

**BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2017 – 6PM  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
M I N U T E S**

**OPENING – Call to Order; Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Municipal Clerk Linda Leidner. Those present were Mr. Avery, Mrs. Dalton, Mr. Lance, Mr. Shoemaker and Mrs. Van Valkenburg.

The **FLAG SALUTE** was conducted.

**INVOCATION**

Rev. David Harvey of the First Presbyterian Church gave the invocation.

**The following SUNSHINE STATEMENT was read:**

Notice of this meeting has been sent to two newspapers of general circulation in the Township of Blairstown in which notice of the date, time, place and general agenda were set forth in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

**DETERMINATION OF THE WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASSERS**

Elected Official – Giovanna (Joanne) Van Valkenburg  
Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno administered the Oath of Office to  
Mrs. Van Valkenburg

**NOMINATION FOR MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2017**

A motion to appoint Herman Shoemaker as Mayor for 2017 was made by Mr. Lance and seconded by Mr. Avery.

Roll call vote:            AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker  
Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Shoemaker.

Mayor Shoemaker thanked the Lieutenant Governor for being in attendance at this Reorganization Meeting. The Lieutenant Governor remarked that she believes that this is where she should be to say thank you to all the members of the Township Committee and Volunteers for all of their hard work and dedication. She understands the many hours spent away from family, the inability to go to the store without someone approaching you about an issue within the municipality or to turn off cell phones in case of an emergency. Being here tonight is her way of saying thank you. Lieutenant Governor Guadagno also thanked the volunteers that are being sworn in and their families. She remarked that you can never thank the volunteers enough; imagine what would happen if as taxpayers we had to pay for their service, there is not enough money for that to happen.

## **NOMINATION FOR DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2017**

The nomination of Stephen Lance as Deputy Mayor was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg and seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Lance.

## **OATHS OF OFFICE – BLAIRSTOWN HOSE COMPANY NO. 1 OFFICERS**

Calvin Inscho, Chief

Mike Rumsey, Deputy Chief

Patrick Ceres, Captain

Mark Slater, Lieutenant

John Inscho, Mayor of Liberty Township administered the Oath of Office to the officers of Blairstown Hose Company No. 1.

## **CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS**

- R.2017-001    Various One Year Appointments – Compensated
- R.2017-002    Various Appointments – Non-compensated
- R.2017-003    Cancel Water Utility Balances under \$5.00
- R.2017-004    Appointing Local Emergency Planning Committee Members
- R.2017-005    Fixing the Rate of Interest to be Charged on Delinquent Taxes and Authorize Tax Collector to hold Annual Tax Sale
- R.2017-006    Complying with Open Public Meetings Act
- R.2017-007    Designating Authorized Signatures
- R.2017-008    Authorizing Investment of Idle Funds and Fund Transfers
- R.2017-009    Adopting a Cash Management Plan
- R.2017-010    Contracting for Professional Services without Competitive Bidding in Accordance with the Local Public Contract Law – Municipal Attorney
- R-2017-011    Contracting for Professional Services without Competitive Bidding in Accordance with the Local Public Contract Law – Municipal Auditor
- R.2017-012    Contracting for Professional Services without Competitive Bidding in Accordance with the Local Public Contract Law – Municipal Engineer
- R.2017-013    Designation of Official Newspapers
- R.2017-014    Cancellation of Certain Real Estate Property Tax Balances
- R.2017-015    Authorization for Tax Assessor to File Corrective Appeals and Stipulations and Authorization for Township Attorney to Work with Tax Assessor in Defense of Tax Appeals with the Warren County Board of Taxation
- R.2017-016    Collection of a Fee for Duplicate Tax Sale Certificates
- R.2017-017    Fixing the Rate of Interest to be Charged on Delinquent Water Accounts
- R.2017-018    Contracting for Professional Services without Competitive Bidding in Accordance with the Local Public Contract Law – Municipal Bond Counsel
- R.2017-019    Reappointment of Certified Municipal Finance Officer
- R.2017-020    Approving Temporary Appropriations for 2017 Operating and Water Budget

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which was seconded by Mrs. Van Valkenburg.

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

#### **FROM THE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Lance thanked Reverend Harvey and The Lieutenant Governor for participating in the ceremony. Mr. Lance congratulated Mrs. Van Valkenburg on her reelection. Mr. Lance noted that Mayor Shoemaker and Mr. Avery has done a great job and he looks forward to working with them. Mr. Lance congratulated Mrs. Dalton on a great first year. He congratulated the newly sworn officers of the Fire Company. Mr. Lance wished everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Mrs. Dalton agreed with what Mr. Lance offered. She thanked all of the volunteers for the many hours that they give to the community. Mrs. Dalton remarked that the work that Mr. Avery has done has been fabulous. She is thrilled to have Mrs. Van Valkenburg reelected to the Township Committee. She also acknowledged the work that the Mayor and Mr. Lance do.

Mr. Avery is looking forward to a really strong, prosperous and positive year for Blirstown.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg noted that we have a lot of exciting things coming up this year. She remarked that we have a tremendous staff, Police Department and volunteer groups and organizations. She also noted that we have a very good Committee, we work together well. She looks forward to the Township Committee really accomplishing a lot. Mrs. Van Valkenburg thanked the public for re-electing her.

Mayor Shoemaker agreed that the Township Committee works well together. The Township Committee is focused on getting things done and making the town better and that is why we are here. He thanked all of the volunteers, the fire company, the EMS and all of the people that are members of the committees within the Township. He also thanked all of the volunteers in the town that may not necessarily be an arm of the town, but help to make the Township a better place. Mayor Shoemaker gave the example of the skating rink. He encouraged the members of the public to take a ride over and just watch; it is amazing and everyone has a smile on their face. Congratulations to the new officers of the Hose Company. He mentioned the outgoing Chief Darren Occhiuzzo stating that it was a pleasure working with him over the years and thanked him for the wonderful job that he did.

Darren Occhiuzzo thanked the Township Committee as well and explained that the new officers have a combined 28 years of being on the fire company and the Township will be in good hands.

#### **FROM THE PUBLIC**

John Inscho, Mayor of Liberty Township congratulated Mayor Shoemaker and Deputy Mayor Lance and explained that he knows what it is like to sit on the Township Committee, he will be starting his 20<sup>th</sup> year tomorrow. He appreciates everything that they do. Congratulations, and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2017. Thank you for the honor of swearing in the 2017 officers of the Blirstown Hose Company. The members of the Township Committee thanked Mayor Inscho and wished him the best in 2017.

Jeanette O'Brien, East Avenue, congratulated Mrs. Van Valkenburg, and inquired as to when the second meeting of the Township Committee will be. Mayor Shoemaker noted that it will be a Workshop Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm.

Calvin Inscho, Chief of the Blairstown Hose Company congratulated Mayor Shoemaker and Mr. Lance and Mrs. Van Valkenburg on her reelection. He noted that he and the rest of the hose company look forward to working with the Township Committee in the coming year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

As there were no further comments from the public, 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 6:30 pm.

Submitted by:

Linda Leidner, RMC  
Municipal Clerk