

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN  
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, July 12, 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 - 073 AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSONNEL**

Motion was made by Mr. Avery and was seconded by Mrs. Dalton

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

All ayes: Motion carried.

Executive Session began at 6:50pm.

Mr. Lance made a motion to re-open the Regular Meeting at 7:36 pm. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

All ayes: Motion carried.

In Executive session matters of personnel were discussed. The following were the results: Mr. Lance made a motion to transfer the workstation of Marion Spriggs next to the CFO and Zoning Officer, she will be removed from the position of Deputy Clerk and her new positions will be Deputy Registrar, Land Use Board Secretary, Assistant to the Zoning Officer and OPRA, her salary will remain at \$45,649.63 and will be entitled to all full time benefits. Mrs. Dalton seconded the motion.

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

All ayes: Motion carried.

Mr. Lance made a motion to include that the Land Use Board Secretary Marion Spriggs comp time will be eliminated, however; she will continue to receive \$150.00 if a Land Use Board Meeting is held on a Federal Holiday. Mayor Shoemaker seconded the motion.

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

All ayes: Motion carried.

Mr. Lance made a motion to transfer the workstation of Lori Nienstedt to the front office, Mrs. Nienstedt will no longer be the Assistant to the Zoning Officer and DPW, she will remain in the Purchasing/Accounts Payable/IT positions and will become the Deputy Clerk with a total salary of \$44,613.00 per year and will be entitled to all fulltime benefits. Mrs. Dalton seconded the motion.

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

All ayes: Motion carried.

Mayor Shoemaker explained that these staffing changes will help to streamline the work flow and will make the municipal offices much more efficient.

**PRESENTATION – Patricia Sagan, Recreation Director – Flag Poles at Walnut Valley**

Mrs. Sagan explained that the reason she is here tonight is to discuss the proposed relocation of the flag poles that are at Walnut Valley. This request is on behalf of Mark Ciala, North Warren Patriot Midget Football Board Member. Mrs. Sagan gave each member of the Township Committee a copy of the proposed flag pole relocation plans. They will be reusing the existing flag poles, they will do the labor and will do the reinstallation. One flag pole will be the United States flag and the other pole will hold the Patriot Midget Football flag. The flags will only be flown during football season. They will be removed by the Patriot Midget Football organization at the end of the season. They are also considering a solar flag pole. If the American flag needs to be flown at half staff they will take care of that as well. Mr. Ciala is a licensed contractor and will check with construction to be sure they are properly placed.

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve the relocation of the flag poles at Walnut Valley by the NW Patriot Midget Football League, which was seconded by Mrs. Van Valkenburg.

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

All ayes: Motion carried.

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

**Fred Cook – 44 Four Corners Road –** Mr. Cook brought with him pieces of Four Corners Road remarking that the last time he did this was 25 years ago, which was the last time the road was done. He understands that it can't be done this year, probably not next year but he asked that Four Corners Road needs to be placed on the list of roads slated for repair. Mrs. Dalton explained that she did visit Four Corners Road and she feels that it might be wise to revisit placing this road on the list.

**John Gallagher – 96 Union Brick Road –** Mr. Gallagher explained that 6 or 7 years ago a bunch of people got together and donated time and labor to build the ball parks at Sycamore Park and the same people are now being charged to use the fields. Mrs. Van Valkenburg explained our Township teams are the ones not being charged and out of town organizations are being charged to use the field; this includes travel leagues. Mr. Gallagher noted that the teams are Legion Teams and inquired as to why they are being charged for fields that they built. He explained that all kids but 1 are from Blairstown. Mr. Gallagher was asked if they are travel teams and they are. The name of the team is the American Legion Team and there are two teams, Jr. Varsity and Varsity. The Township Committee said that they would confer with Pat Sagan, Recreation Director regarding this.

## MINUTES

May 10, 2017 - Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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

May 10, 2017 - Executive Session Minutes

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

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

## 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.

Mayor Shoemaker explained that this Ordinance has been on the books for a long time and amendments were made reducing the fees and clarifying what happens when you apply for a permit to have a function that falls under this ordinance.

Township Attorney Kevin Benbrook explained that he received emails that he answered and also explained that this Ordinance does not apply to private parties. If you want to make to crystal clear, in the Definition Section, Subsection D take the word private out. That would alleviate any confusion regarding the enforcement of this ordinance for private parties. If this change is done the Ordinance will need to be readvertised because it is considered a substantial change in the Ordinance. This Ordinance does have an advanced notice to neighbors and businesses.

Section 7 paragraph 4 Notice must be given before the application is presented to the Township Committee.

Section 10 – application must be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the Township Committee Meeting.

Bob Canace- President of Ridge and Valley Conservancy – His board would like clarification as to time frame for how long the Police have to reply to the request. How long does the whole process take? Clarify what is going to be approved? Written waiver request to the Township Committee is appropriate as well. Mr. Canace wanted to also say that he believes the events that take place in this town are one of the best things that happen in town.

Mr. Benbrook will further refine road closures in the Ordinance.

Jeanette Iurato – Blairstown Museum expressed concern about the confiscated items. Clarification regarding length of time the items would be confiscated is needed.

Seeing no other comments Mayor Shoemaker closed the public hearing.

Mr. Benbrook will amend the Ordinance and the Clerk will readvertise and the Public Hearing on the Final Adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-03 will be held at the August 9 meeting.

The following amendments will be made:

- Eliminate any application for private property.
- Limit the Ordinance to significant road closures or need for Police or DPW services.
- Section 6 – DPW or Police Dept. Costs and Porta John fees.
- 30 Day timeframe for adjudication of Application.
- Applications to be submitted 60 days prior to the event.
- Two weeks prior notification to people on the specific road. Get certified list from Tax Assessor Within 200’.
- Specific exemptions for the Halloween Parade and Jingle on Main.

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

Introduction, First Reading,

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2017-05 on first reading, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

Mayor Shoemaker explained that this is the first reading and the second reading and public hearing will be held at the August meeting.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1 – R.2017 – 074      Authorization to Pay Bills
- 2 - R.2017 - 075      Resolution to Cancel Tax Sale Certificates
- 3 - R.2017 - 076      Resolution to Refund Lien Holder – Tax Sale Certificate #2017-010
- 4 - R.2017 - 077      Resolution to Refund Lien Holder – Tax Sale Certificate #2017-011
- 5 - R.2017 - 078      Redemption of Certification of Sale No. 2017-001
- 6 – R.2017 – 079      Redemption of Certification of Sale No. 2017-002
- 7 - R.2017 – 080      Redemption of Certification of Sale No. 2017-008
- 8 - R.2017- 081      Resolution Awarding Contract for Paving of Maple Lane
- 9 - R.2017- 082      Resolution Awarding Contract for Purchase of Police SUV
- 10 -                      Authorizing the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to Execute the Sidewalk Agreement between the Township of Blairstown and Warren County  
Re: First Presbyterian Church

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

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

Mayor Shoemaker made a motion to authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to Execute the Sidewalk Agreement between the Township of Blirstown and Warren County Re: First Presbyterian Church which was seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Clerk – June Report  
DPW - June Project Tracker Reports  
Finance – June Finance and Fuel Reports  
Fire Department – None  
Police Department – June Report  
Tax Collector – June Report  
Warren County Health Department – June 12, 2017 Report  
Zoning Officer – June Report

Mayor Shoemaker reported that it has been several months since there was a report obtained from the Fire Department.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg noted that we should reach out to the Warren County Health Department and have them come to one of the Township Committee Meetings. The reports that they send really never change. Clarification is needed on the items on the report that is submitted. Mrs. Leidner was instructed to ask Tracey Hess from the Warren County Health Department to come to a Township Committee Meeting.

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

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

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1 – Back Up Well Update** - Mrs. Rolef, CFO explained that the Township grant writer have informed the Township that we are not eligible for the Community Development Block Grant which is based on a low modular income. This low income percentage is based on the owners of the properties in the village not the income of the tenants. The next option is a USDA loan which is a 40% grant and 60% loan. \$60,000 was allocated for the drilling of the well. The Bond Ordinance for Phase II was set at \$350,000.00. Mrs. Rolef explained that she was advised that several professional reports, such as an environmental assessment, would be required to obtain this USDA grant/loan. The estimated cost for professional fees would be about \$60,000.00. The Township Engineer and CFO believe that the cost is not going to be that much but they won't know until the well is drilled and what is found. Basically if the project is \$410,000.00 the Township would get \$164,000.00 in the grant. If the project comes out to be \$125,000.00 the Township would only get \$50,000.00. Professional fees would exceed the amount the Township would actually get from the grant. Another option would be that between now and the August meeting Mr. Rodman and Mrs. Rolef determine what the cost might be. The third option would be to go out for bid to drill the well and see what we are dealing with.

Mayor Shoemaker made a motion authorizing the Township Engineer to solicit bids for the drilling of the backup well at the Firehouse location, which was seconded by Mr. Lance.

Township Attorney Kevin Benbrook noted that the Township does not have to go out for bid for the drilling of the well. Mr. Benbrook explained that it is a specific exemption under to Local Public Contract Law. No aspect of the water supply system has to be bid on; quotes can be obtained and then you move forward.

Mayor Shoemaker withdrew his previous motion and Mr. Lance withdrew his second of the previous motion resulting in the following motion:

Mayor Shoemaker made a motion authorizing the Township Engineer to solicit quotes for the drilling of the backup well at the Firehouse location, which was seconded by Mr. Lance.

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

Mr. Rodman had a couple of other items to bring before the Township Committee. The first being Cobblewood Road contract to reline the pipe. Mr. Benbrook will be drawing up the contract. Mrs. Rolef noted that there needs to be specific wording in the contract that change orders could not exceed \$39,999.00. SPS's quote was for \$38,000.00.

Mr. Rodman also addressed the airport hazard zone. To place monuments denoting the hazard zone would cost \$2,500.00. Mr. Benbrook will reach out to the owner of the airport to ask if they would be willing to split the cost for the monuments.

Mr. Rodman reported on Mohican Road. He explained that a decision was made to hold off on repairing the road until 2018. State Aid for this road was \$240,000.00 and we asked for \$380,000.00. Prices are starting rise on asphalt. The DOT is ok with the Township holding off until 2018.

Mr. Rodman reported on the status of Maple Lane. Once the resolution from tonight is forwarded to the DOT and approval is obtained the paving can begin. The grant should cover the estimated cost at the current price of the asphalt.

Regarding the Walnut Valley Firehouse - a subcommittee is being formed and a meeting is being scheduled. The subcommittee consists of the Mayor, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mrs. Rolef, Mr. Benbrook and Mr. Rodman. The only thing this committee will be doing is discussing the options. Mike Russo from Whitman is waiting for instruction on how to proceed.

Mr. Rodman received the accident report for Route 94 and Lambert Road. Since 2014 there have been 10 accidents. This will be included in a problem statement and sent to DOT.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg asked about the bus traffic on Maple Lane. She questioned as to whether a weight restriction could be place on that road. Mrs. Van Valkenburg went on to explain that we the Township is paying to repave the road and will be maintaining the road then she feels that a weight restriction should be placed on it. The buses that travel in that area should not be cutting through town. Mr. Rodman will look into what needs to be done to place weight limits on certain roads.

Mr. Rodman also reported on the demolition of Jones Farm. Estimates from 2015 were given to Mrs. Rolef for the removal of the barn. There was a request from the Fire Chief Calvin Inscho that if there is going to be a demolition of the barn, the Hose Company wants to be involved.

Mayor Shoemaker noted that there are representative from the Hose Company in attendance and he would like to ask that their business be discussed at this point in the meeting.

Fire Chief, Calvin Inscho came forward. Mayor Shoemaker explained that in 2014 the Township lent a fire truck to Warren County Technical School for a fire training program. There is a new Superintendent at the school who has asked that the truck be removed. Mayor Shoemaker recommended that we take the fire truck to the Warren County Surplus Auction. If the truck sells the proceeds come to us, if it doesn't sell the county will be responsible for disposing of the truck.

Mr. Lance made a motion to drive the fire truck to the Warren County Surplus Auction and include an old out of service DPW pickup truck in the auction, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

The Municipal Clerk was asked to find the title for the Fire Truck.

Mr. Inscho will ask Mr. Stoddart to schedule a date to move the fire truck to the county.

Mayor Shoemaker noted that the Hose Company purchased a pumper truck from Oxford. He explained that the Hose Company wants the Township to purchase the truck because it can't be insured if it is purchased by the Hose Company. Chief Inscho explained that the Hose Company looked into renting or leasing a truck while their truck is being fixed. To do this it would cost approximately \$6000.00 per month so it would total about \$24,000.00. The truck they purchased was \$8000.00 with the intention of selling it when it is not needed. The Hose Company would like the Township to purchase the truck and then give it back to them when it is not needed any longer. Mrs. Rolef inquired as to how much it would be to insure the truck. Mr. Inscho noted that he spoke with the insurance company today and it won't increase the premium because it is part of a fleet. Mrs. Rolef also inquired as to who will pay for repairs if the truck needs them. Chief Inscho explained that unless it is a minor repair they will not be fixing the truck. Only safety items would be repaired.

Mayor Shoemaker made a motion to accept the donation of a pumper truck from the Blairstown Hose Company and the Township agrees to donate the pumper truck back to the Hose Company when it is no longer needed, which was seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

Mr. Inscho noticed that the Hose Company is receiving an invoice from Kistler O'Brien, the fire extinguisher company, on a monthly basis. They have never been billed before. No one requested Kistler to inspect the fire extinguishers monthly as this is something Mr. Stoddart checks the fire extinguishers on a monthly basis. Basically they are being double billed. Mrs. Rolef, Mr. Inscho and Mrs. Nienstedt will look into the issue.

Mr. Inscho requested that the township Committee look into an Ordinance for multiple false alarms, repeat offenders. After 3 false alarms possibly charge a fine. Mr. Benbrook will look into this type of Ordinance.

Mr. Inscho apologized to the Township Committee on behalf of his Deputy Chief for the Assistant Chief not submitting the monthly Fire Department reports. Someone will have them done for the August Meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS** - Blairstown Museum request to close Main Street for an event.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg noted that the Historic Preservation Committee should be involved in this event. She believes that the two entities should work together. Mrs. Van Valkenburg has a concern that we have a Museum and a Historic Preservation Committee, now there is a Museum and a Historic Day. Jeanette Iurato noted that this particular event is a fundraiser for the Museum. Mrs. Iurato stated that she is willing to give the Historic Preservation Committee a free booth so that they can have a premier location on Main Street. Mrs. Dalton noted that maybe in the future the two entities could work together on events that are historic in nature.

Mrs. Iurato did inform the Township Committee that the Township is added as an additional insured for Historic Blairstown Day. She obtained signatures from all businesses on Main Street noting that they were informed of the proposed road closure for this event. All businesses were in favor of the event except for one, Gallery 23 who inquired as to whether the event could be held on a Sunday instead. Mrs. Iurato let them know that it would be an option.

Mr. Avery made a motion to approve the request from the Blairstown Museum to close Main Street for Historic Blairstown Day and to send the approving letter to the Warren County Freeholders so they can take action on this request. Pending receipt of \$1360.00 for Police coverage and the Blairstown Museum will provide the Porta Johns. The motion was seconded by Mayor Shoemaker.

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

**COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE** for information and possible action

1 - from the Office of the Zoning Official – Request for Approval of Business Directory Sign Application received from Blairstown Powersports, Application fee of \$25.00 was received.

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve the Business Directory Sign Application received from Blairstown Powersports, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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



**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

1 – Memo from Sue Budd, Asst. Program Coordinator Warren County Division on Aging and Disability Services announcing the Senior Farmer Market Voucher Program for Senior’s 60 and older.

**FROM THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY**

Nothing additional to report.

**FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK**

Mrs. Leidner reported that she received a One Day Social Affair Permit Application late in the day today from Blairstown Live Arts for an event being held on July 21, 2017. This is usually done online however, the applicant didn’t have the application into the online system in time to do it online.

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve the One Day Social Affair Permit Application from Blairstown Live Arts for an event being held on July 21, 2017, which was seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

**FROM THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

Mr. Rodman reported that the new Stormwater Management regulations require a lot of work. Mr. Rodman offered to do what he is doing in other municipalities. That being he will submit vouchers for any time spent on Stormwater Management at his regular hourly rate. That will not exceed \$2,500.00. At the end of the year he will come back to the Township Committee with the actual time spent and see where we are for next year.

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve the offer of Mr. Rodman that he will handle Stormwater Management until the end of 2017. Mr. Rodman will submit vouchers at his normal hourly rate not to exceed \$2,500.00. This motion was seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

**FROM THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE MEMBER AVERY**

Mr. Avery acknowledged the fact that there was a superb Blairstown Fourth of July celebration here in Blairstown. Mr. Avery thanked Karen Lance for hosting such a great event. The Township Committee and all of the residents present gave Mrs. Lance a round of applause for a job well done.

Mr. Avery reported that the Blairstown Senior’s had a trip on June 28 to Doolans on Spring Lake. The show and food was excellent. The next trip will be to High Point Golf Club in Montague on July 21. The Aloha Hawaiian Dancers will be there.

The bag filter for the water company have been received and will be installed shortly.

DPW has received the tractor and mower that was approved and the new truck is ready for inspection and to decide where the fixtures will be located.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER DALTON**

Mrs. Dalton followed up with the original quote from Robert Lighting and Energy to change the light fixtures in the Municipal Building to LED. Mrs. Dalton thanked Mr. Price for the contact information and reported that the new representative is Danny Broadway and she is awaiting an email back. She has also reached out to Lulo Electric in Hackettstown for a quote.

Mrs. Dalton also reported that she met with Mrs. Rolef and the Mayor to work on salaries. Mrs. Dalton distributed the proposed salary changes to the members of the Township Committee for their review and comments. Mrs. Van Valkenburg asked what the increase in the Township medical and dental insurance was for the year. Mrs. Rolef noted that the cost went down.

Mrs. Dalton also reported on the plans for the office reconfiguration for security purposes. She provided a copy of the plan that both she and Mrs. Leidner felt was the most workable. If the Township Committee agrees that it fits the needs of the Township the project can move forward. All members of the Township Committee agreed that this plan will work and gave permission for the project to move forward to the next step which would be to get quotes.

Mayor Shoemaker made a motion to approve obtaining quotes for the reconstruction of the front offices, which was seconded by Mrs. Van Valkenburg.

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

All ayes: Motion carried

Mrs. Dalton reported that the teacher of Mandarin Chinese will be arriving soon and when she is settled the school will be having a reception and the members of the Township Committee will be invited.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER LANCE**

Mr. Lance reported that a grant in the amount of \$1500.00 was applied for the Police Department to obtain 3 new bullet proof vests. The Township also applied for a COPS grant in the amount of \$125,000.00 that will pay a salary for 3 years to a new police officer.

The police department participated in 3 Narcan saves in June. Mr. Lance reported that 2 of the saves were outside of Blairstown.

The Police Department report included 1 theft over \$200.00, 5 thefts over \$50.00, 1 arrest for selling marijuana, one other narcotic arrest.

Mr. Lance also reported that next month he will be copying the Township Committee on sample Ordinances that pertain to 18 to 21 year olds and how alcohol related charges are handled. Blairstown does not have a local ordinance in place and therefore sometimes an 18-21 year old is charged with a heavy fine according to state statute for a minor offense.

Mr. Lance reported on the barn demolition at Jones Farm. The quote from Grinnell that in 2012 was \$35,000.00. This is right next to the bid threshold. Other quotes came in well over that so the Township would have to do a sealed bid to obtain bids to demolish the barns on Jones Farm. Between March 15 and November 15 nothing can be done because it is a wood turtle nesting area.

The Historic Preservation Committee had an exhibit at Footbridge Park on the Fourth of July. Many people stopped to look at the exhibit. The Historic Preservation Committee will be hosting two guided tours on October 28 at the Cedar Ridge Cemetery. One tour will begin at 1:00 and the other at 3:00.

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

Mr. McGreen, Open Space Committee Chair gave updates on some of the Open Space projects. He reported that there has been no changes in the status of the Ardia property. Mr. Benbrook reported that he reached out to the attorney for the Kostenbader property to let him know that the Township is willing to modify the contract. There has been no response. Mr. Benbrook let the other attorney know that Kostenbader would not be responsible for remediating anything that came up during Phase 1 and Phase II. Mr. McGreen noted that he spoke to the owner today and she is going to sign the contract and send it back. Mr. McGreen added that he has asked Warren County to extend the time period for completing the project for another year.

Mr. McGreen also reported that a contract is being drawn up for Hemlock Ravine that was approved by the Township Committee at the last meeting.

Mr. McGreen also has an interest in preserving 2 smaller farms. He noted that we are almost out of state and County Funds. Mr. McGreen is also holding out hope for the Young property located on Mohican Road which is 360 acres. Mr. McGreen asked for the Township Committee's permission to tell these property owners that the Township does not have funds to make offers now but the Township is expecting \$500,000.00 in the future.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg reported that Theresa Tamburro offered to stay on as the Affordable Housing Liaison. Mrs. Tamburro let Mrs. Van Valkenburg know that she will be creating a letter that needs to be inserted into the tax bills. This letter is to let property owners know about the accessory apartment and the market to affordable housing programs. A newsletter will be placed in tax bills and Mrs. Tamburro's letter will be placed in the newsletter.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg noted that the Ordinance review committee will be meeting on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm. The Members of the committee will be Rosalie Murray, Jane Santini, Domenic Daleo and Mrs. Van Valkenburg.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg asked for an update on the status of the In Rem foreclosures. Mr. Benbrook reported that the searches were ordered. He noted that we are just waiting for the deeds.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg also reported that she and Mayor Shoemaker met with Kevin and Suzanne Rostenkowski about the ice rink coming back for this year. Mrs. Van Valkenburg inquired about the power at Sycamore Park, Mayor Shoemaker reached out to Jackie Espinoza from JCP&L. She will be getting the name of the proper person to answer the questions. There is a transformer in the ground at the end of the rink that may help with the power needed to run the ice rink.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg asked that since Verizon is going to put nodes on poles in November if you are noticing areas where calls are being dropped let someone on the Township Committee know so that Verizon can be advised as to where these nodes should be placed.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg mentioned that when the crosswalks were repainted the crosswalk on Bridge Street was not done. Mr. Inscho noted that since it is a county road all the Township has to do is put a request in writing.

#### **MAYOR SHOEMAKER**

Mayor Shoemaker reported that tomorrow is the Annual Public Hearing for the Warren County Transportation Program and it is being held at the Washington Township Municipal Building at noon.

Mayor Shoemaker also noted that he had an informal conversation with Mayor Perry concerning the agreement with the Hose Company. Mayor Perry believes that the Hardwick Committee would be in agreement to pay Blirstown \$25,000.00 for 5 years. The breakdown would be \$20,000.00 in donation and \$5,000.00 in Capital.

Mayor Shoemaker reported that the pump for the fire truck has been ordered and is expected to arrive during the first couple of weeks in September. It comes as a unit of a pump section and a transfer case.

Mrs. Dalton made a recommendation to to cancel the second meeting in August. There was no decision made regarding this recommendation.

#### **FROM THE PUBLIC**

Debra Waldron – Land Use Chairman –reported that she reached out to Mrs. Bilotti and Gerhardt Woyzichowsky from North Warren High School and has not gotten any calls back. She will reach out once more and then she is going to ask Land Use Board Attorney Roger Thomas to draft a letter advising them that the school is in violation of the resolution. They are supposed to draft a plan and Mr. Rodman is supposed to approve the plan and he has not received anything either.

Ms. Waldron recommended that signs should be placed noting no trucks, no buses, and no thru traffic on both ends of Maple Lane.

Mr. Harold Price – 3 Alice Court – noted that trash removal should not be the responsibility of the Township when there is an event. Mr. Lance was in agreement, that is why the DPW reviews the application.

Mr. Price noted that if the backup well was placed on Sunset Hill, because the elevation is higher, the water could backflow to help with the water pressure. The property was looked at in the past and the geologist said it was not a good location for water.

Mr. Price indicated that he has a wealth of knowledge about Jones Farm. He explained that the State has forced Blirstown to have a maintenance contract on the property. What they are looking to be maintained is the upper 15 acres. The grass is being cut as part of the maintenance contract and the wood turtle does not come up there. When the concrete is removed the bog turtles are not the issue.

Fire Chief Inscho invited the Township Committee to the Hose Companies drafting competition on July 29<sup>th</sup> at Sycamore Park at 3:00pm. He also noted that Atlantic Air 1 is landing there at 2:30.

**ADJOURNMENT**

As there were no further comments from the public, Mrs. Van Valkenburg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Lance. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 pm.

Submitted by:

Linda Leidner, RMC  
Municipal Clerk