

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN
REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING
Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 7:30 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 Lance. Those present were Mr. Avery, Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mrs. Waldron, 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. 2018-068 AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION – for the purpose of discussing Personnel.

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

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

All ayes – Motion carried.

Executive Session began at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to close executive session was made at 7:47 p.m. by Mrs. Waldron and was seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

All ayes – Motion carried.

Regular Session began at 7:47 p.m.

RESULTS OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Lance noted that the Committee will be going back into Executive Session at the conclusion of this meeting. The Salary Ordinance and Resolution will be tabled until the conclusion of the reconvened Executive Session and then if any action is to be taken on these items they will be done when the meeting is reopened to the public.

ORDINANCES

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FOR ADOPTION:

ORDINANCE NO: 2018-11 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2016-10 "FIXING THE SALARIES AND WAGES OF THE OFFICIALS, APPOINTEES AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY" BY SALARY RANGE

Second Reading, Public Hearing, Adoption

Adopted after Second Executive Session see below.

FOR ADOPTION:

ORDINANCE NO: 2018-13 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 147 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN ENTITLED "PROPERTY MAINTENANCE"

Second Reading, Public Hearing, Adoption Mayor Lance opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments or questions from the public.

Mr. Avery made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-13 which was seconded by Mrs. Waldron.

Mayor lance explained that Ordinance No. 2018-13 deals with holding landlords responsible for their tenants' unruly or illegal behavior.

Roll call vote: AYE: Avery, Dalton, Van Valkenburg, Waldron, Lance

All ayes, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Lance noted that we still have the ACME issue. Mayor Lance inquired as to whether Captain Johnson has heard anything from the State, and Captain Johnson indicated that he had not. Mayor Lance is going to speak to the Senator about this issue to see if he can get the matter moving at the State level.

NEW BUSINESS

1 - Resolution NO. 2018- 069 - Fixing Salaries and Wages

Motion to approve; second. Roll Call

Action taken after reconvened Executive Session.

2 - Letter received from Marion Spriggs – Land Use Secretary, Deputy Registrar, Zoning Officer Clerical Assistant – regarding intent to retire effective June 1, 2018.

Mayor Lance noted that the Township Committee wishes Mrs. Spriggs well. She has been with the Township for 11 years. Mr. Avery said that they will miss her. Mrs. Waldron noted that she is fantastic and the municipal staff will be having a luncheon for her tomorrow.

3 - Resolution NO. 2018-070 – Resolution Appointing Deputy Registrar

Motion to approve; second. Roll Call

Action taken after reconvened Executive Session.

4 - Set date to have an in house seminar regarding Public Safety & Social Media to be given by Fred Semrau, Esq., of Dorsey & Semrau.

Mrs. Leidner explained that Township Attorney Sullivan had recommended that the Township Committee participate in a training regarding the safe use of Social Media. The Committee agreed that a Friday during the day would work best and that this seminar will be mandatory for the Municipal staff to attend.

5 - Resolution NO. 2018-071 - Resolution Authorizing Sale of Municipal Asset – John Deere 955 Tractor.

Mayor Lance explained that the Township will be selling a tractor to the Blairstown Little League for one dollar to maintain their fields.

Mrs. Waldron made a motion to adopt item #2 and Resolution No. 2018-071, which was seconded by Mrs. Van Valkenburg.

Roll call vote: AYE: Avery, Dalton, Van Valkenburg, Waldron, Lance
All ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kevin Doell – Mr. Doell asked the Township Committee to explain the difference between a regular meeting and a workshop meeting. The members explained that the workshop meeting is more informal allows the committee to discuss items in more detail because there is not as much business that needs to be taken care of during the meeting. The Committee tries to have a minimum number of items that need action taken on them at the workshop meeting. All meeting of the Township Committee are advertised as Action May be Taken, that way if something needs to be voted on it can be done. They feel that more residents attend the regular meetings so it is better to do more business at those meetings. Mayor Lance explained that the Ordinance that was on the agenda tonight and adopted was important to take care of some of the problems that are occurring at rental properties. The Salary Ordinance may or may not be adopted tonight but this was important because the year is already almost half over. Mr. Doell also inquired about the newly adopted Ordinance regarding landlords' liability. Mayor Lance noted that in the lease between the landlord and tenant there should be a clause regarding illegal activity and grounds for eviction. Mayor Lance explained that there are several rental properties in the Township that have had repeated illegal incidents occurring. Mr. Doell asked about Executive Session and what is allowable in Executive.

Jeanette Iurato – 2 Heller Hill Road – Mrs. Iurato had a questioned if someone signs a lease and then rents the property to someone else, does this Ordinance cover that situation. The Committee members noted that it does.

Fred Cook – Mr. Cook reported on the poor condition of Stoney Brook Road. He also spoke about the poor condition of Mohican Road. Mr. Cook inquired as to whether there is a plan for repair of Stoney Brook. Currently there are no plans to repair the road, State Aid money can't go toward Four Corner Road or Stoney Brook. Mrs. Van Valkenburg noted that DPW has been going around the Township filling pot holes.

A resident spoke about Yards Creek and the funding distribution by the State of New Jersey. He also spoke about security concerns at North Warren High School.

Mayor Lance announced that there is a Veterans Tour being held at Cedar Ridge Cemetery tis Saturday at two times, 1:00pm and 3:00pm. This event is being sponsored by the Blairstown Historic Preservation Committee. The Footbridge Tour will be held on July 4.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

All ayes – Motion carried.

Executive Session began at 8:30 p.m.

Motion to end executive session was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg and was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

Voice Vote: All ayes, motion carried.

Executive Session ended at 9:28p.m.

RESULTS OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

ORDINANCE NO: 2018-11 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2016-10 “FIXING THE SALARIES AND WAGES OF THE OFFICIALS, APPOINTEES AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN IN THE COUNTY OF WARREN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY’ BY SALARY RANGE

Second Reading, Public Hearing, Adoption

Mayor Lance explained that the following minimal changes will be made to this Ordinance:

Under Public Works:

Change Director to Acting Director

Assistant Water Operator change to a range of \$3000.00 to \$4000.00 – Change from hour to year

Motion was made by Mrs. Waldron to approve Ordinance No. 2018-11 as amended, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

All ayes – Motion carried.

Resolution NO. 2018- 069 - Fixing Salaries and Wages

Mayor Lance explained the following changes prior to adoption.

Under Administration:

Remove Office Assistant (as needed)

Under Department of Public Works:

Change Foreman to Acting Director

Change Sub-foreman/Laborer to Assistant Supervisor

Change Assistant Supervisor hourly rate to \$30.00

Right To Know Officer – Change from Stipend to Year

Mrs. Waldron made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2018-069 as amended, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

All ayes – Motion carried.

Resolution NO. 2018-070 – Resolution Appointing Deputy Registrar

Mayor Lance explained that the following change:

Change text in the last paragraph to read “at a salary of \$800.00 per year upon certification.

Mr. Avery made a motion to approve Resolution NO. 2018-070 as amended, which was seconded by Mrs. Waldron.

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

All ayes – Motion carried.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg noted that the bleachers at Sycamore Park were blown away and damaged during the most recent storm. Recreation Director Pat Sagan placed a claim with the Township insurance company but it will take some time for the insurance to come through. Mrs. Sagan is waiting for a price from Game Time to replace the bleachers.

The Ordinance for the road swap with the County will be introduced at the Township Committee meeting on June 13.

Mrs. Waldron recommended sending letters on behalf of the Township Committee to all of the camps letting them know the acceptable bus routes to camp.

Mrs. Waldron reported that the ACME has not been reimbursed by JCP&L for Free Ice and Water to Residents Program from the winter storms. She will be contacting JCP&L to discuss this issue.

There will be a meeting about the generator in the near future. Christine Rolef, CFO is working on getting the proper parties together to get this moving ahead so that the Township doesn't lose the grant.

The Township Committee would like to have the Animal Control Officer come in for the Executive Session of the Workshop Meeting on June 27.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Avery made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Van Valkenburg. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm.

Submitted by:

Linda Leidner, RMC
Municipal Clerk