the next couple of years and changes could be made at that time if needed. Mayor Shoemaker pointed out that there are two options, one would be for the school to spend the money now to pursue a conditional use or two wait until the Master Plan is done.

#### **GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

Mayor Shoemaker read the letter, in full, that was received from Corey Tierney Administrator, Department of Land Preservation that was addressed to the BEC regarding the Appalachian Trail Community Application that was submitted. The application was unanimously approved by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, giving the Greater Blirstown Area the unique designation of being an official Appalachian Trail Community. It was noted that this application was the best they have seen.

#### **FROM THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY**

Mr. Benbrook explained that in a prior Executive Session he presented the Township Committee with the parameters of the settlement for the Affordable Housing Litigation. Mr. Benbrook briefly explained what has transpired over the past months regarding Affordable Housing obligations for the members of the public that had not been in attendance during that time. Mr. Benbrook explained the overlay zone, in that if the Township does get sewers then the overlay zone would give the option of maybe doing apartments over retail or a tear down replacing it with a duplex. It will not be an active zone and it will never become an active zone if the Township does not install sewers. If it ever did become active it is not that the affordable housing number goes up it is simply that someone could use the zone to try to satisfy the number of required units. The overlay zone is limited to the village. This settlement is not locking the township into having to put a sewer system in place.

Mrs. Waldron asked for the record, that the next time sewers are discussed that the Land Use Board be informed. The Land Use Board is responsible for the infrastructure of the town. Mayor Shoemaker let Mrs. Waldron know that the Land Use Board and members of the public will be advised when the sewers are being discussed.

Resolution No. 2016-115 –APPROVING SETTLEMENT WITH FAIR SHARE HOUSING CENTER AND AUTHORIZING THE BOARD ATTORNEY TO NEGOTIATE AND FINALIZE THE LANGUAGE OF A SETTLEMENT AND DIRECTING MAYOR AND CLERK TO EXECUTE THE FINAL FORM OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Mr. Lance made a motion to adopt Resolution 2016-115. This motion was seconded by Mayor Shoemaker.

Roll call vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker

All ayes: Motion carried

**FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK**

Mrs. Leidner thanked the Poll Workers for a job well done. She also thanked the public for their patience while standing the lines waiting to vote. There was a very heavy turnout for this presidential election and working together made it run a smoothly as possible.

**FROM THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

Back Up Well – Mr. Rodman explained that an alternate area has been located that would be suitable for a well. Working carefully with Blair. Rotary well drillers can't get to the well site. Leggette, Brashears is now considering installing a driven well. Specs will remain as they were previously. There are two driven well contractors that will come up and look at the sight. An easement deed has been drafted and circulated to Blair Academy and it is ready to go when a location is decided on. There is a week in March that would work. Mrs. Van Valkenburg asked whether we are on schedule with the DEP. Mr. Rodman responded that we are cutting it very close. Mr. Benbrook has been keeping the DEP informed as to what has been transpiring and will continue to do so.

Mr. Rodman reported that there is an issue with Chapter 87 Uniform Construction Code and Chapter 109 Fire Prevention. Blairstown local fire inspector is Jerry Valardi. Mr. Valardi works for the DCA and is responsible for the fire inspections in town. Chapter 109 Fire Prevention Ordinance says that it is the town is responsible for enforcement. This chapter should be updated to coincide with Chapter 87 noting that the State DCA is responsible for local Fire Prevention. Mr. Benbrook will make the change to consolidate these ordinances.

There are big plastic pipes sticking up out of the ground in front of ACME. This is a fire protection system. There are chambers under the ground. There is a drill set up with the Fire Company and ACME next week to test the system.

**FROM THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**MAYOR SHOEMAKER**

Mayor Shoemaker reported that if you have seen rigs drilling on 94 and Johnsonburg Road they are taking core samples in preparation of repairing the bridge. Design plans are scheduled to be done by the end of 2017. The State plans to have the bridge replaced by the end of 2018. The drilling contractor hired our Police Department to be the onsite safety officer. While on duty a vehicle hit the back of the police cruiser. The driver had injuries; fortunately the police officer was not injured, but the cruiser was totaled.

Mayor Shoemaker reported that there have been complaints that Tractor Supply is receiving deliveries at 4:40 am and it is waking up the neighborhood. Mayor Shoemaker asked Attorney Benbrook to review Chapter 143 Peace and Good Order and consider whether this section of the code book covers the issue. If so, then Mr. Benbrook can make a determination whether a letter to



Tractor Supply's Attorney or the Property Owner would be in order. A couple years back there was an issue with loud speakers at Tractor Supply and it was resolved with a letter to their attorney by Township Attorney Robert Benbrook.

Mayor Shoemaker noted that he received notification from JCP&L regarding tree trimming along many roads in Blairstown, trimming to the point where they are attempting to provide four years of clearance from all of the electric wires. This will start early 2017. In addition, off road trimming will be anticipated to start in 2017 as well.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBER AVERY**

Mr. Avery reported that the next trip for the Seniors' will be November 18 to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse for the Christmas Show. The last event of the year will be the Christmas Party that will be held at the Bella Giorno on Thursday, December 8 at noon. The Township Committee and spouses are invited to attend.

Mr. Avery reported that the American Legion got prices for new cabinets to upgrade the kitchen at the Givens Belet Building. A price of \$5505.00 was quoted by Home Depot and Lowes gave a price of \$3895.00. After a discussion the members of the Township Committee decided it would be beneficial to seek less expensive alternatives for the cabinets.

Blair Academy is working on calibrating their large water meters. There are about 17 or 18 of them. Blair will let Mr. Avery know what the schedule will be for the calibration.

A DPW worker will be assigned to the water plant in December to start working on the corroded pipes and installing meters at customers' homes and businesses.

At the meeting of October 28, 2016 the Township Committee voted to approve part time per diem employees to plow snow but did not specify how many would be hired.

Mr. Avery made a motion to approve 2 per diem, part time employees to plow snow at a rate of \$18.00 per hour. Motion was seconded by Mr. Lance.

Roll call vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker

All ayes: Motion carried

At this point in the meeting Mayor Shoemaker mentioned that it is 10:15.

Mrs. Dalton made a motion to extend the meeting to 11:00pm. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lance.

Voice vote: All ayes, motion carried.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBER DALTON**

Mrs. Dalton reported that interviews were conducted for an Accounts Payable Clerk. She was pleased to announce that the highly qualified candidate chosen was Lori Nienstadt.

Mrs. Dalton reported that she and Mrs. Van Valkenburg met with John Kennedy and Bob Law relative to adopting a process management system, starting with DPW.

Mrs. Dalton received a memo from Mrs. Leidner explaining that Election Day is a scheduled holiday. The staff does work on Election Day. This is a day when residents are in the building to vote and it is convenient for them to conduct business with the municipal staff. Mrs. Leidner is requesting that that Election Day be made a floating holiday that could be used anytime during the year.

Mrs. Dalton made a motion to approve Election Day Holiday as a floating holiday for employees. Mr. Lance seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All ayes, motion carried.

Mrs. Dalton also requested a change in the No Closed Policy that is in place for snow emergencies. The Township Committee agreed to amend the policy to recognize a state of emergency.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBER LANCE**

Thanked the Board of Elections and Poll Workers for doing such a great job during a very busy election day.

Mr. Lance reported that the Police Department had 9 adult arrests, 331 calls for service.

Mr. Lance received an email from Lieutenant Johnsen requesting to institute "Active Duty Military Parking" in the parking lot behind the Municipal Building. When someone is activated for overseas duty sometimes they have nowhere to leave their car. A Hold Harmless Agreement will be signed. The Police Department will hold the keys to the car. The Township insurance company is ok with this arrangement.

Mr. Lance made a motion to direct Mr. Benbrook to work with Lieutenant Johnsen to draw up a Hold Harmless Agreement. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

Voice vote: All ayes, motion carried.

On October 29 the Blairstown Historical Preservation Committee held the Haunts of Blairstown Tour. There were 3 separate tours and approximately 140/150 people attended. Very well attended and very well run. There will be another one next year.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBER VAN VALKENBURG**

Mrs. Van Valkenburg thanked everyone for their support in the election.

Halloween was phenomenal. Mrs. Van Valkenburg thanked the police for closing the road, it was safe and a great event. Very well attended.

On Sunday, November 13 at Walnut Valley Field the Midget Football Championship game will be played. Steel Hill will be playing Washington Borough.

#### **FROM THE PUBLIC**

Fred Cook – 4 Corners Road – Recommends that the voting be separated into at least 2 polling locations to cut down the lines during elections. This will be taken into consideration for future elections.

Domenic Daleo – 160 Cedar Lake Road – voiced his concerns about the tax rates rising. Mr. Daleo had heard that Yards Creek is being phased out. Mr. Lance explained that it just being recommissioned.

Jeanette Iurato – 2 Heller Hill Road – wanted to confirm that the Township will be providing two Porta-Johns for the Jingle on Main being held on December 3. Would like Carl to put the Christmas Lights up prior to December 3.

Doug Pitchell - 31 Belcher Road – Sewers have come up 4 times before. Mr. Pitchell offered his calculation of what he believes the sewers will cost. Is it economically feasible? What is the overall benefit to everyone in the township? Mr. Pitchell has given Mr. Lance a list of his credentials.

**RESOLUTION No. 2016-116 - AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION – For PURPOSES OF POTENTIAL CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF LAND AND PERSONNEL**

Motion was made by Mayor Shoemaker to enter into Executive Session for the purposes stated above. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Van Valkenburg.

Voice Vote: All ayes, motion carried.

**Meeting Closed to the Public at 10:50pm.**

Mr. Lance made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

Voice Vote: All ayes, motion carried.

**Meeting re-opened to the Public at 11:15pm**

Mr. Benbrook summarized the Executive Session. Mr. Benbrook explained that the Committee discussed the possibility of purchasing some property with Open Space Funds.

Mr. Lance made a motion to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the contract of sale for the purchase of Kostenbader Property, known as Block 1402, Lot 3. The Motion was seconded by Mrs. Van Valkenburg.

Roll call vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker.

All ayes: Motion carried.

Mr. Benbrook explained that the Committee also discussed the request from Dawn Gallant to have the option to join the State Health Retirement Benefits if necessary down the road with the Township Contributing. A memorializing resolution will be crafted by Mr. Benbrook for the next meeting.

The final item discussed was a request by an employee to have the Township make a contribution towards the cost of remaining in the health benefit plan that they are currently enrolled in because they do not wish to join the family health plan that is currently being offered to employees. The Township Committee felt that it did not want to set that precedent at this time and does not approve the employee's request. The Mayor will discuss the decision with the employee.

Mr. Lance made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

Voice Vote: All aye, motion carried

**ADJOURNMENT**

As there were no further comments from the public, Mr. Avery made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Dalton. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Linda Leidner, RMC  
Municipal Clerk