

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING
Wednesday, June 28, 2017, 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 Shoemaker 7:30. Those present were Mr. Avery, Mrs. Dalton, Mr. Lance, Mrs. Van Valkenburg and Mayor Shoemaker. Also present was Municipal Clerk Leidner.

The **FLAG SALUTE** was conducted.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

Mayor Shoemaker 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT – up to 5 speakers, 3 minutes each

Jean O'Brien – East Avenue - inquired as to what is being done about expanding the Police Department. She noted that the Township is in need of more police coverage. She also asked about the enforcement of speeding on Bridge Street. Ms. O'Brien wondered if speed bumps might be a possibility. The Township Committee advised her to contact the County because Bridge Street is a county road. Ms. O'Brien also commented on the noise in her neighborhood. Mrs. Van Valkenburg let Ms. O'Brien that there is a noise Ordinance and that after 10 she will have to call the State Police.

Mr. Lance said that he will speak to Captain Johnsen regarding the speeding on Bridge Street.

Fred Cook – Four Corners Road – Mr. Cook reported that his road is in terrible shape. He noted that the DPW did a good job patching it but the road is in need of more than patching. He inquired as to when Four Corners Road is going to be paved. Mayor Shoemaker let him know it is not on the list of roads for this year.

The Township Committee unanimously decided that the Public Comment section held in the beginning of each Regular Committee Meeting will be eliminated at the Regular Workshop Meetings. The public will have an opportunity to speak at the end of the meeting.

MINUTES

MARCH 08, 2017– Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lance noted that the Greater Blairstown Business Association acronym is incorrect it is GDBA in the minutes and it should be GBBA.

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes with one correction. Mrs. Dalton seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker
All ayes: Motion carried

March 08, 2017– Executive Session Minutes

Mr. Avery made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Mrs. Van Valkenburg seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker
All ayes: Motion carried

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-03 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 84 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN ENTITLED “CONCERTS AND FESTIVALS, OUTDOOR”
Second Reading, Public Hearing, Adoption

Mayor Shoemaker opened the public hearing. Closed the Public Hearing to Table the Ordinance.

****This Ordinance was tabled to the next Regular Meeting of the Township Committee August 9, 2017****

Motion to approve, second. Roll Call Vote

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-04 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF FIRE PUMP ON CLASS A PUMPER TRUCK 46-62 WITHIN FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUNDING THEREOF

Second Reading, Public Hearing, Adoption

Mayor Shoemaker opened the public hearing.

Harold Price, 3 Alice Court inquired as to what happened to this fire truck and directed the question to Mayor Shoemaker. Mayor Shoemaker does not what happened mechanically. Mr. Price explained that he inquired the information from the Fire Company. The explanation he received indicates that the need for repair is due to lack of maintenance on the pumper. Mayor Shoemaker explained that competent mechanics have been working on the truck. Mr. Price requested that an explanation as to what happened to this pumper truck be submitted to the Township Committee and this request be included in the minutes of this meeting.

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2017-04, which was seconded by Mr. Avery

Roll call vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker
All ayes: Motion carried

Mayor Shoemaker noted for the record that the repair is not going to be \$30,000.00. The pump is going to be \$19,435.00 and it is being installed in house. The pump comes with a 6 year warranty.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1 - R.2017 - 071 In Support of Fireworks Display
- 2 - R.2017 - 072 Resolution Approving Liquor License Renewal Billings, Inc.,
T/A Post Time Pub No. 2104-33-003-006

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

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

Mayor Shoemaker discussed the replacement of light bulbs with LED light bulbs. The request was a quote to replace light bulbs and the actual quote came back with replacing the fixtures and the cost was astronomical. The quote the Mayor provided to the Township Committee was in the amount of \$9,694.00 to replace the current bulbs with LED bulbs. He went on to explain that NJ has an Energy Rebate Program and the Township would get back \$1,745.00. The net investment would be \$7,949.00. Mayor Shoemaker explained that in order to qualify for the rebate the contract would have to be submitted by Friday of this week. The Committee agreed that that is not enough time to research this project and have the contract reviewed by the Township Attorney. The company that gave this quote is local. Mayor Shoemaker noted that he will go back to the company and offer that if they would like to requote after July 1 they are welcome to do so. The Committee would like to get quotes from other businesses as well for this project.

Mr. Price explained that when he Chairman of the Environmental Commission this was one of the projects that he worked on extensively and he would be happy to share his contact information for the company he was working with to change from incandescent bulbs to LED bulbs.

The Elementary School changed over years ago and North Warren is working on this project currently.

Mayor Shoemaker noted that he received a request from Jeanette Iurato regarding Historic Blairstown Day scheduled for Saturday August 5. Mrs. Iurato is requesting permission from the County to close Main Street for the event. She has been in touch with the Police Department and was given a price of \$1360.00 for 2 Officers to patrol this event. She is willing to pay the fee. Mrs. Iurato would like a letter of support from the Township Committee to send to the County in order for her to obtain permission from them for the Main Street road closure. Mrs. Van Valkenburg inquired as to whether this is a private event or is it being hosted by an organization or group. Mayor Shoemaker noted that this is a privately run event, the Blairstown Museum. Mrs. Dalton explained that in the request there were 3 purposes listed for this event and they are:

1. To promote Blairstown History and to celebrate John I. Blair's birthday.
2. To act as a fundraiser for the Blairstown Museums preservation effort.
3. To compliment the Food Shed Alliance's Tour de Blairstown event.

Mayor Shoemaker remarked that since there is the bike event that day it would be a good idea to allow the closing of Main Street for the Historic Blairstown Day, there will be a lot of people in town for the bike race and it would help to promote the businesses, Mr. Avery was in agreement.

Mr. Lance recommended that the Blairstown Museum should be required to follow the new Ordinance requirements, especially to include the DPW approval and quote of any fees that may be incurred. And the notification of the businesses of the event.

Discussion ensued regarding how many day notice should applicants be required to notify the residents and businesses on Main Street that there will be a street closing. Notice should be given to the property owners prior to the Committee Meeting when the Application will be acted on by the Township Committee.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg noted that she is not in favor of an individual being allowed to close a street. She wanted to be clear that it is not the individual applying, but any individual.

Mayor Shoemaker recommended that the individual be advised to go to the GBBA for sponsorship. And if that were to happen the Township Committee could then address the application at its next Regular Meeting, July 12. Mayor Shoemaker will go to Mrs. Iurato and suggest speaking to the GBBA for sponsorship for this event.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg noted that with the COPS Grant coming up she would like to talk about hiring 2 police officers. This would not cost the Township much at all. Mrs. Van Valkenburg noted that she is unsure about what the rest of the committee's feeling is regarding this subject. She also noted that a Public Meeting should be held at North Warren to get the public's feeling about expanding the Police Department. Mrs. Dalton explained that the COPS Grant is a 5 year commitment and is due July 10 and then the decision will be made in a couple of months. The current Police Officers are working 60 hour weeks which creates a lot of overtime. The salaries with benefits for new Police Officer would be about \$55,000.00, with the COPS grant we would get a little over \$41,000.00 back over the first 3 years per new hire.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg noted that a discussion that needs to be had regarding certain staff positions in the Town Hall for the benefit of production and efficiency. Mayor Shoemaker explained that RICE Notices need to be sent to the employees involved in order to discuss this matter. Mrs. Leidner was instructed to send RICE Notices to the staff members that will be involved in the proposed changes. The Executive session will begin at 5:30pm. Mrs. Dalton explained that looking at the big picture, the moves would be done to play to people's strengths.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg noted that since Mrs. Tamburro resigned from her as COAH liaison, Mrs. Van Valkenburg is looking into options for filling this position.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg would like to recreate a Committee to review Ordinances. Mayor Shoemaker noted that several of the Ordinances were reviewed and changes were submitted to the Township Committee, however they were not acted on because they were going to do the changes all at once. Mr. Avery is going to provide copies of the changes that were previously recommended by the ordinance review committee to the members of the Township Committee and Mrs. Leidner.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg would like to be a member of the Ordinance Review Committee, along with Rosalie Murray, Jane Santini and Paul Avery.

FROM THE PUBLIC

Harold Price, 3 Alice Court recommended to Mrs. Van Valkenburg and Mrs. Dalton that since Mr. Johnsen was just promoted to Captain the Township should consider promoting Mr. Bee to Sergeant.

Rosalie Murray recommended that at the Workshop Meetings instead of waiting until the end of the meeting to open the meeting to the public, when discussing items the public should be allowed to speak about that particular subject. Regarding the closing of Main Street, she noted that it promotes community involvement. Mrs. Murray recommended that the Zoning Officer needs help to enforce the Ordinances.

Jean O'Brien, East Avenue noted that Police are needed at night past 10:00pm. Ms. O'Brien inquired as to whether COAH monies are still available for home improvements, Mrs. Van Valkenburg responded that it is not. Mr. Lance noted that it was a Small Community Block Grant, you were given the loan with the stipulation that if you stayed in the house for 8 years you didn't have to pay it back.

Fred Cook, spoke regarding the Police Department, he recommends staggering the police hours so that they are not only on certain hours, this may deter crime. Mr. Cook also asked that we have two voting locations. Mrs. Leidner is working with the Board of Elections regarding this issue.

There were no further comments from the public therefore Mayor Shoemaker closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Avery made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Lance. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56pm.

Submitted by:

Linda Leidner, RMC
Municipal Clerk