

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING
EXECUTIVE SESSION BEGINS AT 7:00pm
Wednesday, July 10, 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. Waldron, and Mrs. Van Valkenburg. Also present were Municipal Clerk, Everett Falt, and Township Attorney, Dawn Sullivan.

The **FLAG SALUTE** was conducted.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT:

Mayor Lance read the following statement: Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, P.L. 1975, Ch. 231 setting forth the time, date, place and purpose of this Public Meeting through a legal notice published in The Star Ledger and New Jersey Herald following the Township's Annual Reorganization Meeting at which the 2019 meeting schedule was adopted.

Resolution No. 2019-091 AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION – For the purposes of personnel and contract negotiation.

A Motion to authorize Executive Session was made by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mr. Moorhead.
Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. VanValkenburg, Mrs. Waldron, and Mayor Lance
With all ayes and no nays, the Motion carried. Executive Session began at 7:00 p.m.

A Motion to return to Public Session was made by Mr. Sikkes, seconded by Mrs. Van Valkenburg.
Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. VanValkenburg, Mrs. Waldron, and Mayor Lance
With all ayes and no nays, the Motion carried. Public Session began at 7:35 p.m.

Results of executive session were a discussion regarding personnel and a contract discussion regarding the municipal court to be expounded upon in Public Session.

Mayor Lance asked for a motion on the use of the Public Auction to purchase three vehicles.
Motion for use of Public Auction to purchase three vehicles was made by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mrs. Van Valkenburg.
Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. VanValkenburg, Mrs. Waldron, and Mayor Lance
With all ayes and no nays, the Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

Pat Sagan, Director of Recreation stated that the Footbridge Park mural project by Blair Academy LEAD students was completed. Additionally, they planted trees by the park pavilion and presented a check in the amount of \$1,800.00 earmarked for playground equipment at Footbridge Park.

Mrs. Sagan requested approval from the Township Committee to allow the LEAD program to continue in September when the new sophomore class comes in.

Motion to allow a continuation of the LEAD project in Footbridge Park was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg and seconded by Mrs. Waldron.

Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. VanValkenburg, Mrs. Waldron, and Mayor Lance
With all ayes and no nays, the Motion was carried.

Mrs. Sagan finalized her comments by stating that the little league dugouts at Sycamore Park, sponsored by donations, are almost at completion and invited the Township Committee to stop down and see them.

Sandy Urgo, VP of Land Preservation for the Land Conservancy of New Jersey discussed seeking Blairstown Township support for a local project that is a part of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI).

The DRWI has identified a 125 acre property owned by Stonybrook, LLC for which a grant with the Warren County Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund was applied. The property is habitat for threatened and endangered species with 1.34 miles of stream banks. Total costs are \$735,000.00, the majority of which are being covered by grants. Public benefits of this project include:

Watershed protection for the Paulinskill and Delaware

- Prevention of forest fragmentation and steep slope disturbance
- Increased public access to trails and conservation land

Ms. Urgo asked if the Township would approve a resolution of support. Ms. Sullivan stated that the resolution is number 96 on the Consent Agenda of this evening. Mayor Lance asked if anyone from the Committee or audience had any questions. One member of the public asked for clarification on where the lot is located and Ms. Urgo informed him that it is at the end of Stonybrook Road, below Gaisler Road.

PUBLIC COMMENT – up to 5 speakers, 3 minutes each

1. Rosalie Murray urged that citizens forego the use of plastic due to their negative environmental impact. She added that the Township should reinstitute the Environmental Committee. Mrs. Waldron asked what benefit an Environmental Committee would be over what the Township currently has. Mrs. Murray answered that such committee could further research the impacts of plastic on the environment, plant more trees, and take on multiple initiatives. Mr. Moorhead stated that it is really up to retailers to follow through on promoting re-usable bags.
2. Jerre Riggs of Kishpaugh Road requested speed limit signs on Kishpaugh Road. He stated that on August 8, 2018 he had discussed this same subject with the Township Committee and was told an Ordinance was needed. He asked why nothing has happened to date. Mr. Rodman, the Township Engineer said that there is a statutory limit based upon the number of houses in an area. Captain Johnsen said that if the speed is not posted and there is no Ordinance, then the speed limit is 35 miles per hour but added that on Kishpaugh Road he recommends 25 miles per hour.

Mayor Lance asked Mr. Rodman if the Township needed a speed study or can enact an Ordinance. Mr. Rodman replied that he would have to research that and get back to the Township with his findings. Mr. Riggs ended his comments by stating that the driveway at 13 Kishpaugh Road is now paved, five years after obtaining their Certificate of Occupancy.

3. Frank Falvey of Gaisler Road asked if it was permissible for him to record the Township Committee meetings for broadcasting. The Committee expressed approval of the recordings. Mr. Falvey's intention is to record only the Committee and not the audience, although everyone's voices would be heard. Ms. Sullivan stated that broadcasts streamed via the Township website are thus

sanctioned by the Township and would be required to be done for every meeting. She added that there is a distinction between the meetings being recorded and broadcast by a member of the public versus streamed by the Township via their website.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Fire Department – Blirstown Hose Company #1 (BHC1) Fire Chief, Calvin Inscho presented his monthly status report to the Committee and highlighted the following:

- The Fire Department responded to a structure fire on Main Street in Frelinghuysen Township, and performed a trail rescue for a gentleman who was struck by lightning
- Seven claims were submitted as a part of BHC1's cost recovery efforts. The first check has been mailed and should be arriving within the next several days.
- Parts to replace those which failed inspection have been purchased or are currently being priced by Mike Sullivan, DPW Mechanic.
- The Drafting Competition is July 27, 2019 at Sycamore Park
- Warren County will be relocating their John Deere Gator with Med-bed over to the Firehouse. The insurance certificate is coming from Blirstown Township's insurance agent, Sharon Cooper.
- Mr. Inscho inquired of Mr. Sikkes if he had spoken to the Land Use Board regarding the Knox box. Mr. Sikkes responded that the Land Use Board said that these devices could be applied to new construction but not existing. Mrs. VanValkenburg said that did not make sense and asked Mr. Sikkes if the Board elaborated on their response. He replied that the Land Use Board had concerns about requiring people to install Knox boxes.
- Mayor Lance asked if there was any update on the AFG grant. Mr. Inscho responded that he should be hearing something in the next few weeks.

Animal Control – Blirstown Animal Control Officer (ACO), Scott Hendricks presented his monthly report to the Committee, highlighting the rescue of a racing pigeon from Route 94. Prior to closing the ACO portion of the meeting, Mrs. Waldron read a complimentary letter from a Blirstown resident regarding Blirstown Zoning Officer David Diehl and Mr. Hendricks. Mrs. Van Valkenburg added that Mr. Hendricks is an asset to the community.

Mr. Moorhead stated that Mr. Hendricks does not have an office at the Municipal Building but works out of his home and as such would suggest that he is reimbursed for mileage from his home when responding to incidents.

Mrs. Waldron made a Motion to reimburse Mr. Hendricks for his mileage from his home to incidents instead of from the Municipal Building. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moorhead.

Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. VanValkenburg, Mrs. Waldron, and Mayor Lance
With all ayes and no nays, the Motion carried.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg added that Mr. Hendricks purchased \$1100.00 in equipment, asking Mr. Hendricks to elaborate on what the equipment was. He stated that it included two traps, a snake pole, a catch pole, and a grab pole. Mrs. Van Valkenburg stated that after looking at the audit there is money in the budget to reimburse Mr. Hendricks. Mr. Hendricks declined reimbursement, stating that he felt it was the best course to take and that the equipment is his to use as he wishes. The chip scanner will remain the property of the Township, however.

Open Space – Joel McGreen apprised the Committee on the status of the sale of three lots to Green Acres. All required paperwork has been mailed to them and Green Acres will be doing the environmental assessment.

Mr. McGreen stated that the Nonnemacher family attorney informed him that the family is ready to start proceedings again, now that the estate is close to being settled.

Police Department – Police Chief Scott Johnsen reported on several issues, namely:

- Towing rates - Both Ayers and A-Tech have expressed that the towing rates they are allowed to charge as per the current Ordinance are too low. Based upon comparative data and current costs supplied by Scott Ayers, both towing companies are requesting the Committee review the Ordinance and consider raising the amount that can be charged in the Ordinance. Mayor Lance asked how old the Ordinance is, to which Mr. Johnsen stated that it has been approximately 5 years. He added that the Ordinance would apply to any instance authorized by the Police Department.

Ms. Sullivan stated that she will do her best to verify the information that was given to Mr. Johnsen by Mr. Ayers and get an Ordinance drafted by the August 2019 meeting.

- Radar Speed Control Signs - Mr. Johnsen researched pricing for radar speed control signs that could be used in Blairstown. The model that Mr. Johnsen felt was best for Blairstown costs \$2,800.00 and allows for data to be captured that can be used to better target police efforts in traffic control. It is not solar powered but the battery power alone will run for five days.

A Motion was made by Mayor Lance to purchase the \$2,800.00 radar speed control sign recommended by Mr. Johnsen, seconded by Mrs. Waldron.

Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. VanValkenburg, Mrs. Waldron, and Mayor Lance

With all ayes and no nays, the Motion was carried.

- Epi-Pen – in the near future, the Police Department will be carrying epi-pens. The SOP is written, one Police Officer is certified, and they are awaiting sign-off by the Medical Director.
- Police blotter – Mr. Johnsen read the police blotter for the month of June, including solving the burglary on Four Corners Road.
- Expansion of Police Department – Mr. Sikkes stated that he is waiting for Mrs. Rolef to provide him with information in order to proceed with the creation of an interview room for the Police Department. Mrs. Waldron inquired as to whether a room between the meeting room and the Police Department could be used for storage. Mr. Johnsen stated that the room with the water softener has potential.

Department of Public Works – DPW Supervisor, Eric Usinowicz provided updates on the general operations of the buildings, grounds, and Water Department. Additionally,

- The new generator has been installed at the Municipal Building with all inspections completed. Mr. Usinowicz is waiting for the contractor to contact him to let him know when the initial start-up will commence.
- Mrs. Van Valkenburg stated that there is a resident who has been reversing their water meter. This is not the first time they have done this. She has requested that the attorney prepare a letter to

send to the resident and have Mr. Johnsen accompany Albert Schwartz of the Water Department to correct the meter. Should the resident change their meter again, the Township will seek prosecution.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg stated that Kerri Womack, the Utility Collector, has questions regarding application of proposed fees for the Ordinance revision, including the proposed charge of \$300.00 per sprinkler and the ramifications of said charge.

MINUTES:

May 22, 2019 – Executive Session Minutes

Motion; second. Roll Call Vote.

June 12, 2019 – Executive Session Minutes

Motion; second. Roll Call Vote.

June 12, 2019 – Regular Session Minutes

Motion; second. Roll Call Vote.

June 26, 2019 – Regular Session Minutes

Motion; second. Roll Call Vote.

Mayor Lance asked for a Motion to approve the minutes to which Mrs. Van Valkenburg stated that she would approve all but the May 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes as she has an amendment she would like to make.

A Motion to approve the June 12, 2019 Executive and Regular Session Minutes, and the June 26 Regular Session Minutes was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg, seconded by Mr. Sikkes.

Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. VanValkenburg, Mrs. Waldron, and Mayor Lance
With all ayes and no nays, the Motion carried.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg asked that an amendment be made to reflect that Mr. Sikkes was not in attendance for the interview process and should have abstained from voting for the Clerk position. Mayor Lance stated that Mr. Sikkes read the resumes. Mrs. Van Valkenburg stated that a person cannot vote for a position when they are not a part of the interview.

A Motion was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg to amend the May 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes to reflect the amendment she presented, seconded by Mrs. Waldron. Mr. Moorhead requested further clarification to which Mrs. Van Valkenburg stated that the Motion was to make the amendment she requested to the May 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mrs. VanValkenburg, and Mrs. Waldron
Nay – Mr. Sikkes, Mayor Lance

With three ayes and two nays, the Motion was carried.

ORDINANCES

Withdraw

ORDINANCE 2019-014 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 19 “LAND DEVELOPMENT”, ARTICLE 19-500 “GENERAL PROVISIONS” TO ADD NEW SECTIONS ENTITLED “SOIL FILL PLACEMENT”, “OPERATING REQUIREMENTS”, AND “FEES; BONDS; PENALTIES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS” AND TO AMEND SECTION 19-901 “FEES” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN Second Reading, Public

Mayor Lance expounded that there was an initial introduction of this Ordinance two meetings ago, being reintroduced with changes from the Land Use Board at the last meeting. Since then some additional changes have been made. He added that upon advice of counsel, this Ordinance be withdrawn then be reintroduced with the changes. Ms. Sullivan explained that the Land Use Board changed the amount of soil that constitutes a minor permit application. That change was not made throughout the entire text of the Ordinance. She feels that to avoid confusion, it would be best to withdraw the Ordinance and re-introduce it.

A Motion to withdraw Ordinance 2019-014 was made by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mr. Moorhead. Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. VanValkenburg, Mrs. Waldron, and Mayor Lance With all ayes and no nays, the Motion carried.

Introduction; First Reading

ORDINANCE 2019-017 Bond Ordinance providing an appropriation of \$569,768 for various roads improvements for and by the Township of Blairstown in the County of Warren, New Jersey and Authorizing the Issuance of \$190,000 Bonds or Notes of the Township for Financing Part of the Appropriation

Introduction; First Reading

A Motion to approve was made by Mrs. Waldron; seconded by Mr. Sikkes.

Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. VanValkenburg, Mrs. Waldron, and Mayor Lance With all ayes and no nays, the Motion was carried.

Mayor Lance stated that there will be a public hearing at the next regular Township Committee meeting and it will be considered for approval then.

ORDINANCE 2019-018 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING LAND DEVELOPMENT AND SOIL FILL (PROPOSED AMENDMENT FROM THE LAND USE BOARD)

Introduction; First Reading

A Motion to approve was made by Mrs. Waldron; seconded by Mr. Sikkes.

A Motion to withdraw Ordinance 2019-014 was made by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mr. Moorhead.

Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. VanValkenburg, Mrs. Waldron, and Mayor Lance With all ayes and no nays, the Motion was carried.

FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION:

ORDINANCE 2019-013 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 190 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN ENTITLED “WATER”

Second Reading, Public Hearing, Adoption

Discussion on tabling this Ordinance was had by the Committee with Mr. Falt adding that the Utility Collector, Mrs. Womack, believes she will not have all of the logistics worked out until September.

A Motion to table this Ordinance until the September 11 Regular Township Committee Meeting was made by Mayor Lance, seconded by Mrs. VanValkenburg.

Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. VanValkenburg, Mrs. Waldron, and Mayor Lance With all ayes and no nays, the Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2019-015 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR ROAD OVERLAY ~ BELCHER ROAD WITHIN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUNDING THEREOF

Second Reading, Public Hearing, Adoption

Hearing no public comment, a Motion to approve was made by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mr. Moorhead. Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. VanValkenburg, Mrs. Waldron, and Mayor Lance With all ayes and no nays, the Motion was carried.

ORDINANCE 2019-016 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 143 “PEACE AND GOOD ORDER”, SECTION 143-3 “LOUD AND OFFENSIVE NOISES PROHIBITED; UNLAWFUL ACTS ENUMERATED; EXCEPTIONS” OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE TO INCORPORATE THE MODEL NOISE ORDINANCE OF THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Second Reading, Public Hearing, Adoption

Mrs. Waldron recused herself as she stated she has a conflict of interest. She left the room as the committee began discussing the ordinance.

Ms. Sullivan stated that per subsequent conversations with Mr. Johnsen, there are unanticipated consequences of the way this model Ordinance is written. There are standards that do not apply to a rural community such as Blairstown. For example, prosecution for using your chain saw, leaf blower, tractor. It is Ms. Sullivan’s recommendation that this Ordinance be withdrawn and that the Township work with what exists, perhaps adding some additional enforcement. Mrs. Van Valkenburg stated her disagreement with withdrawing the Ordinance.

Ms. Sullivan said that people can go to Civil Court for a noise complaint against a neighbor.

A Motion to withdraw this Ordinance was made by Mr. Moorhead, seconded by Mr. Sikkes.

Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, and Mayor Lance
Nay – Mrs. Van Valkenburg
ABS – Mrs. Waldron

With three ayes, one nay and one abstention, the Motion to withdrawal the ordinance carried.

Mrs. Waldron returned to the dais once the discussion was concluded and the vote was taken.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. R.2019 – 093 Authorization to Pay Bills
2. R.2019 – 094 Award Contract for Paving of Belcher Road Phase I
3. R.2019 – 095 Award Control for Oil & Stone Overlay of Jacksonburg and Cooke Rd
4. R.2019 – 096 Support award of a Grant for the acquisition of Open Space
5. R.2019 – 097 Execution of a shared services agreement for Municipal Court with Knowlton Twp.
6. R.2019 – 098 Certification of the 2018 Audit Report, Synopsis and Recommendations

A Motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1 through 6 was made by Mayor Lance, with Mr. Sikkes seconding.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg pointed out several items from the audit report that she felt needed attention:

- A double check system on the deposits.
- Recording of the asset on the fixed assets log.

Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. VanValkenburg, Mrs. Waldron, and Mayor Lance
With all ayes and no nays, the Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Clerk – June Report

Fire Department – June Report

Fuel Report – June Report

Tax Collector’s Report – June Report

Motion to accept by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mr. Moorhead.

Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. VanValkenburg, Mrs. Waldron, and Mayor Lance
With all ayes and no nays, the Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Police Department Renovation (Expansion) Project – Mayor Lance addressed Mr. Sikkes, restating the update he provided during the Police Department report on the creation of an interview room for the Police Department. This room will take up the half of the employee break room that is closest to the current police area. Mrs. Waldron requested authorization of an expenditure in the amount of \$500.00 for the alarm company to re-position the cameras in the office area for security reasons. Mrs. Van Valkenburg stated that the employees have been spoken to regarding this change.

A Motion was made by Mrs. Waldron to authorize the expenditure of \$500.00 for security camera adjustment in the main office area of the Municipal Building, seconded by Mrs. Van Valkenburg.

Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. VanValkenburg, Mrs. Waldron, and Mayor Lance

With all ayes and no nays, the Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. State Aid # MA-2017-Overlay of Mohican Road was discussed in Executive Session and Mayor Lance spoke with Mr. Rodman, the Township Engineer earlier. The Committee was in agreement on the status of this project.

COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE for information and possible action

FROM THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY

Ms. Sullivan reported as follows:

- She has worked with Mr. McGreen to ensure that the three parcel sale to the DEP was in process.
- She is working with several committee members regarding personnel matters and is hopeful that they will be coming to satisfactory conclusions
- She offered to reach out to the Board of Health regarding the noise Ordinance issue. She added that Mt. Olive actually did not adopt the model Ordinance because they made changes to it that the DEP rejected. Once Mr. Johnsen explained the unanticipated consequences it became clear that a route other than adopting the model Ordinance, would need to be explored. Ms. Sullivan further commented that by no means has the matter been dropped.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK

Mr. Falt reported on the following:

- The 2018 Audit Report was completed and the required legal ads have been placed. Mayor Lance said the committee can sign off on the Affidavit immediately so Mr. Falt passed the Affidavit to the members for signature.
- After discussions with Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mr. Falt provided a list of COAH classes that are available along with their costs in his report.
- After researching the issue, Mr. Falt found an opportunity to save money in our operating budget by charging dog licensing fees that are consistent with fees in the surrounding towns.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

Township Engineer, Mr. Ted Rodman, gave updates on the following:

- Well #3 – a permit was received by the DEP classifying Well #3 as a public community well. This classification contains a condition that requires the Township to perform a 72-hour pump test.
- The Generator – the current generator at the Municipal Building is a two-phase and is going to the Firehouse, which is a single-phase. It will be converted to a three-phase when it arrives there. Mrs. Van Valkenburg urged the importance of moving quickly on the generator installation as it affects the progress of Well #3.
- The original Belcher Road grant did not provide for guide rails. Mr. Usinowicz stated that Mr. Rodman's secretary was supposed to find out if a waiver could be obtained for the guide rails. Mr. Rodman said that the DOT has not responded yet to several calls to their office.
- Heller Hill is being submitted for a new grant application for paving. Moving the road, widening the road, and repairing the wall are the responsibility of the Township of Blirstown.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBER MOORHEAD

Mr. Moorhead requested Mr. Paulson revive the Main Street Advisory Committee. Mr. Paulson suggested that the date be set presently. After comparing the calendars of Mr. Paulson, Mr. Moorhead, and Mrs. Waldron, they determined the meeting would be held on Tuesday, July 16 with the time to be determined.

COMMITTEE MEMBER SIKKES

Mr. Sikkes reported that the Knox-box issue was brought before the Land Use Board. Mr. Sikkes requested Mrs. Waldron bring the matter up at the next Land Use Board meeting as he will be on vacation.

There are many Zoning Violations that need to be addressed but budget restraints do not permit extension of hours of our Zoning Officer, David Diehl.

COMMITTEE MEMBER VAN VALKENBURG

Mrs. Van Valkenburg reported the following:

- Township COAH Administrator, Theresa Tamburro, expressed a desire to resign from her position some time ago and that Mr. Falt has expressed an interest in taking the COAH classes at a cost of \$1,457.00 for six classes. The classes start in September and end in December 2019.

A Motion was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg to approve the expenditure for Mr. Falt to complete COAH classes at a cost of \$1,457.00, seconded by Mr. Lance.

Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. VanValkenburg, Mrs. Waldron, and Mayor Lance

With all ayes and no nays, the Motion carried.

- A flag-raising event was held at the Ashram on July 4, 2019. Roughly 30 people attended the event, which included the singing of the National Anthem and raising of the American Flag.
- Pat Sagan, Recreation Director, has been working with Karen Klein to present a Senior Citizen Social on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., starting Tuesday, October 8, 2019 with a meet and greet.
- Mrs. Waldron and Mrs. Van Valkenburg will be meeting with GeoWorx to discuss some additional ideas to cut remediation costs. Mrs. Waldron said that they would like to bring Mr. Rodman, Mr. Usinowicz, and Mr. Schwartz in for the meeting.
- Regarding the individual who is reversing their water meter, there is roughly \$820 due. Mrs. Van Valkenburg stated that Mrs. Womack wants to know if a lien can be placed on the property. Ms. Sullivan indicated yes.
- The salary ordinance needs to be changed and increased at the Regular Township Committee Meeting in August.
- Mrs. Van Valkenburg expressed the need to accelerate clean-up efforts at the Walnut Valley Firehouse, giving the example that costs for annual site remediation fees alone from 2014 – 2019, cost the Township roughly \$18,800.00.

COMMITTEE MEMBER WALDRON

Mrs. Waldron reported the following:

- The Personnel Committee along with the Clerk, Mr. Falt, held a successful employee meeting with office staff and Mr. Usinowicz of DPW.
- Ms. Sullivan will be working on changes in the Personnel Manual.
- Mrs. Van Valkenburg and Mrs. Waldron are discussing changes that need to be made for the remediation. Mrs. Waldron has another party reviewing the plan, line by line. This party has noted that the negative financial impact from one plan to the other is significant. A third plan is now being evaluated for comparison.
- Regarding Nature's Conservancy, Mrs. Van Valkenburg noted that they are looking forward to working with us on the Paulina Dam project.
- Mrs. Waldron stated that Linda Grohs, the Township Land Use Board Secretary, has been doing a phenomenal job in her role. Mrs. Grohs is making changes to the Master Plan in-house, which will present a large cost savings to the Township.

Mrs. Waldron stated that the Township does not need a planner as long as significant changes are not made to the existing plan, and the changes are not substantive. The Township Lawyer and Engineer have to agree to the changes. Once the changes are initiated, Mrs. Grohs can then re-print the Master Plan which will save a tremendous amount of money. Additionally Mrs. Grohs has been limiting the discussion to provide more focused discussion. Mrs. Van Valkenburg added that the Land Use Board needs to remember COAH and the overlay in the Master Plan.

- The Police Department is very invested in this community. The Epi-Pen approval discussed by Mr. Johnsen in his read-out could lead to funding for acquisition of more Epi-pens.

MAYOR LANCE

Mayor Lance reported as follows:

- Mayor Lance attended a meeting of the Warren County Governing Officials with the special speaker being the Director of Intelligence Preparedness from the Department of Homeland Security. The focus of the discussion was intelligence acquisition.
- The Mayor officiated a wedding in front of the Historic Preservation Caboose in June.
- Mayor Lance and Mrs. Van Valkenburg attended a home dedication for the Wildrick family in Frelinghuysen Township. The Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, named after a fallen 9/11 firefighter, honored the memory of fallen Army SPC Ronald Wildrick by welcoming his family into a new, mortgage-free home. Wildrick was killed by an IED in December 2011, while on patrol in Afghanistan. He left behind his wife, Stephanie, and their two young daughters, Kaylee and Leah.
- There was a Welcome Back Shad celebration at the former Columbia Dam with 110 people in attendance. The Mayor stated that Paulina Dam was mentioned by many.
- The Historic Preservation Committee received a \$1000.00 donation from the Reichert family for the work of the Committee. This Sunday at 4:00 p.m. there will be a graveside talk at Gravel Hill Cemetery about Benjamin Smyth who was one of the original settlers of Blairstown.
- Warren County has an initiative called Grow Warren that supports small and emerging farmers in the County. It is free to join.
- The Mayor thanked the Blairstown 4th Committee for all their hard work on the event.
- Mrs. Van Valkenburg suggested that the Blairstown Historic Preservation Committee sell T-shirts with something on them regarding Appalachian Trail Community. Mr. Moorhead asked if there was a logo for the Town. Ms. Nienstedt, BHPC corresponding secretary, stated that there is not but that a suggestion was made that the town should hold a logo contest. The Committee agreed that would be a great idea.

FROM THE PUBLIC

- Bob Halberstadt expressed concern that trees were planted in front of the pavilion at Footbridge Park. He had a discussion with Mrs. Sagan to potentially move the trees. They will work together for a solution. Additionally, he asked if the Committee could use the microphones to better project their voices. Mrs. Waldron said they are using the microphones. Mr. Halberstadt expressed that it is difficult to hear the Committee members' voices.

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no further comments from the public, Mayor Lance requested a motion to adjourn. All members voted in favor by acclamation to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Everett Falt, RMC

Township Clerk