

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN  
COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MEETING  
Wednesday, April 24, 2019, 7:30pm**

**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 Lance. Those present were Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. VanValkenburg, Mrs. Waldron and Mayor Lance. Also present were Township Clerk, Linda Leidner.

The **FLAG SALUTE** was conducted

**SUNSHINE STATEMENT**

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

Motion for Resolution No. 2019 – 059 - AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION – For the purpose of Personnel.

Motion was made by made by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mr. Sikkes.

Roll Call Vote: Aye – Moorhead, Sikkes, Van Valkenburg, Waldron, Lance  
All ayes – Motion carried.

Executive Session began at 7:02 p.m.

Motion to close executive session made by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mr. Sikkes.

Roll Call Vote: Aye – Moorhead, Sikkes, Van Valkenburg, Waldron, Lance  
All ayes – Motion carried.

Executive Session closed at 7:40 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Paulina Dam**

- a. Mayor Lance contacted Beth Styler Barry, asking what the status is of the Paulina Dam. She replied that by end of the Summer 2019, the completion of the design stage is expected.
- b. We have to wait until the design stage is complete and then it is likely that the Nature Conservancy and the DEP will line up financing to remove the Dam.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1) Sycamore Park Proposal – Patricia Sagan, Recreation Director was in attendance.**

- a. Jamie Oatley from The Mom’s Club has contacted Mrs. Sagan offering to install an outdoor ping pong table, concrete chess/checkers set with stools, and hopscotch pad at no cost to the Township. The project will utilize a 35’x25’ area of the park which will be leveled by the DPW.
- b. Individuals will be required to bring their own ping pong supplies, chess/checkers sets.
- c. Mrs. Sagan requested permission from the Township Committee for the Mom’s Club to begin immediate work on this project.

Motion to allow the Mom’s Club to begin work on this project made by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mrs. VanValkenburg.

Roll Call Vote: Aye – Moorhead, Sikkes, Van Valkenburg, Waldron, Lance  
All ayes – Motion carried.

### **2) Resolution No. 2019 – 060 - Awarding Contract for Lawn Mowing Services**

Motion to award lawn mowing service to Turf Professionals for the amount of \$1423.05 per week for 26 weeks, with the condition that they agree to a contract that stipulates the times available and any other conditions our attorney puts in the contract made by Mr. Moorhead; seconded by Mr. Sikkes.

Roll Call Vote: Aye – Moorhead, Sikkes, Van Valkenburg, Waldron, Lance  
All ayes – Motion carried.

Motion to award summer part-time employment to Justin Collins at a rate of \$12.00 per hour for the period of mid-May until the third week of August was made by Mr. Moorhead, seconded by Mrs. Waldron.

Roll Call Vote: Aye – Moorhead, Sikkes, Van Valkenburg, Waldron, Lance  
All ayes – Motion carried.

### **3) Resolution No. 2019 - 061 – Accepting Resignation of Municipal Clerk**

Motion to accept the resignation of the Blirstown Municipal Clerk, Linda Leidner was made by Mrs. Waldron with deep regret, seconded by Mr. Sikkes.

Roll Call Vote: Aye – Moorhead, Sikkes, Waldron, and Mayor Lance with deep regret.  
Nay – Mrs. VanValkenburg  
Motion carried.

### **4) North Warren Regional High School Budget Hearing**

On Monday, April 29, 2019, North Warren Regional High School will be holding a budget hearing in the Library at 6 p.m.. They are going for a 2% levy increase, reducing 9 positions, and are discussing going to referendum for an additional 1.75% increase.

Mrs. VanValkenburg stated that she believes the Blirstown Elementary School is going for a 1.2 cent increase.

Mayor Lance encouraged attendance at this meeting.

#### **FROM THE PUBLIC**

- 1) Bob Halberstadt of Main Street spoke to the “No right turn on red light” sign on the corner of Bridge and Rt. 94. Mr. Halberstadt stated this intersection is dangerous and causes major traffic back-ups. Mrs. VanValkenburg commented that she understood that Township Engineer, Ted Rodman, was handling this.

Mr. Halberstadt also stated that there is still a need for light changing clickers. Mrs. Waldron stated that Mr. Patel of the DOT said he was going to acquire these for us. Mrs. Waldron has not received a response as yet from Mr. Patel.

- 2) Dave Paulson of Water Street asked about the status of the Main Street Advisory Committee. Mr. Moorhead replied that Mr. Usinowicz and Chief Johnsen are currently researching any ordinances that might assist in enforcing parking issues, storage issues. Mr. Paulson stated that he would like to foster a collaboration by utilizing volunteers to help move things forward as it is already April.

Mrs. Waldron said that she would like to meet with village area residents to have an understanding of what their concerns are.

Mr. Paulson stated that they would like to move forward with plans to place ornamental trees near the triangle at the beginning of Main Street on the Route 94 side. He will be getting more information and presenting it at the next meeting.

- 3) Gina Trish of East Avenue stated her support of a municipal tax.
- 4) Carol Cook of Four Corners Road stated that she has new neighbors and that she approached them about the new tax being proposed to Blairstown. Additionally, three houses total sold on her road.
- 5) Brian Goldrich of Union Brick Road stated his support for a municipal tax. Mrs. Waldron thanked Mr. Goldrich for reaching out to her and asking her for more information.
- 6) Kevin Doell of Heller Hill Road thanked Mayor Lance for his compassion towards his constituents by running our local government in a lean and smart way. Mr. Doell stated that he commends the other members of the Committee who also are exhibiting the same compassion towards their constituents by trying to build our infrastructure.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

As there were no further comments from the public, Mrs. Waldron made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Moorhead. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Submitted by:  
Lori Nienstedt, Deputy Clerk  
April 9, 2019

Approved by:  
Linda Leidner, Municipal Clerk