

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN  
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, August 9, 2017, 6:30 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 by Mayor Shoemaker at 6:30pm. Those present were Mr. Avery, Mrs. Dalton, Mr. Lance, Mrs. Van Valkenburg and Mayor Shoemaker. Also present were Clerk Leidner and Attorney Kevin Benbrook.

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.

**RESOLUTION 2017 - 086 AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSONNEL AND CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

Motion was made by Mr. Lance and was seconded by Mr. Avery

Roll Call Vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker.

All ayes: Motion carried.

Executive Session began at 6:32pm.

Mr. Lance made a motion to re-open the Regular Meeting at 8:00 pm. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Avery.

Roll Call Vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker.

All ayes: Motion carried.

Mayor Shoemaker explained that personnel matters and contract negotiations were discussed. No formal action was taken.

**PRESENTATION** – Presentation of Plaque to Police Director Robert Gara for his Years of Service. Mayor Shoemaker explained that Police Director Bob Gara is leaving Blairstown after serving us for many years. Mr. Gara came to Blairstown in 2011 and he was brought in because the Police Department was facing many challenges and was in need of a professional to address those challenges. Mayor Shoemaker thanked Mr. Gara for bringing the Police Department up to its current professional standards. Mayor Shoemaker went on to say that the Township now has an outstanding police department. He noted that he and Mr. Gara were part of the interview process for many of the officers that are present tonight. He explained that the Township was looking for officers that are community minded and these officers certainly are community minded. Mayor Shoemaker went on to say that these officers are doing a fantastic job thanks to Mr. Gara and the Township greatly appreciates all that he has done while he was Police Director from 2011-2017.

Mr. Lance said that it has been a pleasure and that he has probably worked with him longer than anyone else on the Committee. Mr. Lance explained that he turned the Department around and did a great job. Mr. Lance also said that he appreciates all that Mr. Gara did and wished him much luck in the future.

The other members of the Township Committee thanked Mr. Gara for his contribution to Blirstown.

Mr. Gara said that the officers present are the future of the Blirstown Police Department. He thanked the officers present and the Police Department Records Clerk Lisa for everything. Mr. Gara introduced Captain Johnsen, James Dillon, Jarett Bisanzio and John Bee. Mr. Gara remarked that it has been a pleasure working with everyone and thanked the Township Committee for the opportunity; it was challenging, interesting and a lot of fun.

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

**Gladys Bellott– 103 Union Brick Road** – Mrs. Bellott noted that she was present at a Township Committee Meeting a couple of months ago regarding a water problem coming from her next door neighbor. Mrs. Bellott has spoken to the Township Engineer and the DEP. Mr. Rodman took pictures; the pictures do not show any problem. Since the pictures were taken the problem has gotten wider. The NJDEP told Mrs. Bellott that this is not a problem they can help her with so she came back to the Township Committee. Township Attorney Benbrook has had a conversation with Mr. Rodman, whose professional opinion is that there is a water issue but it is not being caused by a public road improvement. It is coming from a neighbor's property therefore it is not anything the Township can help with. This is a neighbor to neighbor issue. Mrs. Van Valkenburg recommended that Mrs. Bellott speak to her neighbor about the issue.

**MINUTES**

June 14, 2017 - Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve the minutes as presented with one correction on page 5, the 60 years should be 6 years, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

June 14, 2017 – Executive Session Minutes

Mrs. Van Valkenburg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, which was seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

July 26, 2017 – Executive Session Minutes

Mayor Shoemaker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, which was seconded by Mrs. Van Valkenburg.

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

Mayor Shoemaker asked Mr. McGreen from the Open Space Committee to give his report.

Mr. McGreen reported that the Ardia farm is waiting for a tax situation to be resolved. He still does not know what is happening with the Nonnemaker property and as far as the Kostenbader estate, the owner

is going to sign the contract and send it back. Mr. Benbrook explained that he spoke to the attorney noting that if there is any language in the contract that needs to be changed regarding the environmental cleanup for Phase 1 or Phase II, that the language can be modified. Mr. Benbrook has not gotten a response from the attorney. Mr. McGreen was happy to report that the contract for Hemlock Ravine is almost ready to be signed. The new State Budget has passed for farmland preservation and Blirstown is supposed be receiving \$500,000.00, Mr. McGreen just has to confirm this information.

Mayor Shoemaker asked Calvin Inscho to give his report on the new pumper from Oxford. Mr. Inscho explained that this pumper is now in use. He thanked Mrs. Rolef, CFO and Mrs. Leidner, Municipal Clerk for getting the paperwork handled so quickly.

Mr. Inscho also reported on the Drafting Competition that was held two weeks ago. The turnout was lighter than expected.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg asked Mr. Inscho if they use the Kill to fill the pumper trucks or the Township water supply. Mr. Inscho explained that most of the time the water is drawn from the Kill.

Mr. Inscho explained that when filling pools for residents one load comes out of the town water. The resident gets one load of clean water and then the next load comes from the Kill. Mayor Shoemaker noted that last quarter there were 80,800 gallons of water that was unaccounted for. The filling of pools may play a part in that number. Mr. Inscho explained that the reason the first load of town water is placed in the pool is that the water is already in the pumper truck. Mrs. Van Valkenburg expressed concern over the filing of residential pools. Mrs. Dalton inquired as to whether the Hose Company charges for the water, Mr. Inscho answered that they ask for a donation and it is usually about \$100.00 for 3,000 gallons.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg made a motion to no longer use public water to fill the pools, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

Mr. Lance recommended that maybe the Hose Company should charge more.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg explained that the pumper truck is filled with township water from the hydrant with 3,000 gallons of water to fill a pool. Mrs. Van Valkenburg expressed concern because the Township has water issues and residents complain about water bills. The Township is paying for the water.

Before Roll Call Vote it was explained that a No vote means that the hose company will continue filling pools.

Roll call vote: Avery – No, Dalton - Yes, Lance -No, Van Valkenburg - Yes, Shoemaker - No  
3 no votes, 2 yes votes motion does not carry.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg would like to know how much water has been taken from the hydrants and used to fill pools. The most recent quarterly bill was 80,800 gallons of water taken from the hydrants.

Mr. Inscho feels that the number is excessive. There may be a metering problem.

Mr. Inscho noted that he was very proud of the Hose Company. They had a great stop of a fire on Sunset Lake Road in Hardwick. The company got there quick and knocked the fire down. The fire was started by a car in a garage. The residents were able to sleep in the home with electricity that same night.

Mrs. Dalton wanted to publically thank the Hose Company for a job well done. They worked like a well oiled machine.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg noted that she has seen a lot of good changes since Mr. Inscho became Chief and she really appreciates his hard work. Mrs. Dalton thanked him for all of the reports as well.

Mr. Inscho asked the Township Committee to consider a False Alarm Ordinance and a No Parking in Fire Lane at the Firehouse Ordinance. People park in front of the bays.

## **ORDINANCES**

### **ORDINANCE NO. 2017-03 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 84 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN ENTITLED "CONCERTS AND FESTIVALS, OUTDOOR"**

Mayor Shoemaker explained that this is the second reading of this Ordinance and opened the Public Hearing.

Jeanette Iurato, 2 Heller Hill Road noted that she had a comment to be delivered for Bob Canace regarding some confusing wording in the Ordinance. Mrs. Leidner explained that the event that is being held at Givens Belet does not fall under this Ordinance, it was already approved under the Facilities Use Application that was received months ago. Mr. Canace was also concerned that this ordinance was crafted just for the closure of Main Street, and Mr. Benbrook noted that it does not only pertain to Main Street. Mrs. Iurato voiced a concern regarding the Violations and Penalties section of the Ordinance. Mr. Benbrook explained that this section was revised to say if items are confiscated due to non-compliance of the ordinance the vendor has 30 days to retrieve their items.

Fred Cook, 4 Corners Road, noted that the wording of the Ordinance can be chilling to someone considering holding an event.

Debra Waldron, 54 Maple Lane, noted that Section 3 Item B #4 – Exemptions are given for some events #5 – Memorial Day Parade should be included.

Mayor Shoemaker closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Lance made a motion to include in Item 5 Section 3 the Memorial Day Parade, and add in #6 Any permit on public property where a Facilities Use Permit was issued, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

All ayes: Motion carried.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 2017-05 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 35 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN ENTITLED "POLICE DEPARTMENT"**

Second Reading, Public Hearing, Adoption

Mayor Shoemaker opened the Public Hearing. There were no public comments

Mayor Shoemaker closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Lance made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2017-05, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

All ayes: Motion carried.

Township Attorney Benbrook noted that he has a draft Weight Limit Ordinance that he will send to the Township Clerk for distribution.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1 - R.2017 – 087 Authorization to Pay Bills
- 2 - R.2017 - 088 Fixing Salaries and Wages of Officials, Appointees and Employees of the Township 2017
- 3 - R.2017 - 089 Resolution to Cancel Open Purchase Orders
- 4 - R.2017 - 090 Cancellation and Refund of Taxes Due to Totally Disabled Veteran Status on B202, L20.05
- 5 - R.2017 - 091 Resolution to Extend Third Quarter 2017 Property Tax Payment Grace Period
- 6 - R.2017 - 092 Resolution Awarding the Contract for Purchase of 2 Snow Plows
- 7 - R.2017 - 093 Resolution Awarding the Contract for Purchase of 2 Spreaders
- 8 - R.2017 - 094 Resolution Consenting to the Distribution of the Certain Federal Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Monies for Municipalities Hosting Federal Park Land
- 9 - R.2017- 095 Approval to Send Municipal Assets to Warren County Auction
- 10 - Applications for Blue Light Permits from Chris Santamaria Ambulance Corp. and David A. Weber – Blairstown Hose Company.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg requested that 2017-088 be removed for discussion.

Mrs. Dalton requested that 2017-93 be adjusted it should be 4 spreaders. Four is reflected in the language of the Resolution.

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda excluding 2017-88, which was seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

Discussion was held regarding Resolution No. 2017-088 Fixing Salaries and Wages. Mr. Lance made a motion to make a change under Department of Public Works, salary range for driver/laborer change \$18.36 - \$20.02 to \$18.36 - 21.00. Which was seconded by Mayor Shoemaker.

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

Mrs. Van Valkenburg noted that there was previous discussion about the Township Committee salaries. She would like to revisit that discussion. The total amount paid is \$23,263.00 and Mrs. Van Valkenburg would like to see that amount go back down to \$20,000.00. She is not in agreement with the Township Committee getting increases. Mrs. Dalton explained that there was no increase in 2017.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg made a motion to change the total Township Committee salary amount to \$20,000.00. No second was heard, motion failed.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg made a motion to change the Office assistant Part time as needed position to a range of \$16.00 to \$20.00, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-88 with the changes, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Animal Control – January –March 2017  
Clerk – July Report  
DPW - July Project Tracker Reports  
Finance – July Finance and Fuel Reports  
Fire Department – March, April, May, June  
Police Department – July Report  
Tax Collector – July Report  
Warren County Health Department – July 10, 2017 Report  
Zoning Officer – July Report

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve the Department Reports, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1 – Back Up Well Update** - This is covered in the Township Engineer's Report.

## **NEW BUSINESS –**

**1 – Security System Quotes** - Mrs. Dalton explained that the quotes received were done separately for the Municipal Offices, the Police Department and Public Works and Sycamore Park. She went on to explain that there are a few minor changes that need to be done and Captain Johnsen and Mrs. Leidner will reach out to NorthEast Management. Alarming the Police Department and Municipal Building would total \$10,300.00.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg asked if this was the only quote received. Captain Johnsen said that it is. Mrs. Rolef noted that we will get other quotes. Since this is for the Police Department we will need to take into consideration references to be sure that the companies are reputable.

Mayor Shoemaker inquired as to whether a quote was received for the Water Department security system. Mrs. Rolef explained that due to funding we can do the Police Department and Municipal Offices this year and look into the others next year. Mrs. Rolef explained that there is money in the insurance fund from the fire that would cover the municipal building and police department only.

Mrs. Dalton made a motion to authorize NorthEast Remote Surveillance & Alarm to move forward with the installation of the security system in the Municipal Building and Police Department as long as other quotes are received and compared, which was seconded by Mayor Shoemaker

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

Mayor Shoemaker gave Municipal Clerk Leidner a document that needs to be completed for the US Census Bureau. It is the 2020 Census Update for addresses as mandated by law. It takes an average of 21 hours to complete.

**COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE** for information and possible action

1 - from Nick Mohr, OEM Coordinator requesting a Proclamation naming September 2017 National Preparedness Month. The proclamation is urging Blairstown residents to take concrete action towards preparing for emergencies and disasters by declaring September as National Preparedness Month. Mayor Shoemaker asked the Committee if anyone had a problem with him signing the Proclamation. There were none.

2 - from Nick Mohr requesting permission to hold CERT Training Classes in the Municipal Building on various Tuesday evening in the fall. Mr. Mohr would like to use the meeting room in the Municipal Building to hold CERT training classes. There were no objections as this is part of OEM which is an organization of the Township of Blairstown.

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

1 - Resolution received from The Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders Extending the Grant for the Continued Footbridge Park Expansion Project for the Period of 12 Months.

**FROM THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY**

Mr. Benbrook explained that the Land Use Board will be taking up consideration of the Housing Element and Fair Share Plan at their next meeting. If this is approved by the Land Use Board then the Township Committee will do the same at its next meeting. The repose expires on August 30 therefore Mr. Benbrook will be directing a consent order to Judge Miller asking for a 45 day extension. This is because once the Township Committee approves it in September the next step will be to do our fairness hearing notice that has to be done 30 days before the hearing.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg asked Mrs. Rolef to do a cost analysis after the entire process is over.

Mr. Benbrook noted that he has been working on the Weight Limit Ordinance.

Mr. Benbrook also talked about a letter that he received from the Warren County Freeholders regarding revisions that are needed on the Sidewalk Agreement. Mr. Benbrook will revise the agreement and send it to Charlie O'Connell. This is the sidewalk agreement with the First Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Lance made a motion to allow the Mayor and Township Clerk to execute the revised sidewalk agreement, which was seconded by Mayor Shoemaker.

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

**FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK**

Reminder there is no Township Committee Workshop Meeting on August 23.  
Reminder Clean-Up Vouchers are available during the hours of 8am -4 pm Mon-Fri  
Free Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday December 2, 2017 9am-Noon.

**FROM THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

Mr. Rodman explained that he spent a lot of time on Mrs. Bellot's water issue and he wanted to make it clear that he never laughed or made fun of the issue.

Mr. Rodman reported that the draft specs for the backup well have been updated and he hopes to go out to bid next week.

Regarding the Cobblewood Road pipe a quote was received from SPS for \$38,000.00, the contractor will inspect the job next week and hopes to do the work soon.

Mr. Rodman discussed Storm water management. He indicated that he has asked Blairstown Elementary to conduct 5 presentation for children regarding storm water requirements. A handout was delivered explaining the requirements to the school and the ability of the Musconetcong Watershed to provide a watershed ambassador to conduct the classes at the school. Mr. Rodman explained that he has ordered activity books, coloring books and stickers which are free from NJDEP to meet the handout requirements. A poster is being placed in the lobby of the school. The link to the NJDEP website and a small message has been placed on the Blairstown website. 12 points in total are needed to fulfill the storm water management requirements.

SAGE is due in October for the next round of grants for next year. Mr. Rodman explained that if the township Committee would like to pave another road please let him know which one.

Mr. Rodman discussed the airport safety zone estimate that was received for the markers to be placed to stake out the zone. Mr. Benbrook noted that he is reaching out to the owner of the airport to ask them to share in the cost for this mark out.

Mr. Rodman reported that a preconstruction meeting is being scheduled for the paving of Maple Lane.

The Walnut Valley Firehouse subcommittee met. Bob Benbrook asked questions of Mark Russo from Whitman and we are awaiting the responses to the questions.

Mr. Rodman explained that he has received the information form Police Director Bob Gara for Lambert Road. Mr. Rodman is preparing a problem statement that will be sent to the DOT regarding Lambert Road and Route 94 traffic pattern.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg inquired as to who painted the arrows on Bridge Street off of Route 94 because she would like to thank them.

**FROM THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
COMMITTEE MEMBER AVERY**

The Blairstown Seniors are having a trip on Monday August 21 to High Point Golf Club in Montague and they will be seeing Hawaiian dancers.



Mr. Avery reported that the new truck is ready to be picked up. Also regarding the DPW the Township was able to get 4 spreaders for less than the price of 2 spreaders. They were really needed. Maines Lane is in the process of receiving tar and chip, but the weather is delaying the process.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBER DALTON**

Mrs. Dalton reported that at the last meeting the Township Committee all received an outline of the new office configuration and today we received the official plan from the architect for the mechanicals.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg made a motion to authorize the Municipal Clerk to receive quotes for the construction of the front office reconfiguration which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

Mrs. Dalton also reported that she will be meeting with Bruce Leal, Principal of the Blirstown Elementary School and Sarah Belloti, Superintendent of North Warren to talk about goals and initiatives for the upcoming school year.

Mrs. Dalton invited the members of the Township Committee to join her at the luncheon that will be held to welcome the Mandarin teacher on August 17 at noon at the High School.

Mayor Shoemaker explained that he received a letter regarding the loss of school aid to Blirstown Schools. The Blirstown Elementary School lost \$9200.00 or .72% of school aid and North Warren Regional lost \$6000.00 or 1.12% of school aid. This changes affected the tax rate right when the tax bills were about to be printed.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBER LANCE**

Mr. Lance noted that he has a memo from the CFO regarding the Best Practices Worksheet. If requirements are met we would get the maximum amount of state aid. Mr. Lance explained that the number of questions dropped from 50 to 25. The CFO explained in the memo that some adjustments will need to be made in order to get the maximum amount of State aid. Two policies will need to be made internally, one would be "To establish a written policy requiring the Tax Assessor to notify the CFO and governing body of all tax appeals by June 1 of each year." The second one would be to have an outside employment policy that applies to anyone working for the Township who has a second job. They will have to notify the Township Office Manager who will decide if there is a conflict and approve the second job.

Mr. Lance also reported on the Police Department activities for July, 1 arrest for a theft over \$200, 1 arrest for \$50 - \$200.00, 15 traffic summons, 1 DWI and 4 drug arrests in the village. Mr. Lance noted that the Police Department is doing a great job!

Mr. Lance reported on Historic Preservation Committee. They will be having a cemetery tour at Cedar Ridge Cemetery on October 28, there will be 2 separate tours at 1:00 and 3:00.

Mr. Lance also reported that one of their long time members, Cynthia Montes has resigned. She did all of the background research for the Historic Preservation Committee.

Mr. Lance made a motion to accept with regret the resignation of Cynthia Montes, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

Mr. Lance went on to say that Cynthia Montes will be greatly missed, she was a great asset to the Historic Preservation Committee. Mrs. Dalton noted that her presence on Facebook with the history and pictures of this township was amazing.

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

Mrs. Van Valkenburg inquired about the caboose and why it is never open to the public. She inquired as to whether we can start opening it, even to the school children?

Mr. Lance explained that about 10 years ago the handicapped accessible ramp was placed there, but when a wheelchair gets to the door it can't get into the caboose. The Historic Preservation Committee is having discussions on how to make better use of the caboose. Mr. Lance also explained that the caboose is a New Haven caboose, it was never in Blairstown. It is not climate controlled either. Lori Nienstedt, Corresponding Secretary of the Historic Preservation Committee explained that the committee discussed this issue at its most recent meeting. She noted that they spoke to Fred Heilich, a railroad aficionado and it would cost around \$10,000.00 just to move it to the park. One of the cons of the move would be vandalism and how could this be monitored. Mrs. Nienstedt explained that one of the ideas discussed was to have a caboose day for the children at the Blairstown Elementary School, giving tours to the children, handing out some information about the caboose. It is more of a glorified storage unit currently.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg asked Mr. Benbrook about the in-rem foreclosure properties. He explained that searches have been ordered.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg also reported that there are 3 property owners that came forward to provide affordable housing units. Mrs. Van Valkenburg requested Mrs. Rolef to let her know what monies are left in the COAH account.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg also explained to the Township Committee that at the Methodist Church next to her there was a sinkhole that was thought to have been caused by a water leak. The DPW was there today digging it up and the only thing that came out of there were sand bees. It is possible that the sink hole was created by the sand bees. The DPW went down 7 feet down, no water was found.

#### **MAYOR SHOEMAKER**

Mayor Shoemaker asked Captain Johnsen about a police support walk CARES. This is to recognize Police Departments and First Responders who administer NARCAN and to honor those who battle the stigma of addiction on a daily basis. Captain Johnsen does not have the details about this walk, Mayor Shoemaker passed the document to Captain Johnsen to look into.

Mr. Benbrook sent a short email to Captain Johnsen regarding a significant opportunity for the Police Department and DPW to acquire army surplus items for free. Fort Dix's is closing in the fall so there will be a lot of items.

Mayor Shoemaker reported that the items that are set to go to the Warren County Auction have titles and are ready to go.

**FROM THE PUBLIC**

Debra Waldron – Land Use Chair gave an update on North Warren Regional High School. Mrs. Waldron contacted the Superintendent and Business Administrator to address the ongoing problem and to impose a deadline to resolve the issue. The deadline will be the end of August. Mrs. Waldron explained that a tree planting date needed to be set and a plan of what trees that were going to be planted was to be sent to Mr. Rodman for his review. The next deadline would be November 1. The President of the School Board assured Mrs. Waldron that they will be following through with this plan but was not sure if the deadlines being imposed could be met. He noted that they are looking to put the plantings on a property that is not owned by the school. If this is to happen there would need to be a legal easement. The property would need to be deeded to the school system according to Roger Thomas, Land Use Board Attorney.

Harold Price – Alice Court spoke to Mrs. Van Valkenburg about her concern about the Fire Department using Township water to fill swimming pools. He inquired as to whether she would be willing to make a motion that they at least include when they are filling pools in their monthly reports. That way that would be a way to keep track of the water usage.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg made a motion to have the Hose Company include the number of pools that are filled, which was seconded by Mr. Lance.

Voice vote: All ayes: Motion carried.

Mr. Price noted that the filling of pools is a liability on the Township.

Mr. Price explained that a few years ago he asked about a fire alarm system for the DPW when the Stewartsville DPW garage burned down. The Township Committee agreed that while looking into the security system for DPW we also look into a fire alarm system.

Luke Twomey inquired as to where to get information regarding initiatives and future plans and goals the Township might have. He inquired as to where to get the list of roads that are going to be paved. He was also curious about any cost saving initiatives or revenue generating opportunities. The Township Committee members explained that the only way to obtain revenue is through property taxes and as far as cost saving initiatives there have been staffing cuts over the past few years. Everything else is at a bare minimum. Mrs. Van Valkenburg explained that there will definitely be a municipal tax imposed in the very near future, which is the only other option. It was explained to Mr. Twomey that the revenue from Yards Creek has been substantially cut by the State many times. Attempts have been made to get some of the funding back but the State is not willing to increase the amount that the Township gets. The CAP is at \$2.8 million dollars.

Fred Cook – 4 Corners Road – Future plans, is it possible to give a copy to the public on one sheet. It was explained that there is a five year plan. Mr. Cook noted there should be a plan. Mr. Cook mentioned Four Corners Road repairs that are needed. The members of the Township Committee all let him know that took a ride on Four Corners Road and the majority felt that there are other roads in the Township that are in worse shape and will be considered for repair prior to Four Corners Road.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg and Mrs. Dalton also addressed 33 Frog Pond Road, the apron is raised above the road and that would be the reason the plow hit that area and caused the road damage.

Mayor Shoemaker made a motion to go into Executive Session for a Personnel matter, which was seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

Meeting was closed to the public at 10:27pm for the Executive Session.

Mr. Lance made a motion to close the Executive Session and re-open the meeting to the public, which was seconded by Mayor Shoemaker.

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

The meeting was re-opened to the public at 10:32pm

Mayor Shoemaker made a motion to designate Ted Rodman as the licensed Department Public Works Manager, which was seconded by Mr. Lance.

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

Mr. Lance made a motion that the Township advertise for a Certified Public Works Manager who also has a Water Operator License, which was seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

Mr. Benbrook noted for the record the DPW Supervisor has been demoted to Operator/Driver for reasons that were discussed in Executive Session. This will be in effect until the DPW Supervisor completes the program that is required under Federal protocols. When the program has been completed his position will be restored to a Driver/Operator at that salary level. The supervisory demotion is permanent.

Mr. Avery will speak to the Department of Public works Foreman to advise him of the status of the department.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

As there were no further comments from the public, Mr. Lance made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 pm.

Submitted by:

Linda Leidner, RMC  
Municipal Clerk