

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN  
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, December 14, 2016, 7:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by Mayor Shoemaker. Those present were Mr. Avery, Mrs. Dalton, Mr. Lance, Mrs. Van Valkenburg and Mayor Shoemaker. Also present were Clerk Leidner and Attorney Robert 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 2016-116 AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSONNEL, CONTRACT AND POTENTIAL LITIGATION**

Motion was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg and was seconded by Mrs. Dalton

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

All ayes: Motion carried.

Executive Session began at 6:35pm.

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

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

All ayes: Motion carried.

Mayor Shoemaker explained the results of the Executive Session. There was one personnel matter, one contractual matter and a potential litigation. Only one item will have action taken and that is the matter of personnel.

Mrs. Dalton explained that the personnel matter pertains to Marion Spriggs who serves as the Township Land Use Secretary, Deputy Clerk and Deputy Registrar.

Mrs. Dalton made a motion to increase the salary of Marion Spriggs to \$48,350.00 and Mrs. Spriggs will receive compensation of \$125.00 per meeting for Land Use Meetings falling on a Federal Holiday beginning January 1, 2017. The motion 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  
No members of the public signed up to speak.

**PRESENTATION –**

**Titan Mechanical** – Kevin and Suzanne Rostkowski from Titan Mechanical, 102 Route 94. Suzanne Rostkowski noted that the only change in the lease Agreement is that they started another

company, Affordable Rink Systems, LLC and would like to have the new company name used on the agreement. Township Attorney Bob Benbrook indicated that the name can be changed on the lease and that would not change the ability to take action on it this evening. Mr. Rostkowski gave an update explaining that all of the restrooms have been rubber matted and are insulated and heated. The ice mat is down and the rink boards are up and the refrigeration system is in place with a generator. Lighting is up. Mrs. Van Valkenburg wanted the public to know that all of this is being done at no expense to the town, everything is donated by the Rostkowski's. The anticipated opening is December 23 with the Grand Opening being held on December 28 at 4pm.

Mr. Lance made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the lease agreement between Affordable Rink Systems, LLC and Blairstown Township with the exception that the original name on the lease has been changed from Titan Mechanical Piping to Affordable Rink Systems, LLC. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Van Valkenburg.

Roll call vote: AYE – Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker. Mr. Avery was not in the meeting for the vote.

All ayes: Motion carried.

### **MAYOR SHOEMAKER – 2016 OVERVIEW**

Mayor Shoemaker made note that this is the last meeting of the year and it has been one heck of a year. The Township Committee has done a great job. There were 5 retirements, Municipal Clerk, Tax Collector, Police Lieutenant, DPW Mechanic and the DPW Custodian. It was a challenge to fill of those positions. Some of the positions were filled by promoting from within which was very gratifying. The Township Committee told people in prior years to hang in there when a position opens you will be considered. Those people did hang in and they were given the job. The Township was met with many challenges, particularly the water company. We are still working to try to figure out why we get the brown tap water for a short period when the system is flushed. Since the last meeting a professional water engineer toured the water plant. The engineer recommended taking additional water samples to be analyzed. The engineer will then try to come up with a solution to remedy whatever may be found. The Township is still in the process of trying to site the new backup well. A sewer feasibility study was started this year, Phase II is done. The Township has strong support for this project from The Blairstown Enhancement Committee which is a Township de facto Economic Development Committee. The Historic Committee has been very active this year and have put on some really great tours. It's been a busy year, I am very proud of our team here. We work well together as we have for the 5 years I have been on the Committee. Kudos to everyone; we did a good job! Thank you for your help this year!

### **MINUTES**

October 28, 2016 – Workshop Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2016 – Regular Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2016 – Executive Session Minutes

Mrs. Van Valkenburg made a motion to approve the October 28, 2016 and November 9, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes and the November 9, 2016 Executive Session Minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Avery.

Roll call vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton (both November 9, 2016), Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker

Abstain: Dalton for October 28, 2016

Mrs. Van Valkenburg made a motion to approve the October 12, 2016 Executive Session Minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

#### **ORDINANCES**

##### **ORDINANCE 2016-11 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2016-03 AN ORDINANCE GRANTING MUNICIPAL CONSENT TO THE ISSUANCE OF A FRANCHISE TO SERVICE ELECTRIC CABLE T.V. OF NEW JERSEY, INC., TO CONSTRUCT, OWN, OPERATE, EXTEND AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN, COUNTY OF WARREN, SETTING FORTH CONDITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE GRANT OF SAID MUNICIPAL CONSENT AND PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION AND USE OF SAID SYSTEM**

Second Reading, Public Hearing, Adoption

A motion was made by Mayor Shoemaker to open the Public Hearing, Mr. Avery seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Shoemaker explained that this Ordinance is for Service Electric to be able to provide cable television service to the residents of Blairstown. The Township receives a fee from Service Electric. The previous contract expired around 2 and a half years ago.

There were no comments or questions from the public.

Mayor Shoemaker closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Lance made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2016-11 on second reading, which was seconded by Mayor Shoemaker.

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

##### **BOND ORDINANCE 2016-12 – BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$350,000 FOR PHASE II CONSTRUCTION OF A BACK UP WELL FOR THE WATER DEPARTMENT IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN, IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$350,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION**

Second Reading, Public Hearing, Adoption

Mayor Shoemaker explained that the State is requiring the Township to drill a backup well due to the fact that the current well, which was driven in 1903, is not producing enough water according to State Standards.

Mayor Shoemaker opened the Public Hearing.

There were no comments or questions from the public.

Mayor Shoemaker closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Lance made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2016-12 on second reading, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

**ORDINANCE 2016-13 – ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 142-36 B: FIXING CERTAIN RECREATIONAL USE FEES**

Second Reading, Public Hearing, Adoption

Mayor Shoemaker explained that the Township is providing recreational facilities for use by teams and groups from other municipalities. Blirstown is maintaining these facilities which is an expense. This Ordinance provides the Township the ability to collect fees from organizations and sports groups that are not Blirstown based.

There is an application form for use of the facilities that will need to be completed and approved by various departments within the Township. Once the Township Departments review and approve the application and fees are collected, the Township Committee will act on approving the application

Fees range from:

Outside Organizations \$350.00 Non-Profit: \$200.00

Township Non-Profit: Schools, Churches, Scouts: \$100.00 Concession Stand Use: \$100.00

Blirstown Township based sporting groups will not be charged a fee for the use of recreation facilities.

The Mayor questioned whether the exempted groups should be listed in the body of the Ordinance even though the application is being made a part of the Ordinance and the list is on the application.

After discussion Mr. Benbrook noted that as long as the application is reference in the Ordinance it will be fine.

Mayor Shoemaker opened the Public Hearing.

There were no comments or questions from the public.

Mayor Shoemaker closed the Public Hearing.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-13 on second reading, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

## CONSENT AGENDA

- 1 - **R.2016 – 117** Authorization to Pay Bills
- 2 - **R.2016 – 118** Redemption of Certification of Sale No. 2014-007
- 3 - **R.2016 – 119** Refund of 2016 Overpayment Block 2003 Lot 6.01
- 4 - **R.2016 – 120** Refund of 2016 Overpayment Block 703 Lot 4.07
- 5 - **R.2016 – 121** Redemption of Certification of Sale No. 2016-014
- 6 - **R.2016 – 122** Redemption of Certification of Sale No. 2016-007
- 7 - **R.2016 – 123** Transfer of Funds

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

Mr. Lance noted that R.2016-123 is a transfer of funds within the Municipal Budget. Mr. Lance spoke with CFO Rolef today. She indicated that there will be a transfer of funds which will include the cancellation of some unexpended balances within the Water Department; this will be done at the Reorganization Meeting. The Township auditors are in agreement with this being done in the New Year.

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

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Animal Control Officer – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2016 Reports  
Clerk – November Report  
DPW – November Report  
Finance – November Finance and Fuel Reports  
Fire Department – October Report  
Police Department – November Report  
Tax Collector – November Report  
Warren County Health Department – November 10, 2016 Report

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

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

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Sewer Update** - Mr. Avery reported that the BEC conducted a forum at the Roy Theatre as an information update for interested citizens to give feedback. Mayor Shoemaker noted that the forum was strictly a BEC event and not a Township Committee event. Mrs. Van Valkenburg and Mayor Shoemaker remarked that the BEC is not an arm of the Township Committee, it is an outside community oriented group.

Debbie Waldron Land Use Board Chair would like the record to reflect that members of the BEC have reached out to her to attend their meetings and she can't do that because it would be a conflict of interest if she showed up at a meeting and heard one side of an issue. Mrs. Waldron recommends that the sewers are an issue that should be brought before the residents at one time so that they can ask questions of the engineers doing the sewer study and Blair Academy. If a representative of the Land Use Board or the Township Committee does not show up at the BEC

meeting the public assumes that he or she is against the sewers. If they do show up the public automatically assumes that you are in favor of the sewers.

**Well Update** – Mr. Rodman, Township Engineer explained that in October the Township asked for quotes to drill a new back up well. There were no quotes received. Mr. Rodman indicated that part of the problem is that you must be a Master Driller in order to provide a quote. The other reason is because the location that was chosen for the backup well is at Blair Academy next to the existing water tower. There are two reasons for this location, the first is geological; there is a fault that runs right through that area and there is a good possibility that the water would not need to be treated other than to chlorinate. The location would require the least amount of new infrastructure construction. The problems are the topography; the site is in a little valley, and the rigs needed to drill are too big to access it. The other problem is it is right in the middle of Blair Academy campus. There is quite a bit of mess and noise that goes along with drilling a well. The Township is looking into the possibility of rejuvenating the old well at the water plant or possibly going to location number two which is behind the Alpine Market. This option would be costly due to the expense of pumping the water back to the plant for treatment. Concerning the project schedule, in April of 2016 the Township told the DEP that it would have this project finished in June of 2017. We said we would be drilling a well in mid-November. The cost goes up the longer it takes to secure a well driller. Mr. Rodman believes that we may still be able to meet the June deadline. Most importantly as long as the DEP sees that the Township is diligently trying to get this done and is trying to meet the deadline and are keeping them informed as to what the status is, we should be ok.

**Walnut Valley Firehouse – Remediation Project** - Mayor Shoemaker explained that we are waiting for Whitman to report back to the Township Committee regarding a possible alternate solution to the remediation. Mr. Rodman indicated that he has not received anything from them as yet. Mr. Rodman will follow-up with Whitman.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Resolution R.2016-124 – AUTHORIZING CENTRAL PUMPING COMPANY TO INSTALL ONE ULTRA VIOLET STERILIZER UNIT AT THE BLAIRSTOWN MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

Mayor Shoemaker remarked that this was discussed last month. This has to do with the Water quality the Municipal Building. Frequently the Township gets notification that the Water quality is unfit for consumption. The optimum way to solve this problem is to install an ultra Violet water sterilizer. There is one in the DPW which works well. Last month there was a quote of \$5000.00 from a local plumber to install 2 Ultra Violet Sterilizer Units. DPW Foreman Carl Stoddart Received another quote which was one unit that does 22 gallons per minute using a stainless steel UV complete with alarms. This proposal was \$3000.00. This is something that is really needed. Mrs. Van Valkenburg explained that this could be paid for by stopping the purchase of bottled water.

Mayor Shoemaker made a motion to approve Resolution R.2016-124 proposal from Central Pumping Company in the amount of \$3,000.00 for a one unit Ultra Violet Sterilizer to be installed in The Municipal Building. Mr. Lance seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Shoemaker explained that a representative from Van Cleef Engineering visited the water plant. He recommended taking additional water sample for testing to see if they could pin point why we are having issues with the brown water. When asked what it would cost to keep them on to continue to help figure out what the problem is Van Cleef indicated that it could be up to as much as \$2,000.00 a month in engineering fees.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg questioned whether Van Cleef would be able to assist in finding the loss of water. Mayor Shoemaker noted that today, Mr. Stoddart found a water meter at Blair Academy in a remote location that most likely has never been read. It serves the girls dorm. That might account for some of the loss.

Mayor Shoemaker made a motion to approve Resolution. R.2016-125 the hiring of Van Cleef for a two month period at \$2000.00 per month maximum to assist in determining the cause of brown water in the water system. Mr. Lance seconded the motion.

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

The Reorganization Meeting will be held on January 4, 2017 at 6:00pm at the Municipal Building. There is a possibility that the Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno will be here to administer the required Oaths of Office.

The Township Committee approved by consensus that the New Year's Holiday for the staff will be Monday, January 2, 2017 due to the fact that New Year's Day falls on Sunday.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg made noted that the Farm Lease being proposed with Mr. John Kerkendall is a two year lease. This could preclude the Township from establishing a Community Garden at that location. Mrs. Van Valkenburg would like to propose that the Jones property, which does have water, be used as a Community Garden. The property in front of the house is owned by the State and the Township. The Township would need approval from the State because it is jointly owned.

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve the renewal of the 2 year Farm Lease with John W. Kerkendall B 1501, Lots 10,11,12,13 and 14. Mr. Avery seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Shoemaker asked Attorney Benbrook if mid lease the Township would like to put a walking path around the lots would the Township be able to request that Mr. Kerkendall give back a portion of the land for this purpose? Mr. Benbrook recommends that a member of the Township Committee ask Mr. Kerkendall what he would think of this proposal prior to incurring the cost of doing research on the legal aspects of this proposal.

**COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE** for information and possible action

**From Margaret Scocozza** is requesting an unpaid internship at the Municipal Building for her son. Mayor Shoemaker explained that if this is approved he would have his Job Coach with him to assist with any tasks that may be assigned. There is no compensation, this is just for experience.

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve Mr. Scocozza as an unpaid intern in the Municipal Offices. Mrs. Dalton seconded the motion.

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

**From Jeanette Iurato** on behalf of the Appalachian Trail Steering Committee to request the use of Footbridge Park on Saturday, April 22, 2017 for a ceremony. (Details to be provided at a later date!) Mayor Shoemaker explained that this would be a request to use the park but not to shut the park down to other visitors. This request would require a Facilities Use Application to be completed and approved by the Township Committee. Mrs. Dalton noted that she did make Mrs. Iurato aware of this.

**From State of NJ ABC** – Making the Township aware that an Application for a Restricted Brewery License was filed on behalf of Blirstown Brewery, LLC t/a Buck Hill Brewery and Restaurant.

**Resolution No. R. 2016 – 126** Buck Hill Brewery Place to Place Transfer to De-license  
The Township Clerk explained that this Resolution is necessary because the Buck Hill Brewery has applied to the State to have a Restricted Brewery License. Buck Hill Brewery's Liquor License encompasses the entire building. The portion of the building where the brewery will be can't be included in that license, therefore they need to de-license that area.

Mr. Avery made a motion to approve Resolution R.2016-126. Mr. Lance seconded the motion.

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

**From State of New Jersey DEP** – Green Acres Funds Available, applications will be accepted until February 15, 2017.

#### **GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

#### **FROM THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY**

Mr. Benbrook had nothing more than what was previously discussed.

#### **FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK**

Mrs. Leidner had nothing to report.

#### **FROM THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER**

Mr. Rodman gave his report earlier in the meeting.

#### **FROM THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

##### **MAYOR SHOEMAKER**

Mayor Shoemaker remarked that the lights on the bushes along the walk leading to the Municipal Building entrance, recommended by Mayor Shoemaker and Mrs. Dalton were a great addition to the holiday decorations. The wreaths on the exterior of the building and in the Meeting Room were donated by the North Warren Regional High School Future Farmers of America. Mayor Shoemaker explained that in order to light the large pine near Route 94 a lift would be needed since the tree is too tall for any of the Township owned equipment. The cost to string the lights would be over \$350.00 which includes renting a lift to access the tree. An alternative would be that a tree stand be constructed by the DPW and each year a lighted tree be placed on the front lawn.



Mayor Shoemaker attended the Jingle on Main Celebration. There was a large turn out with lots of children. It was a very nice event.

Mayor Shoemaker noted that that three important Ordinances were adopted in 2016 regarding property maintenance addressing the issue of the vacant and abandoned properties. Eventually they will help improve the overall look of the Township.

Also, three Police Officers were hired during 2016. Mayor Shoemaker commented that the Township has a great Police department.

Mayor Shoemaker will be speaking to Mr. Stoddart about looking into purchasing a wash system for the DPW trucks to thoroughly remove salt residue, helping to keep the equipment from rusting. He also wished his fellow Township Committee Members and the members of the public a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBER AVERY**

Mr. Avery reported that the seniors had their last event of the year which was their Christmas Party, held at the Bella Giorno on Thursday, December 8. About 80 people attended. He noted that the seniors appreciate the support they receive from the Township Committee and look forward to working with them in 2017.

Mr. Avery reported that the DPW will be assigning someone to clean up the water plant. Other DPW employees will be working on replacing water meters. Mr. Avery also reported that there is continued work on the specs for the new truck. Mrs. Van Valkenburg indicated that she received a comparison of Mack Truck and the Kenilworth from a resident. She distributed the comparison to all of the members of the Township Committee for their review. The members of the Township Committee will take a look at this comparison.

Mr. Avery reported that the cabinets that were being considered for the kitchen at the Givens Belet Building went on sale resulting in a savings of \$1700.00. The cabinets will be delivered on Friday and the Legion Members will be installing them.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBER DALTON**

Mrs. Dalton thanked the senior's Group members Barbara Green, Peg Scanelli, and Lorraine Meister for planning the Christmas luncheon. The food was delicious and the company was delightful.

Mrs. Dalton also thanked Bruce Leal, Principal of Blairstown Elementary School, for approving the display of student's art work in the foyer of the Municipal Building. Thank you to the art teacher, Kim Truelove as well.

Mrs. Dalton thanked Sarah Billotti, Superintendent of North Warren High School for meeting with her every month. Also, thank you for the wreaths made by the North Warren Regional High School Future Farmers of America Club Members that were donated to the Township.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBER LANCE**

Mr. Lance reported that in the month of November the Police Department had 1 DWI, 4 Disorderly Conduct, 4 Disorderly Persons, 5 Fire Calls, 2 Suicides, 158 Traffic Enforcement Stops and 19 Medical Assists.

Mr. Lance reported that the Police Department receives requests from college students that are Criminal Justice Majors for summer internships. These are unpaid internships just to observe the daily activities of a police department. This would entail being in the office and doing ride alongs. The interns would be equipped with full body armor but would not get out of the vehicles according to Police Director Gara. CFO Christine Rolef contacted our insurance representative Sharon Cooper and the only issue she has with this is that a Hold Harmless Agreement should be drawn up by our Township Attorney. There are currently two college students that are members of the Ambulance Corp., are interested in internships.

Mr. Lance made a motion to direct Mr. Benbrook to work with Lieutenant Johnsen and Director Robert Gara to draw up a Hold Harmless Agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Avery.

Roll Call Vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker.  
All ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Lance reported that the Township Committee needs to make an appointment to the position of 911 Coordinator. This position assigns property location numbers to new lots within the Township. Tax Assessor Rich Motyka has offered to do this job with no additional compensation.

Mr. Lance made a motion to appoint Rich Motyka the 911 Coordinator. The motion was seconded by Mayor Shoemaker.

Roll Call Vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker.  
All ayes, motion carried.

This position will be placed on the Reorganization Agenda as a one year appointment.

Mr. Lance reported that the Blairstown Historical Preservation Committee is making improvements to the pop-up display tent. He thanked the members for participating in the Jingle on Main event. There was great participation by the members of the Historical Preservation Committee.

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

Mrs. Van Valkenburg reported that a woman gave her information about an informational meeting being held regarding Human Trafficking. The meeting will be held at the Mountain Top Church on Naughtright Road in Mount Olive on January 27 from 8:30-1.

JCP&L is doing a Merry & Bright Holiday Lights Photo Contest. Residents can enter by submitting a photo of their outdoor light display via Facebook to JCP&L. The Grand Prize is a \$250.00 Visa Gift Card. The First Prize is a \$100.00 Gift Card.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg made a motion to have a second meeting every month on the fourth Wednesday at 7:30 as a work session as long as there is business to discuss. Mr. Avery seconded the motion.

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

## FROM THE PUBLIC

Bob Halberstadt – 5 Main Street - Mr. Halberstadt attended a meeting at Hope Township at which the Township Committee introduced a proposal to exempt community volunteers, VETs and Active Military Personnel from certain fees within the municipality and he requested that Blirstown consider this as well.

Debra Waldron – Land Use Board Chair – Ms. Waldron explained that the Land Use Board is a combination Planning/ Zoning Board; however, the board is primarily a Zoning Board. Meetings get cancelled at times mostly because the Applicant is not prepared. The Land Use Board is going to begin working on the Master Plan which would necessitate additional meetings. Members of the Land Use Board have already indicated that they will not be able to attend the additional meetings and this will present a problem when it comes to needing a quorum. Reviewing the Master Plan is a very in depth process. Currently the board is reviewing ordinance and one of them is the Design Standard Ordinance. Should the Township Committee go ahead with the sewer project, through this ordinance the sewers could increase the Townships COAH obligation and as a result the building strictures would be able to increase in height, it would change the downtown Village Area. Mrs. Waldron also noted that there are Land Use Board Members stepping down and the board will be in need of new members. Mrs. Waldron thanked the Township Committee for taking swift action on Mrs. Spriggs request. Mrs. Waldron noted that Mrs. Spriggs is the best Land Use Board Secretary they have ever had, there isn't anything that Mrs. Spriggs does not do with excellence, thoroughness and diligence.

Harold Price – 3 Alice Court – Mr. Price explained that farming is not permitted on Jones Farm. This is specific on the signed deed that the State of New Jersey and the Township of Blirstown has. The Township has a maintenance agreement that we have complied with. Mr. Price also explained that the front piece of property is fenced in and overgrown.

Mr. Price made a statement that a Bond Ordinance was Introduced and adopted for the purchase of a dump truck. During the 20 day estoppel period no questions were asked regarding the truck. Now two members of the Township Committee have started to research other options. Mr. Price indicated that this would likely cause an increase in the price and a delay in the delivery of the truck.

Mayor Shoemaker remarked that each member of the Committee has a responsibility to make sure the funds are spent efficiently.

Fred Cook – Four Corners Road – Mr. Cook attended the Freeholder Meeting and reported that Doug Steinhardt presented a proposal to the Freeholder Board to start a committee to fight heroin and prescription drug abuse. The Freeholders approved the creation of the committee and they are looking for volunteers for this committee. Mr. Steinhardt is creating a task force. Mr. Cook also requested that another polling place be added for the next election. Mrs. Leidner explained that that she has been contacted by the Election Board regarding this issue and has recommended to them that there be another polling location added. Budget time is coming up and Four Corners Road is in bad shape. Please consider repairing this road in this budget cycle.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg also noted that we need better lighting in the parking lot. Mayor Shoemaker said that the lights are set to go off at 10:00pm for economic reasons.

Carol Cook – Four Corners Road - Mrs. Cook wanted to make a recommendation to paint the curbs as you pull into the municipal driveway and into the parking lot.

**ADJOURNMENT**

As there were no further comments from the public, Mr. Lance made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Avery. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Linda Leidner, RMC  
Municipal Clerk