

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING
Wednesday, January 23, 2019, 7:30PM**

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 at 7:00pm. Those present were Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Sikkes, Mrs. Van Valkenburg, Mrs. Waldron and Mayor Lance. Also present was Clerk 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. This agenda is subject to change by order of the Blairstown Township Committee before and/or during this scheduled meeting.

Resolution No. 2019 – 031- AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION – for the purpose of Personnel and Contract Negotiations.

Mrs. Waldron made a motion to accept Resolution 2019-031, which was seconded by Mrs. Van Valkenburg.

Roll call vote – AYE- Moorhead, Sikkes, Van Valkenburg, Waldron, Lance
All ayes, motion carried.

Executive Session began at 7:04 pm.

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

Roll Call Vote: AYE- Moorhead, Sikkes, Van Valkenburg, Waldron, Lance
All ayes: Motion carried.

Mayor Lance asked for a moment of silence in memory of Tom Gross who was a member of the Open Space Committee.

Mr. Lance announced that results of Executive Session will be released at a later date. The purpose of the meeting was Personnel and Contract Negotiations.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Animal Control – Discussion – clarification on policies and procedures associated with this position.

Scott Hendricks, Animal Control Officer, was in attendance. Mr. Hendricks explained that he met with Dr. Leal and members of his staff along with Municipal Clerk Leidner to get an idea as to how the payment process works with animals that are brought into the Blairstown Animal Hospital. The other issue is what the Township Committee wants to do about cats. Fees for dogs comes from the licensing fees. Since we do not license cats there is no funding to pay for them. Ultimately the owner of the animal is responsible to pay for any services at the Blairstown Animal Hospital. Mr. Hendricks is in the process of composing a list of animal rescues that may be able to take animals if nobody claims them. The Township Committee will discuss this further with the Attorney to determine the best way to handle this issue.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg made a motion to authorize the purchase of a microchip reader in the amount of \$367.93, which was seconded by Mrs. Waldron.

Roll Call Vote: AYE- Moorhead, Sikkes, Van Valkenburg, Waldron, Lance

All ayes: Motion carried.

Right of First Refusal – 193 Route 94

Mrs. Van Valkenburg recused herself from this discussion due to the fact that her company is handling this real estate transaction.

It was explained that the Township of Blairstown has the Right of First Refusal for the purchase of this property. The potential buyers of the property were in attendance. The Township Committee was able to provide some information regarding the property and the area around it to the potential buyers.

After discussion it was determined that the Township is not interested in purchasing 193 Route 94, Block 1501, Lot 9.02.

Motion was made by Mrs. Waldron to reject the Right of First Refusal for 193 Route 94, Block 1501 Lot 9.02, which was seconded by Mr. Moorhead.

Roll Call Vote: AYE- Moorhead, Sikkes, Waldron, Lance

Abstain : Mrs. Van Valkenburg

Motion carried.

Setting date for seminars to be given by Fred Semrau of Dorsey & Semrau

- a. Social Media for Elected Officials and Staff
- b. Newly Elected Officials Seminar

Mrs. Leidner explained that she has been in contact with the Township Attorney to try to set up dates and times that are convenient possibly at the end of the workday.

Discussion – Possible Introduction of the following Ordinances at the February 1 Meeting:

- a. Amending Chapter 80-3, Charitable donation clothing bin permit fee
- b. Amending 901a (4) entitled “Fees” of Chapter 19 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Blairstown – Zoning Permits

The Township Committee would like clarification on what “ When covered by Ordinance Section 802B, Site Plan Review 3. & 4 Waiver Provision” fee \$250.00 that is included in the memo from the Zoning Officer is, all other items are good to be placed in Ordinance for introduction. Both of these Ordinance were approved to be placed on the agenda for February 13.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg also noted that the COAH fees Ordinance needs to be revised to include fees for any additions.

Discussion – Creation of Main Street Advisory Committee - Mrs. Waldron and Mr. Moorhead will be working on setting a meeting date to meet with residents and business owners to discuss development and redevelopment on Main Street along with discussion on ways to help with the parking situation in that area.

Rosalie Murray explained that there were 2 reports done several years ago by Harold Pellow Associates and a Main Street Association Report that are detailed studies on Main Street and the parking issues. Ms. Murray has the report.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg noted that more signs are needed on Main Street regarding the alternate side of the street parking during snow events. Other members of the Township Committee agreed. Mrs. Waldron will talk to the police asking them to issue summons.

Budget Workshop Meeting set for Friday, January 25, 2019 at 10:30am has been cancelled. A new date will be determined by the CFO and advertised.

Mayor Lance reported that a couple of the Township Committee Members attended the North Warren School Board Meeting a while back and there was a discussion about having a joint meeting with the other towns in the North Warren Regional High School district. Mayor Lance will set the meeting up and Municipal Clerk Leidner will advertise.

Mayor Lance also reported that the construction on the Route 94 Bridge is postponed indefinitely. Mr. Rodman, Township Engineer noted that he had a conversation with Anthony Citco regarding this and the delay is weather related. A new schedule will be created for this project.

Mayor Lance also reported that there is a Shooter Killer Awareness for Houses of Worship Event being hosted by the Prosecutor’s Office at the Methodist Church on Saturday from 9-10:30.

Mayor Lance also noted that several of the Township Committee Members will be attending the Warren County Governing Officials Meeting on Monday night. The topic is NIMS ICS402 Training. This is basically covers segregation of duties in emergency situations.

Township Engineer Ted Rodman reported that the Township received a letter from the DEP that the Paulina Dam is overdue for inspection and the inspection must be completed by April 15, 2019 or fines will be imposed. Mr. Rodman noted that in September reported that French and Parello gave a proposal in the amount of \$3600.00 to do the inspection. This was put off for inclusion in the 2019 budget. Mr. Rodman will check with French and Parello to find out how long it will take for them to do the inspection.

A brief discussion was held regarding Frog Pond Road and a weight limit request received by a resident. There is an increased number of heavy construction vehicles travelling on Frog Pond Road. It was determined that the Township Attorney is going to have to address this issue. There are weight limit issues on several roads in the Township.

Resolution No. 2019-032 Approving Vouchers and Claims was added. A Bill list was received from Accounts Payable totaling \$119,741.86.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg asked to have the bill for the pumps at the Water Company. Mrs. Van Valkenburg wants to be sure that they are in working order before this is approved for payment.

Mrs. Waldron made a motion to approve all items submitted for payment minus the bill for the pumps at the Water Company, which was seconded by Mrs. Van Valkenburg.

Roll Call Vote: AYE- Moorhead, Sikkes, Van Valkenburg, Waldron, Lance
All ayes: Motion carried.

FROM THE PUBLIC

Rosalie Murray - Made a recommendation to establish a tax on empty stores. Ms. Murray noted that she heard a Mayor from another municipality talk about this on the radio.

Bob Halberstadt – Franks Pizza Is giving free dinner to Government workers that have been affected by the Government shut down.

Cheryl Paulson – Blairstown Enhancement Committee – Ms. Paulson explained that Blair Academy has a cleanup day on Friday May 17 when the students come down and clean up Main Street. The Enhancement Committee was hoping to possibly coordinate with the DPW and the students to see if there are any jobs that the students can assist with that the DPW needs help with and try to get the community involved as well on Saturday. The Committee will get a list from Mr. Usinowicz, Acting Director.

ADJOURNMENT

As there were no further comments from the public, Mrs. Waldron made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Sikkes. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm.

Submitted by:

Linda Leidner, RMC
Municipal Clerk