

**BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016 – 6PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

M I N U T E S

OPENING – Call to Order; Roll Call

The meeting was called to order. Those present were Mr. Avery, Mrs. Dalton, Mr. Lance, Mr. Shoemaker and Mrs. Van Valkenburg.

The **FLAG SALUTE** was conducted.

INVOCATION

Rev. David Harvey of the First Presbyterian Church gave the invocation.

The following SUNSHINE STATEMENT was read:

Notice of this meeting has been sent to two newspapers of general circulation in the Township of Blairstown in which notice of the date, time, place and general agenda were set forth in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

DETERMINATION OF THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASSERS

Elected Official – Paul Avery

Senator Steven Oroho administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Avery.

Elected Official – Cynthia Dalton

Senator Oroho administered the Oath of Office to Mrs. Dalton.

NOMINATION FOR MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2016

A motion to appoint Herman Shoemaker as Mayor for 2016 was made by Mr. Lance and seconded by Mr. Avery.

Senator Oroho administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Shoemaker.

NOMINATION FOR DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2016

The nomination of Paul Avery as Deputy Mayor was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg and seconded by Mayor Shoemaker.

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

Senator Oroho administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Avery.

OATHS OF OFFICE – BLAIRSTOWN HOSE COMPANY NO. 1 OFFICERS

Darren Occhiuzzo, Chief
Calvin Inscho, Assistant Chief
Mike Rumsey, Captain
Eric Usinowicz, Lieutenant

Mayor Shoemaker administered the Oath of Office to the officers of Blairstown Hose Company No. 1.

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

- R.2016-001 Various One Year Appointments – Compensated
- R.2016-002 Various Appointments – Non-compensated
- R.2016-003 Cancel Water Utility Balances under \$5.00
- R.2016-004 Appointing Local Emergency Planning Committee Members
- R.2016-005 Fixing the Rate of Interest to be Charged on Delinquent Taxes and Authorize Tax Collector to hold Annual Tax Sale
- R.2016-006 Complying with Open Public Meetings Act
- R.2016-007 Designating Authorized Signatures
- R.2016-008 Authorizing Investment of Idle Funds and Fund Transfers
- R.2016-009 Adopting a Cash Management Plan
- R.2016-010 Contracting for Professional Services without Competitive Bidding in Accordance with the Local Public Contract Law – Municipal Attorney
- R-2016-011 Contracting for Professional Services without Competitive Bidding in Accordance with the Local Public Contract Law – Municipal Auditor
- R.2016-012 Contracting for Professional Services without Competitive Bidding in Accordance with the Local Public Contract Law – Municipal Engineer
- R.2016-013 Designation of Official Newspapers
- R.2016-014 Cancellation of Certain Real Estate Property Tax Balances
- R.2016-015 Authorization for Tax Assessor to File Corrective Appeals and Stipulations and Authorization for Township Attorney to Work with Tax Assessor in Defense of Tax Appeals with the Warren County Board of Taxation
- R.2016-016 Collection of a Fee for Duplicate Tax Sale Certificates
- R.2016-017 Fixing the Rate of Interest to be Charged on Delinquent Water Accounts

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

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

Mayor Shoemaker remarked that appointments for the Environmental Commission were not listed, as the Township Committee will be assessing the Commission’s role during the year, making a decision on whether it should be a committee or commission, or whether the functions should be combined with another entity within the government.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Avery said that he is looking forward to 2016 and working with the employees and volunteers in the township.

Mr. Lance welcomed Mrs. Dalton to the Committee and wished everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

Mrs. Dalton said that she is looking forward to serving on the Committee and thanked everyone for their support.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg said that she hopes to see the kind of attendance at future meetings as there is tonight.

Mayor Shoemaker welcomed Mrs. Dalton to the Committee. He thanked everyone for attending tonight. He also thanked the various committees, whose members worked hard throughout the year.

Mayor Shoemaker thanked the municipal employees for their hard work, saying that they are a tremendous asset to the community.

Mayor Shoemaker outlined problems that must be dealt with in the coming year, such as the water filtration plant. The sewer feasibility study will continue in 2016 in concert with Blair Academy. Hopefully, more roads will be resurfaced, dependent upon State grant monies. Affordable Housing is another issue that will be dealt with this year.

Grants were received in 2015, one for the purchase of property and the other for an emergency generator for the municipal building.

The Historic Preservation Committee has been extremely productive, most notably with the walking tour programs.

The township will continue in its efforts to recoup energy tax monies from the State. Senator Oroho has worked with the township towards this end and will continue to assist Blirstown.

Mayor Shoemaker concluded by saying that he is looking forward to working with the Committee and the public in the coming year.

Sergeant Scott Johnson introduced Officer Dillon and Officer Herzer to the audience. Both of these officers were hired in October of 2015.

FROM THE PUBLIC

Jeanette O'Brien, East Avenue, congratulated Mrs. Dalton, and said that she is very pleased that Mrs. Van Valkenburg is once again on the Committee.

Senator Oroho congratulated Mr. Avery and Mrs. Dalton on their election wins. He said that he enjoys working with the Blirstown Committee members, who are very proactive and professional.

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no further comments from the public, Mr. Lance made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Van Valkenburg. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Submitted by:

Phyllis E. Pizzaia, RMC
Municipal Clerk