

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN
COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MEETING
MINUTES
Wednesday, March 28, 2018, 7:00pm**

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. 2018-049 AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION – for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations and litigation.

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 6:54 p.m.

Motion to close executive session was made at 7:46 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

Green Acres – a report was made by Joel McGreen regarding municipally owned properties that are land locked.

Motion was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg to offer the following municipal owned properties, Block 1503 Lot 9, Block 1503 Lot 8.13 and Block 1503 to Green Acres, seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

All ayes – Motion carried.

Water Company - A new contract was offered to Mike Lata for the position of Backup Water Operator for the period beginning April 1, 2018. The Township will be paying his liability insurance for the current year. Mr. Lata will receive \$200 a month for the position. The new contract will be from April 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Mr. Lata will be paid at his previous contract rate for January, February, and March.

Motion was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg to offer Mike Lata the position of Backup Water Operator at a rate of \$200.00 per month for the period April 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 and Mr. Lata will be reimbursed for his liability insurance, seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

DEP Fine – It was explained that a fine was placed on the Blairstown Water Company by the DEP due to monitoring and reports that were not filed with the DEP during the 2014 and 2015 monitoring period. The amount of the fine is \$2000.00.

Motion to pay 2014 and 2015 fine in the amount of \$2000.00 to the DEP was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg. Motion seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1 - Amended Ordinance No. 2018-03 "Concerts & Festivals, Outdoor" – Discussion about publication and notification process. Mayor Lance explained how the Ordinance currently states all property owners within 200 feet of the street to be closed are to be notified.

The proposed amendment would direct the applicant to provide notice to adjacent tenants and business owners in the section of street to be closed via sign-off sheet or certified return-receipt. The sign-off sheet and return-receipts shall be attached to the application. Additionally, the requirement of a newspaper notice will no longer be required.

Mayor Lance directed the Attorney to draft the amendment.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A post-Winter Storm analysis was presented by Emergency Management Coordinator, Nick Mohr, Police Department, Captain Scott Johnsen, Fire Department, Chief Calvin Inscho and Department of Public Works Supervisor, Eric Usinowicz. The analysis detailed items and associated costs that would remediate any existing issues that hinder disaster preparedness. Items included in the analysis are prioritized and will be reviewed by the Committee.
2. The Committee discussed the Agenda for Open Public Forum Meeting to be held at North Warren Regional High School on April 25 that was created by Deputy Mayor Van Valkenburg. All members of the Committee agreed to the agenda and the format of the meeting.
3. The Board of Public Utilities will be holding a public meeting on April 5, 2018 from 4 – 7 p.m. at the Fire Room Intermediate School on Mansfield Drive in Byram Township to discuss the outage problem. We will have a separate, private meeting with the BPU, Hope, and Stillwater Township. Time and date to be determined.
4. Water Meters – Mr. Avery reported that he spoke to Albert Schwartz, Water Operator, regarding the cost of the water meters that need to be installed. The cost of the meters is high. Mr. Avery then went to Blair Academy to share with them the cost and Blair has offered to pay for half the cost of the meters over the next three years.

FROM THE PUBLIC

1. **Carol Cook** – Mrs. Cook commented on the need to find ways to reach our community seniors, particularly during times of crisis.
2. **Keith Stires** – Regarding Cedarville, Mr. Stires requested we utilize an electrically driven submersible pump. This system is more effective and economical than a gas/diesel driven pump.
Regarding the Fire District, Mr. Stires suggested that until all of the variables are known, we should not be raising this issue for discussion.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- Mrs. Waldron spoke with regard to the commitment of members and alternates to the Land Use Board. As a member or an alternate you are required to attend training, and cannot miss more than 3 meeting. Another requirement is that if absent you must listen to meeting recordings. Recently the Land Use Board had an issue arise with this. Not adhering to the requirements precludes members and alternates from future service. Although the Land Use Board is fully staffed, more members are needed as they are short one alternate. Mrs. Waldron wanted to stress the seriousness of the commitment to the Land Use Board, adding that we employ a very well-paid attorney to attend these meetings and last minute cancellations due to lack of attendance is unacceptable.

Mrs. Waldron highlighted the recent NARCAN save by the Police Department. Captain Johnsen stated that the County has an agreement with Hackettstown Hospital that if we provide them with our empty NARCAN boxes, the hospital will supply us replacements. The Captain added that NARCAN saves per month goes through waves. A bad dose will go through the County and sales go up as individuals want to have whatever dose individuals overdose on because it is perceived as more potent. We spend roughly \$700 per year on NARCAN.

Resolution No. 2018-049 AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION – for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations and litigation.

Motion to authorize the continuance of the Executive Session from the beginning of this meeting 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 9:47 p.m.

Motion to close executive session was made at 10:06 p.m. by Mrs. Waldron and was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

All ayes – Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no further comments from the public, a motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Waldron and was seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

All ayes – Motion carried.

The Meeting Adjourned at 10:07p.m.