

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN  
COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MEETING  
Held at North Warren Regional High School  
10 Noe Road  
Blairstown, NJ 07882  
Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 7:30pm**

**MINUTES**

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 Lance. Those present were Mr. Avery, Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mrs. Waldron, and Mayor Lance. Also present were Township Clerk, Linda Leidner and Township Attorney, Dawn Sullivan.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**SUNSHINE 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. This agenda is subject to change by order of the Blairstown Township Committee before and/or during this scheduled meeting.

Resolution No. 2018 – 125 - AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION – for the purpose of Personnel.

Motion to authorize executive session was made by Mrs. Dalton and was seconded by Mrs. Waldron

Roll Call Vote: Aye – Avery, Dalton, Van Valkenburg, Waldron, Lance.

All ayes – Motion carried.

Executive Session began at 7:04pm

Motion to close executive session was made at 7:30 p.m. by Mr. Avery and was seconded by Mrs. Waldron.

Roll Call Vote: Aye – Avery, Dalton, Van Valkenburg, Waldron, Lance.

All ayes – Motion carried.

Regular Session began at 7:31p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Van Valkenburg began the meeting by thanking North Warren Regional High School and staff for their hospitality.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg explained that the picture on the cover of the Power Point hand out is a picture of the Eagle Scout Project done by Trey Baldwin. Mrs. Van Valkenburg went on to say that there will be a sign dedication ceremony for the Eagle Scout Project on November 4, 2018 at 1:00pm and all are invited to attend.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg went on to introduce the Township Staff Members in attendance at the meeting. They were as follows: Christine Rolef, CFO; Eric Usinowicz, Acting Director of Public Works; Scott Johnsen, Police Captain; Lori Nienstedt, Deputy Clerk; Pat Sagan, Recreation Director and Lisa Whitesell, Police Records Secretary.

Deputy Mayor Van Valkenburg went on to present a Power Point. This Power Point will be placed at the end of these minutes. It contained the following information:

**Power Point Presentation by Deputy Mayor Van Valkenburg**

- 1. Explanation of Blirstown Tax Bill – Assessment and Tax Rate**
- 2. Comparative Financial Information 2014 - 2018**
- 3. Anticipated Capital Projects**
- 4. Potential Road Projects**
- 5. General Bond Obligation – Current Fund**
- 6. Open Space Debt Obligation**
- 7. Blirstown Township Budget Comparison 2016-2018 looking ahead to 2019**

**FROM THE PUBLIC** – Several members of the public spoke regarding items that were presented in the Power Point and asked questions.

The members of the Township Committee commended Mrs. Van Valkenburg on her presentation. It was well thought out and very informative.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg explained that she made the commitment to have a meeting like this and keep the Township residents well informed. She is also committed to the Township Committee being completely transparent.

The Power Point will remain on the Township Website for people to refer to and to view if they were not in attendance tonight.

Mayor Lance explained that the Walnut Valley Firehouse site, which was initially a creamery, had two underground tanks that leaked. There needs to be further testing of the site by putting 5 geo-probes down 20 feet.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg made a motion to authorize Geo Worx to perform these tests in the amount of \$12,994.00, which was seconded by Mr. Avery.

Roll Call Vote: Aye – Avery, Dalton, Van Valkenburg, Waldron

Abstain - Lance

All ayes – Motion carried.

Mrs. Waldron noted that the Township Committee received two letters regarding the Police Department.

The first letter was from Brian Doyle thanking the Blirstown Police Department for their quick response to a first aid call, explaining that the Police Department arrived within 2 minutes and he was very grateful.

The second letter came from Shana Scarpone, the family dog was hit by a car on Sunday night and unfortunately the dog passed away. The police were very kind to the family, which includes a 3 year old little boy. A couple of days later the Police went to the house and presented the little boy with a stuffed animal that looked just like the dog that they lost. The family wanted to be sure that this story was told to show that the Blirstown Police Department goes over and above at all times.

**ADJOURNMENT**

As there were no further comments from the public, a motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Waldron and was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

Voice Vote: All ayes – motion carried.

The Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Leidner, RMC  
Municipal Clerk