

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING
EXECUTIVE SESSION BEGINS AT 7:15PM
WEDNESDAY JUNE 12, 2019 7:30PM
MEETING 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. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, and Mayor Lance. Mrs. Waldron was absent. Also present were Municipal Clerk, Everett Falt, and an Attorney, Ed Pasternak, was filling in for Dawn Sullivan.

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. This agenda is subject to change by order of the Blairstown Township Committee before and/or during this scheduled meeting.

Resolution No. 2019-079 AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION – For the purpose of Personnel Motion to authorize executive session was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg and was seconded by Mr. Moorhead.

Roll Call Vote: Aye – Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mayor Lance
All ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

Executive Session began at 7:23 p.m.

Motion to close executive session was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg and was seconded by Mr. Moorhead.

Roll Call Vote: AYE – Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mayor Lance
NAY – None

With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

The Township Committee came out of the Executive Session with the Regular Session beginning at 7:40 p.m.

RESULTS OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg, being seconded by Mr. Sikkes to appoint Lori Nienstedt to the position of Registrar of Vital Statistics, retroactive from June 1, 2019 with compensation of \$2,200.00 per year, and OEM Administrative Assistant, retroactive from June 1, 2019 with compensation of \$2,244.00 per year.

RESULTS OF EXECUTIVE SESSION CONTINUED

Roll Call Vote: AYE – Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mayor Lance
NAY - None

With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

A second motion was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg, with Mr. Moorhead offering a second to appoint Everett Falt to the position of Webmaster, with a compensation of \$3,300.00 per year, and as the Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistic, with compensation a compensation of \$800 per year.

Roll Call Vote: AYE – Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mayor Lance
NAY – None

With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

Blairstown Elementary School Student Council Accomplishments

Blairstown Elementary School Principal, Bruce Leal, introduced the Student Council members and explained that they perform community service programs throughout the year. In addition to the Student Council members, Mr. Leal expressed his appreciation for retired Blairstown Elementary School teacher, Barbara Warnkin.

Mr. Leal introduced the Student Council Executive Board members: Secretary, Maggie Pilny, Vice President, Dominick Lusardi, and President, Ciara D’Onofrio. Some of the Executive Board members shared status updates on volunteer projects that the Student Council has completed during this school year. Amongst these projects were: the sending of over 460 cards to deployed U.S. soldiers around the globe; the Council instituted a “Buddy Bench” where students who have no one to play with at recess can sit, prompting other students to approach them to join in play.

Mayor Lance thanked the members of the Council for all their hard work. Additionally, the Mayor thanked Mr. Leal for his dedicated service to the children in our community as Principal of the Blairstown Elementary School as Mr. Leal will be retiring at the end of this school year.

Blairstown Historic Preservation Committee (BHPC) - Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Essay Contest Recognitions

Mayor Lance, liaison to the BHPC, along with BHPC Chairperson Christine Beegle, Secretary Barbara Green, and Secretary Lori Nienstedt, presented a Certificate of Achievement to Ciara D’Onofrio, sixth grader at Blairstown Elementary School, who was judged as the Third Place winner of all Warren County students who submitted entries in an Essay Contest sponsored by the General William Maxwell Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. Avery Griffin, the First Place winner of the same contest was not present, so Mr. Leal accepted the Certificate on her behalf.

PUBLIC COMMENT – up to 5 speakers, 3 minutes each

- Christina Ceres, of Blairstown, presented a petition protesting the Trolley Tour of the Princess Doe gravesite being run, at a cost of \$35 per person, by the Blairstown Museum. Mrs. Ceres expressed her outrage over the gravesite of the yet unidentified young woman, murdered in 1982 whose body was dumped in the Cedar Ridge Cemetery, being used as an attraction for “gawkers”. Mrs. Ceres explained that she and others feel it is a disgrace to make money off the brutal death of Princess Doe, and a desecration of her gravesite.
- Linda Liebler, of Maple Lane, spoke regarding an on-going problem being experienced on Maple Lane with a child who is riding his dirt- bike incessantly and the excessive noise being generated from such. She asked if the Committee has considered taking any action regarding the noise aspect of this issue and Mayor Lance explained that an Ordinance is being introduced tonight which is modeled after the State’s Ordinance and details decibel levels.

Mrs. Liebler expressed concern that the police have told her and her neighbors that there is nothing they can do about the issue and that Mrs. Liebler should hire an attorney. Mrs. Van Valkenburg explained that since an Ordinance is being introduced and eventually passed, this will give the police the “teeth” they need to enforce the noise ordinance.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

- **Fire Department** - Calvin Inscho, the Fire Chief, thanked the community for their support of the comedy night fundraiser that was held on May 18, 2019. He also informed on the Guns and Hoses charity basketball event which successfully raised \$1,100.00for the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). He informed that the Fire Department will be hosting a a Drafting Competition on July 27th at Sycamore Park. Seven claims have been submitted for Cost Recovery with one check being received so far.

Mr Inscho informed the committee on maintenance and testing being conducted within the fire department.

Mr. Inscho suggested that lock boxes be installed on commercial properties in the Township, adding that it may be something that the Land Use Board should address. Mr. Sikkes said he will check with the Land Use Board on Monday, July 17, 2018.

The Deputy Chief, Mark Slater, reportedthe committee on a ten-year prospectus on the status of their fire equipment. He stated he would email a copy to the Municipal Clerk to desimnate to the Committee. Mayor Lance added that he understands that because our Fire Department is servicing other towns, this works in our favor when it comes to eligibility to obtain funding. He further requested that the report should be added to the agenda for the Workshop Meeting.

- **DPW** - Eric Usinowicz, Acting Director, reported that a construction permit was received from the DEP for the new well. He informed the Committee that the Municipal Building’s new generator will be arriving towards the end of the month. He informed on various other matters the DPW was addressing.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS CONTINUED:

- Mr. Usinowicz stated he was working with BHPC Chair, Christine Beegle who is applying for historic determination for the Footbridge which may bring along with it grant money that can be used for repairs. He said that the Committee should discuss at a future workshop the overlay of Belcher Road. Mayor Lance asked if Mr. Usinowicz would like to come to the next workshop meeting and discuss the roads while the Fire Department issues are also addressed and Mr. Usinowicz agreed.
- **Police Department** – The Police Chief, Scott Johnson, stated that Sergeant Bee and Officers Beach and Rizvani participated in the Special Olympics Torch Run. Detective Choe completed the Top Gun class. The Blairstown PD App was launched and resulted in a successful drug-related arrest. A burglary on Four Corners Road is still being investigated. Chief Johnsen presented the police blotter for the month of May. An active shooter exercise is being held on June 29, 2019. Volunteers are needed. Blairstown Police will be working very closely with the National Park Police.
- **Open Space** – Chairman Joel McGreen asked for clarification regarding a wait period with the County once the Ordinance is passed this evening. Mr. Pasternak stated that unless it is specified in the Ordinance itself it should not be a concern, but he would find out. Nonnemacher is a 120 farmland that is going to be preserved once the estate is settled.
- **Animal Control** – Mr. Hendricks read the ACO report for the month of May. Delinquent dog licenses have been cut roughly 60%.

APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL CLERK

Everett Falt was administered the Oath of Office for the position of Municipal Clerk by Mayor Lance for period ending June 1, 2022. Mr. Falt's sister and niece were present, with his niece holding the Bible for the swearing ceremony.

ORDINANCES

Introduction; First Reading

ORDINANCE 2019-013 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 190 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN ENTITLED "WATER"

Introduction; First Reading

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Sikkes, with Mayor Lance seconding.

Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mayor Lance

With all ayes and no ayes, the motion was carried.

ORDINANCE 2019-014 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 19 "LAND DEVELOPMENT", ARTICLE 19-500 "GENERAL PROVISIONS" TO ADD NEW SECTIONS ENTITLED "SOIL FILL PLACEMENT", "OPERATING REQUIREMENTS", AND "FEES; BONDS; PENALTIES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS" AND TO AMEND SECTION 19-901 "FEES" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN

Introduction; First Reading

A Motion to approve was made by Mr. Sikkes, with Mr. Moorhead seconding.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg commented that when we do these ordinances, if the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is responsible, we need to verify that everything that is supposed to be done, is in fact, completed. She further stated that the Zoning Officer or Township Engineer need to verify the amount of cubic yards of soil fill.

ORDINANCES CONTINUED

Introduction; First Reading

Roll Call Vote: AYE – Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mayor Lance
NAY – None

With all Ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2019-015 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR ROAD OVERLAY - BELCHER ROAD - WITHIN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUNDING THEREOF

Introduction; First Reading

A Motion to approve was made by Mayor Lance, with Mrs. Van Valkenburg seconding.

Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mayor Lance

With all ayes and no nays, the Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2019-016 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 143 “PEACE AND GOOD ORDER”, SECTION 143-3 “LOUD AND OFFENSIVE NOISES PROHIBITED; UNLAWFUL ACTS ENUMERATED; EXCEPTIONS” OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE TO INCORPORATE THE MODEL NOISE ORDINANCE OF THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Introduction; First Reading

A Motion to approve was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg, with Mr. Sikkes seconding.

Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mayor Lance

With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION:

ORDINANCE 2019-10 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 184 ENTITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC “OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN

Second Reading, Public Hearing, Adoption

Mayor Lance opened up the floor for public comment. There being no comment, Mayor Lance closed the public comment.

A Motion to adopt was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg, with Mr. Moorhead seconding.

Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mayor Lance

With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2019-11 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 184 ENTITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC“ SECTION 184-13 “PARKING TIME LIMITED ON CERTAIN STREETS AND MUNICIPAL PARKING LOTS” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN

Second Reading, Public Hearing, Adoption

Mayor Lance opened up the floor for public comment. There being no comment, Mayor Lance closed the public comment.

Motion to adopt was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg, with Mr. Sikkes seconding.

Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mayor Lance

With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION CONTNUED:

ORDINANCE 2019-12 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN, COUNTY OF WARREN, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 5 SIPLEY ROAD, BLOCK 1503, LOT 9, 70 SAND HILL ROAD, BLOCK 1503, LOT 8.13 AND 56 SAND HILL ROAD, BLOCK 1503, LOT 8.14 IN BLAIRSTOWN, NEW JERSEY

Second Reading, Public Hearing, Adoption

Mayor Lance opened up the floor for public comment. There being no comment, Mayor Lance closed the public comment.

A Motion to adopt was made by Mr. Sikkes, with Mr. Moorhead seconding.

Roll Call Vote: AYE –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mayor Lance

NAY

With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

1 – R.2019 – 072 Authorization to Pay Bills

2- R.2019 – 073 Redemption of Certification of Sale No. 2017-006

3 - R.2019 – 074 Approving and Authorizing the Nature Conservancy to take the Lead In Obtaining Financing for and Working with the New Jersey Department Of Environmental Protection in Connection with Demolition of the Paulina Dam

4 – R.2019 – 075 Approval of Liquor Licenses

5 – R. 2019 – 076 Authorizing Cancellation of Mortgage on Property Located at 66 Sandhill Rd, Block 1503, Lot 8.6

6 – R. 2019 – 077 Resolution Concerning Traffic Impact To The NJDOT’s Route 80 Westbound Rockfall Mitigation Project

7 – R. 2019 – 078 Resolution for a Stigma Free Community

8 – R. 2019 – XXX Resolution proclaiming the Township’s opposition to a storm-water management or rain tax Motion to approve; second. Roll call vote.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1 through 8 was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg and seconded by Mr. Moorhead

Roll Call Vote: AYE – Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mayor Lance

NAY – None

With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ambulance Corps – May Report

Animal Control – May Report

Clerk – May Report

Finance – May Fuel Reports

Fire Department – May Report

Police Department – May Report

Tax Collector – May Report

Zoning - VAPS May 2019

DEPARTMENT REPORTS CONTINUED:

Motion to accept was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg, with Mr. Moorhead seconding.
Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mayor Lance
With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Application received from Blairstown Museum to hold the Third Annual Historic Blairstown Day. Application has been reviewed by all departments. Fees determined. Applicant has published Event. All requirements have been met.

Mayor Lance opened up the floor for public comment. There being no comment, Mayor Lance closed the Public Hearing.

Motion to approve the event was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg, with Mr. Moorhead seconding
Roll Call Vote: Aye –Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mayor Lance
With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE for information and possible action
No correspondence was discussed

FROM THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY

Mr. Pasternak stated that he had no comment save that all the Ordinances were addressed and we obtained our Summary today.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK

Mr. Falt stated he placed correspondence from the Municipal Clerk’s Association in the members’ mailboxes regarding aerial drone footage. He stated the Association was seeking permission to shoot drone footage of the Township Building for a promotional film for Warren County. The Committee members had no issue with drone footage being captured.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

Ted Rodman, the Township Engineer, informed the Committee about a problem with a well at the Firehouse (which Firehouse). The members addressed several concerns. He states the Township received \$145 from the state, having applied for \$176,000. He stated he has the permit in hand from the DEP for Well #3, which is next to the Firehouse, which has been revised to be a public water community well. He further informed the committee of the issue with several of the members of the Township Committee asking questions and addressing concerns.

Belcher Road

Mr. Rodman informed the committee the Township was approved for \$145 thousand, having applied for \$176 thousand, for Belcher Road.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER CONTINUED:

Main Street parking

Mr. Rodman stated Van Cleef, an engineering company, is still drawing up the plans for submittal to the Land Use Road.

13 Kishpaugh Road

Mr. Rodman updated the Committee on a problem with run-off from a residents. He stated that Certificate of Occupancy (CO) was given before the driveway was completed. The Township Attorney said that he will draft a letter to the residents but needs to have all the information on the situation first. Mrs. Van Valkenburg expressed her discontent with situations like these that are occurring. The Township Attorney said that we can issue summonses that we can move on.

State Aid 2020

Mr. Rodman stated Heller Hill section 1 paperwork will be re-submitted. Mayor Lance suggested that we can also apply for aid for a bikeway which might be helpful for children walking to and from the High School.

Mr. Rodman concluded his reports with an update on flooding occurring at a Mrs. O'Brien's residence. He stated a catch basin could help remediate the problem.

**FROM THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE MEMBER MOORHEAD**

Main Street Advisory Committee – Mrs. Waldron and Mr. Moorhead are anxiously awaiting a meeting with Mr. Paulson. Due to some setbacks a Meeting has not been able to happen as of yet.

COMMITTEE MEMBER SIKKES

Land Use Board (LUB) - Mr. Sikkes informed on the LUB is addressing an issue regarding usage of shipping containers.

Buildings and Grounds – Mr. Sikkes updated the Committee on complaints received by residents regarding Wishing Well Road, which both he and Mr. Usinowicz reviewed. He further state that Wishing Well issues were addressed, resulting in a thank you being received from a resident. He also stated the Zoning Officer had been diligent in issuing citations for Vacant and Abandoned Property Violations.

COMMITTEE MEMBER VAN VALKENBURG

Mrs. Van Valkenburg thanked those who supported her recent run in the primary election.

COMMITTEE MEMBER WALDRON

Mr. Sikkes spoke on behalf of Mrs. Waldron with regard to the expansion of the police department space for use as an interrogation room. Mr. Sikkes had a positive meeting with Chief Johnsen regarding this issue, stating more discussion will be needed. Mayor Lance asked for this to be put on the agenda for the Workshop Meeting. Mr. Lance inquired into whether or not we would need to hire an architect.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE CONTINUED

MAYOR LANCE

Mayor Lance stated he, and Mrs. Van Valkenburg met with Senator Oroho's and Assemblyman addressing concerns with the State budget, taxes, state aid, education, transportation aid funding, marijuana legalization and minimizing court expenses.

Mayor Lance stated a letter of support to the Warren County Freeholders was requested by Hardwick Township, from Mayor Lance, expressing concern with regard to emergency services due to constant flooding of Spring Valley Road.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE CONTINUED:

MAYOR LANCE

Mayor Lance informed he had spoken with a representative in the Governor's office regarding the issue with the poor road condition at the bridge near Agway, This resulting in the repair of a road in vicinity.

He further stated there will be a meeting on June 18 from 4-8 p.m. regarding the \$65M project concerning the Delaware Water Gap Rock wall.

There is a meeting on June 24 of the Warren County Governing Officials at Rock Creek Tavern with the Director of Intelligence, Homeland Security and Preparedness. .

Mayor Lance commended our Emergency Services personnel during the tornado warnings when a tree fell on a car on Cedar Lake Road.

Mayor Lance informed on the Blairstown Historic Preservation Committee (BHPC)'s upcoming events, as well as the Municipal Alliance's. He mentioned that Barbara Stoffels is selling a painting, of a willow tree at White Lake Park, on display in the Municipal Building and will be donating 50% of the proceeds to BHPC.

General Correspondence

1. NJ State Senate President Sweeney – Re: "Path to progress" resolution. Mayor Lance requested this be placed upon the agenda for the next Workshop Meeting.

Mayor Lance informed the Committee of his conversation with Senator Steve Sweeney, voicing concerns he had with regard to a feasibility study on consolidation.

As an aside, Mayor Lance spoke to Senator Sweeney concerning the resolution that Frelinghuysen Township turned down regarding a feasibility study. Mrs. Van Valkenburg said that Frelinghuysen's Mayor, Frank Desiderio, said the estimate we had was \$30k, yet another county hired the same company to do the same study and the cost was \$60k. The concern by Mr. Desiderio is that we are going to get stuck with the funding. Senator Sweeney's office said they will not allow a small town to hold anything up.

MINUTES

May 8, 2019 – Regular Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2019 – Executive Session Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2019 – Executive Session Minutes

Motion to approve was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg, with Mr. Moorhead seconding.

Roll Call Vote: AYE – Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mayor Lance

NAY – None.

With all ayes and no nays, the motion carried.

FROM THE PUBLIC

- Linda Liebler, of Maple Lane, addressed concerns she had with the Noise Ordinance as written. Mr. Pasternak, the Township's attorney, addressed her concerns.
- Jean O'Brien inquired about the Noise Ordinance. Mrs. Van Valkenburg answered her questions.

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no further comments from the public Mrs. VanValkenburg made a motion to adjourn the meeting; second by Mr. Moorhead. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Everett Falt, RMC

Municipal Clerk-Manager