

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 7:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

Workshop 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. Avery, Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, and Mayor Lance. Also present was Township Clerk, Linda Leidner. The **FLAG SALUTE** was conducted.

**SUNSHINE STATEMENT**

Mayor Lance read the following statement: Notice of this meeting has been sent to two newspapers of general circulation in which notice was given of the date, time, place and general agenda in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

**Resolution No. 2018-038 AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION** – for the purpose of discussing personnel.

Motion to authorize executive session was made by Mrs. Dalton and was seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

All ayes – Motion carried.

Executive Session began at 6:59 p.m.

Motion to close executive session was made at 7:26 p.m. by Mr. Avery and was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

All ayes – Motion carried.

Regular Session began at 7:27 p.m.

**RESULTS OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg for Albert Schwartz, Water Operator to receive his \$4000.00 salary increase for successfully completing his 90 day probation which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

All ayes – Motion carried.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Lance requested a moment of silence for former Mayor, Bill Seal, who passed away on February 19th.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1 - Pat Sagan, Recreation – Mrs. Sagan spoke regarding the fence repair recommended for

Vail Field. She requested \$3,625.00 for BoardRLine Fencing to complete repairs in two (2) weeks time.

Motion to approve expenditure of \$3,625.00 from the Open Space Trust Fund for repairs to the Vail Field fence was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg and seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

2 - 2018 Working Budget – CFO Christine Rolef presented the overview of the 2018 Working Budget. The overall budget is \$4,026,211.86 with no Municipal Tax Rate.

Introduction of the budget will be made at the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting with public hearing at the April 11, 2018 meeting. Once introduced a) the budget cannot be changed and b) it will be made available on the Township website.

Motion to advertise for two police officers was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg, seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

Mrs. Rolef presented the Water Department Budget. In August/September the budget will be re-evaluated. Mrs. Van Valkenburg stated that we are also reviewing the Ordinance as some items were removed.

3 - Septic Application – An application was submitted for 26 Main Street to install a septic system. At the last Township Committee Meeting, the Township Committee approved the Mayor signing off on the Application. However, since that time, much concern has been expressed by local business owners and residents of Main Street. At the next meeting, the Applicant’s engineer will be present to answer any questions. This item can now be moved to old business.

4 - Fee Waiver Request - The Blairstown Museum requested all fees to be waived for an event they wish to hold in August. The cost for DPW, Police, and Port-A-John is roughly \$1,760.00, which is ultimately paid for by the taxpayers and is for the benefit of the Museum. ORDINANCE NO. 2018-03 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 84 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN ENTITLED “CONCERTS AND FESTIVALS, OUTDOOR” currently states that the application fee only will be waived for first-time applicants.

Motion to waive all fees for the Blairstown Museum for an event they wish to host in August was made by Mr. Avery. Motion was not seconded.

Motion denied.

Mayor Lance made a motion to charge the Blairstown Museum \$1,760.00 for Police and DPW services upon approval of event application and was seconded by Mrs. Van Valkenburg.

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

5 - Discussion – Possible Introduction of the following Ordinances at the March 14, 2018 Meeting:

- a. Amending Chapter 19 “Land Development” – The Committee discussed the proposed amendment which states “businesses selling medicinal and/or recreational marijuana and/or paraphernalia that facilitates the use of such marijuana, it will be prohibited.”

Mrs. Van Valkenburg reminded the Committee that Ms. Sullivan previously advised that we should be pro-active so that if an application comes in for a business of this type, we are prepared to respond. This will be on the agenda for first reading at the March 14, 2018 meeting.

- b. Amending Chapter 190 “Water” – various components of Chapter 190 were reviewed. Chapter 190 will be on the agenda when we know what the water rates are going to be.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1 - Interstate 80 Rock Fall Fencing – Discussion regarding the Interstate 80 fencing at the Delaware Water Gap was discussed.

Motion to approve Resolution 2018–039 – Opposing construction of the interstate Route 80 Rockfall Fence and Barriers to be located at the Delaware Water Gap was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg, seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

2 - Peddler’s Application – Fred Kessler applied for a Peddler’s Application to bring his Edward Jones license to the area, going door-to-door. No motion was made to approve the Peddler’s Application for Mr. Kessler.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg raised the issue of other towns utilizing our services such as recreation fields and Fire Company services. She suggested this be discussed in depth at a future meeting.

Mrs. Dalton discussed progress on the process of reviewing employees and the prospect of getting feedback from our staff.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1 – Carol Cook thanked the Committee for the respectful manner in which the meetings are conducted.

2 – Rosalie Murray requested that the Township Committee re-think their stance on businesses being able to sell marijuana and associated paraphernalia.

3 – Bill Klindt asked how tractor trailers will be able to exit the Acme parking lot. Mayor Lance replied that it is through the back of the parking lot.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

As there were no further comments from the public, Mrs. Dalton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Avery. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 pm.

Submitted by:

Linda Leidner, RMC  
Municipal Clerk