

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, October 10, 2018, 7:30 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 at 7:00pm 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.

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.

Resolution No. 2018- 115 AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION – for the purpose of Personnel.

Motion to authorize executive session was made at 7:02p.m.by Mrs. Waldron and was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

Executive Session began 7:03p.m.

Motion to close executive session was made at 7:40 p.m. by Mrs. Van Valkenburg and was seconded by Mrs. Waldron.

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

Regular Session began at 7:40 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT -

Ann M. Sandberg – 14 Sunset Hill – Ms. Sandberg requested an answer to her questions from the September Township Committee Meeting inquiring as to when the Township officially obtained ownership of Main Street and the permitted use of certain businesses on Main Street.

Due to the specifics of the question, the Township Attorney advised that the owner of the business of which Mrs. Sandberg was inquiring to come before the Township Committee to discuss the issue.

Rosalie Murray – Ms. Murray requested the Township Committee to reinstate the Environmental Commission and to charge the Commission with the responsibility to explore ways in which the community can mitigate global warming.

PRESENTATIONS:

CARE Committee – Dave Paulson and Kevin Doell of CARE started the presentation with the CARE Mission Statement. CARE stands for Community Addiction Response and Education. This group was formed to help make the community aware of the opioid addiction not only in Blirstown but in Warren County and across the country. CARE meets on the third Monday of each month, new members are always welcome.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS – The DPW, Open Space and Police Department heads presented their individual department reports.

Joel McGreen, Chairman of the Open Space Committee - gave an update on the status of the Nonnemaker property and Mohican Farms.

Captain Johnsen – reported that there was a fatal crash on Route 94 by Dairy Queen. Captain Johnsen also reported that there were 4 drug arrests. The two new officers have completed their training. The canine starts on the road on November 12. Captain Johnsen also reported that there was a case of cyber bullying at North Warren High School that is being investigated. There were 142 motor vehicle stops, 46 summonses, and 4 narcotics arrests.

The Blirstown Police will be on duty from 6am-midnight beginning October 22, 2018.

Committeewoman Waldron invited the public to attend the Blirstown Elementary School Board of Education Meeting to hear the discussion of police protection at the elementary school. This meeting will be held on Thursday, October 18 at 7:00pm.

Fernya Klindt- Blirstown Ambulance – gave the August & September statistics report. The Blirstown Ambulance Corp. responded to 88 calls in August. They saw 71 patients and volunteered 406 man hours. Blirstown had 40 calls, Hope 25 calls, Hardwick 4 calls, Frelinghuysen 11 calls, Knowlton 6 calls, Walpack had none and there was 1 call elsewhere. In September the Blirstown Ambulance Corp. responded to 105 calls. They saw 80 patients and volunteered 437 man hours. Blirstown had 67 calls, Hope 17 calls, Hardwick 4 calls, Frelinghuysen 10 calls, Knowlton 3 calls, Walpack had none and there were 4 calls elsewhere.

Eric Usinowicz, Acting Director of Public Works – Mr. Usinowicz gave his monthly report. Pot holes were patched on the following roads: LaBarre, Shotwell, Kishpaugh, Gwinnup, Four Corners, Stonybrook and Smith Road. Lids and risers have been installed on Mohican and milling will begin tomorrow at 7:00am. Paving will be scheduled for next week.

Calvin Inscho, Chief of Blirstown Hose Company - Mr. Inscho noted that the Blirstown Hose Company is hosting a Comedy Show Fundraiser on Friday night. Tickets are still available.

Mr. Inscho presented the Township Committee with documentation of where the money from Frelinghuysen and Hardwick has been going over the past 5 years. The Hose Company has been purchasing Capital items with that money.

Chief Inscho discussed the purchase of air packs with the members of the Township Committee. He presented the Township Committee with an adjusted quote for 20 air packs. Mr. Inscho explained that these air packs will be on the state contract as of October 29. This is the 2018 compliance price. The total cost estimate is \$146,900.00 for 20 air packs.

MINUTES

September 12, 2018 – Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the Regular meeting minutes listed above was made by Mr. Avery, seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

ORDINANCES

FOR ADOPTION:

ORDINANCE NO: 2018-21 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF DPW STORAGE SHED WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUNDING THEREOF

Second Reading, Public Hearing

Mrs. Van Valkenburg explained that this is for a storage shed at the DPW.

There were no comments or questions from the public. Mayor Lance closed the public hearing.

Motion to approve Ordinance 2018-21 was made by Mr. Avery; seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

Roll Call Vote: Aye – Avery, Dalton, Van Valkenburg, Waldron, Lance
All ayes - Motion carried.

FOR INTRODUCTION:

ORDINANCE NO: 2018-22 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 19 “LAND DEVELOPMENT”, ARTICLE 19-1000 “ADMINISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT, PENALTIES, VARIANCES AND WAIVERS” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN

Introduction; First Reading

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2018-22 on First Reading was made by Mrs. Waldron; which was seconded by Mr. Avery.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg explained that this Ordinance is being put into place to give the Zoning Officer the ability to issue violations.

Roll Call Vote: Aye – Avery, Dalton, Van Valkenburg, Waldron, Lance
All ayes - Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO: 2018-23 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 37 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN ENTITLED "PUBLIC WORKS, DEPARTMENT OF"

Introduction; First Reading

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2018-23 on First Reading was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg; which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg explained that this is for the creation of a Director of Public Works position.

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

All ayes - Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO: 2018-24 AN ORDINANCE TO ATTACH TENURE TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 37 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN ENTITLED "PUBLIC WORKS, DEPARTMENT OF"

Introduction; First Reading

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2018-24 on First Reading was made by Mrs. Waldron; which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

All ayes - Motion carried.

Mrs. Leidner asked to explain the process of Ordinance introductions. She explained that once introduced the Ordinance is published in the newspaper of record as soon as possible within the timeframe set by Statute. It is also placed on the Township website usually the next day. The public can also call the office of the Municipal Clerk to have a copy emailed. The reason Ordinances are not distributed prior to introduction is that should changes be made during a meeting and they are not noted on the ordinance in the hands of the public a false document could be circulated.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. R.2018 - 116 Authorization to Pay Bills
2. R.2018 - 117 Declaring Township of Blairstown Resolution of Support for The JCP&L Reliability Plus
3. R.2018 -118 Refund of 2018 Tax Overpayment Block 508 Lot 8.01
4. R.2018 – 119 Refund of 2018 Tax Overpayment Block 103 Lot 33.06
5. R.2018 - 120 Approval to submit a grant application and execute contract with The New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Overlay of Mohican Road – Section 2 project.
6. R.2018 – 121 Award Contract – Construction of DPW Storage Building
7. R.2018 – 122 Award Contract – Generator Upgrade of Township Municipal Building
8. R.2018 – 123 Cancellation of Grant Balances
9. R.2018 - 124 Cancellation of Mortgage Block 2001 Lot 21.02

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Mr. Avery; seconded by Mrs. Waldron.

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

All ayes - Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Clerk – September Report
DPW – September Report
Finance – September Finance and Fuel Reports
Fire Chief Report – September 2018
Fire Department – August Report
Police Department – September Report
Tax Collector – September Report
Warren County Health Department – September 10, 2018
Zoning - September Report

Motion to accept the Department Reports was made by Mr. Avery; seconded by Mrs. Dalton.
Mrs. Van Valkenburg.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg requested that the Municipal Clerk place year to date totals on each category on the monthly Clerk's Report.

Roll Call Vote: Aye – Avery, Dalton, Van Valkenburg, Waldron, Lance
All ayes - Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Hose Company – Air Pack Request – previously discussed.

ACME Shopping Plaza – Entrance Only – Captain Johnsen explained that he and Eric Usinowicz are working together on getting this changed, the signs have been ordered. Although the owners of the ACME have not responded to previous correspondence, a letter will go to the owners of the ACME to advise them of the new change to change the current entrance/exit to entrance only.

Walnut Valley Firehouse – Mrs. Waldron explained that the Township Committee initially used Whitman for the initial study phase of the remediation of the Walnut Valley Firehouse. In an effort to conserve funds Mrs. Waldron and Mrs. Van Valkenburg along with the Township Engineer met with another company. The second company, GeoWorx, will need to do test borings to get a better idea of what the level of contamination is currently. The Township Committee decided to ask Christine Rolef, CFO to prepare a Capital Ordinance to cover the \$9000.00 cost to do the borings.

Addendum to Property Maintenance Agreement between Howard K. Mott and Blirstown Township authorizing Blirstown Model Aviators to use a half-acre portion of Block 1501 Lot 9.

Motion to approve the addendum to the property Maintenance Agreement between Howard K. Mott and Blirstown Township was made by Mr. Avery; seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

Roll Call Vote: Aye – Avery, Dalton, Van Valkenburg, Waldron, Lance
All ayes - Motion carried.

Telephone System for the Municipal Building – the Township Committee decided that although, during a recent service call by a Centurylink technician it was revealed that the system is very old and a critical system failure is likely, a new telephone system is not a priority at this time due to other pressing issues within the municipality.

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE for information and possible action

Letter received from John Kerkendall requesting renewal of lease of cropland located by Hope Bank Block 1501, Lots 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 for the years 2019 & 2020.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg noted that she would like to see an exclusion in the lease that would allow the Township to have the ability to use up to 2 acres for recreation and adjust the rent per the amount of acres used by the town. This addendum will be done by the Township Attorney. A vote will be taken at the November 7, 2018 Township Committee meeting.

Letter of resignation received from Audrey Nemeckay from her position as Substitute Crossing Guard effective September 12, 2018.

Motion to accept the resignation of Audrey Nemeckay from her position as Substitute Crossing Guard effective September 12, 2018 was made by Mr. Avery; seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Request for approval of application from Robert Halberstadt of Blairstown and Nick Sierchio III of Columbia to join the Blairstown Hose Company.

Motion to approve the applications from Robert Halberstadt and Nick Sierchio III to join the Blairstown Hose Company was made by Mr. Avery; seconded by Mrs. Waldron.

Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Notification from the NJ Alcoholic Beverage Control of a Social Affairs Permit Application received from Blairstown Live Arts Inc., Roy's Hall, November 10, 2018 from 6pm to 11:59pm for a fundraiser.

Motion to approve the application for a one day Social Affairs Permit submitted by Blairstown Live Arts Inc., Roy's Hall to be held on November 10, 2018 was made by Mr. Avery; seconded by Mrs. Waldron.

Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

No discussion.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY

Ms. Sullivan noted that at the last meeting there was discussion regarding the ability for the Township to apply weight limits to certain local roads. As long as engineering testing has been conducted and it is determined that a weight limit is necessary than this can be done by ordinance.

Ms. Sullivan also informed the Township Committee about the new State mandated Paid Sick Leave Act that goes into effect on October 29. This will be discussed in Executive Session on October 24, 2018 due to the fact that this involves the personnel policy.

Regarding the road and culvert swap with Warren County, all documents have been filed and the swap is complete. A committee will be formed for discussion regarding Main Street.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK

Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, December 1 from 9-noon.

October 24 Township Committee Workshop Meeting (Public Information Session) will be held at North Warren Regional High School at 7:30pm.

Shredding Event – October 19 from 9am – Noon at the Municipal Building.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

Mr. Rodman reported that Mohican Road will be milled tomorrow and paving will be done on October 18 & 19. Schools will be notified of the paving dates.

State Aid Grant Application for 2019 was submitted for the remainder of Mohican Road. A second application will be submitted for Heller Hill Road. Resolution for the second application can be done at a later date.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBER AVERY –

Mr. Avery reported that the next trip that will be taken by Blirstown Seniors will be on October 25, 2018 and they will be going to the Brownstone in Paterson for an Oktoberfest. They will also be going to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on November 9, 2018. Mr. Avery also let the Township Committee know that the Blirstown Seniors will be having their annual Christmas Party at the Panther Valley Golf Club on December 13 and as always the Township Committee members and spouses are invited to attend.

Mr. Avery reported that he is still trying to find out who owns the Union Brick Cemetery on Heller Hill Road.

COMMITTEE MEMBER DALTON –

Mrs. Dalton reported that the CARE team will be speaking at North Warren High School on November 12.

Mrs. Dalton also reported that the North Warren High School Marching band scored the highest points ever in Group 3. Congratulations!

Mrs. Dalton invited everyone to attend the Blirstown Elementary School Board Meeting on October 18 for the Plant A Seed discussion. This discussion involves having an SRO in the elementary school. Part of the discussion will be to explain what an SRO is, what they would look like, what their role within the school would be each day.

Eagle Scout Trey Baldwin will be holding a sign dedication on November 4 at 1:00pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBER VAN VALKENBURG

Mrs. Van Valkenburg reported that Recreation is doing great, the programs a fabulous and the programs are self-funding.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg gave a copy of the presentation for the Open Public Forum on October 24.

The Halloween Parade will be on October 31 starting at the post office.

COMMITTEE MEMBER WALDRON

Mrs. Waldron discussed the need for more volunteerism. Mrs. Waldron noted that many volunteers are involved in several organizations.

MAYOR LANCE

Mayor Lance reported that he and Mrs. Waldron attended an internet meeting on September 26. As of that meeting 13 new internet service devices were installed. In order to receive this upgraded service you need to ask CenturyLink to have it turned on and it is an additional fee. The best way to do this is to go to the CenturyLink site shop.centurylink.com.

Hope Police Barracks has a new station commander and there is a meeting planned for October 29 at 6:00pm at the Hope Municipal building to meet the new commander.

The DOT bridge construction on Route 94 is set to start on October 18 and the one lane will commence on November 16. This project is set to be completed by spring of 2020.

On October 19, 2018 there is a legislative meeting being held at the Hope Municipal Building at 10:30am. This meeting will be with the State Senator and Assemblymen. Not open to the public.

The North Warren Counseling Center Open House will be held on October 25, 2018 on Stillwater Road from 10am – 2pm.

Historic Preservation Committee – participated in 7 events in September. Two events were in Blairstown and five were across Warren County.

On September 29, 2018 there was a walking tour of the Village that was very successful.

On September 30 there was a painting event at the Footbridge. Artists were encouraged to take picture or paint pictures of the bridge. This was through the Warren County Arts program.

The next tour being held will be on October 20 and this will once again be a tour of the Footbridge beginning at 1:00pm.

Jingle on Main will be held on November 24 from 10am – 4pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rosalie Murray – Heller Hill Road – Asked that the Department Head Reports be held to a 10 minute limit.

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no further comments from the public, Mrs. Waldron made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Avery. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Leidner, RMC
Municipal Clerk