

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING
Wednesday, July 26, 2017, 7:15PM**

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.

RESOLUTION 2017 - 084 AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF personnel

Motion was made by Mr. Lance Van and was seconded by Mr. Avery

Roll Call Vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker.

All ayes: Motion carried.

Executive Session began at 7:15 pm.

Mr. Lance made a motion to re-open the Regular Meeting at 7:32 pm. The Motion was seconded by Mrs. Van Valkenburg.

Roll Call Vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker.

All ayes: Motion carried.

Mayor Shoemaker explained that about a month ago a letter of resignation was received from Theresa Tamburro, Municipal Housing Liaison. Mayor Shoemaker went on to explain that recently Mrs. Tamburro had a change in her status and said she would be willing to come back to the position.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg made a motion to rescind the acceptance of Theresa Tamburro's resignation from the role of Municipal Housing Liaison, which was seconded by Mr. Avery.

Roll Call Vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker.

All ayes: Motion carried.

Mayor Shoemaker made a motion to reinstate Theresa Tamburro as the Municipal Housing Liaison, which was seconded by Mrs. Van Valkenburg.

Roll Call Vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker.

All ayes: Motion carried.

Mayor Shoemaker asked all members of the Township Committee to review the new draft of Ordinance Number 2017-03 and relay any comments directly to the municipal Clerk as soon as possible as it needs to be published very in soon in order to have it on the August 9 agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Letter from NJ Department of Agriculture regarding gypsy moth egg mass surveys, request due by August 18, 2017. This is not an authorization to spray but authorization for the State to come out and do a survey to determine if it will be necessary to spray for the Gypsy Moth or not. In the past it was about \$30,000.00 to spray.

Mayor Shoemaker made a motion to authorize the Department of Agriculture to do the Gypsy Moth survey for egg masses, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

Voice Vote: All ayes, motion carried.

Renewal of PBA Agreement - Discussion

Mayor Shoemaker reported that the Police Contract expires at the end of this year and it is time to discuss getting ready for the negotiation. The question is who the attorney will be for this process. The Township used a Labor attorney in the past. He was very expensive.

A discussion was held among the members of the Township Committee. Mr. Lance and Mrs. Dalton expressed the fact that a Labor Attorney is really not needed for these negotiations. Mayor Shoemaker recommended that the Township use Benbrook and Benbrook.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg made a motion to advertise for RFP's for an attorney with Labor negotiation Experience, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

Roll Call Vote: AYE – Avery, Dalton, Lance, Van Valkenburg, Shoemaker.

All ayes: Motion carried.

Mr. Lance reported that there is a class that Mike Sullivan, DPW Mechanic can take for repairing Fire Truck pumps. When the course is over he will take a test, and if he passes, will receive a fire truck pump mechanic certificate. This certification will allow Mr. Sullivan to do the annual fire truck pump checks, instead of having to pay Fire Safety to come out annually to do the inspections. The downside of this is the class is a three day class being held October 2 – October 4. It is held in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. The cost for the training and the travel is about \$850.00 to \$880.00.

Mr. Lance made a motion to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$880.00 to send Mr. Sullivan to the fire truck pump mechanics class being held in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin October 2-4 allowing him to take the time off to attend, with the stipulation that if he leaves the Township within a year he will be responsible for reimbursing the Township 50% of the cost and within the second year 25% of the cost. Seconded by Mayor Shoemaker.

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

Mayor Shoemaker noted that two memos were received regarding 2-6 Amackassin Road. The property owners were notified last year but now they are not accepting our certified letters. Mayor Shoemaker will ask Zoning Officer to send a letter.

Mr. Avery made a motion to cancel the August 23 Workshop Meeting due to vacation conflicts, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

Voice Vote: All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Shoemaker reported that a letter was received by the Township Clerk today from the North Warren Regional Cross Country Team Booster Club and the North Warren Regional Parent Teacher Association regarding a carnival they are having August 17-20. The letter is requesting that the Township waive the cost of police coverage during the event. The consensus of the Township Committee was that they would not approve this request. Mayor Shoemaker asked the Township Clerk to draft a letter to the requestors.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg asked Captain Johnsen if the Township charges the patient when Narcan is administered and she also inquired about the cost. Captain Johnsen noted that the cost is \$80.00 and the patient is not charged. Mrs. Van Valkenburg feels that the patient should be charged, Captain Johnsen recommended that Mrs. Van Valkenburg address this with our attorney.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg would like to ask department heads come to the Committee meetings periodically so that the public can know who they are and what their department is responsible for within the Township. We will place this in the beginning of the meeting so that they do not have to stay until the end.

Mrs. Van Valkenburg reported that she had lunch with members of the BEC to discuss what they do. She also asked them to possibly ask to be on the Township Committee agenda or just come to a meeting and talk to the Committee about what they are working on. Mr. Avery explained that they are looking after the economics of the Township and the appearance.

Mrs. Leidner recommended that the Township Committee look at the salary spreadsheet and place the Salary Resolution on the agenda on August 9.

FROM THE PUBLIC

Jean O'Brien – East Avenue – noted that she talks to young people, with their parents present about what drugs can do to them and relays a personal story about her niece who passed away from an overdose at the age of 21. This is why she is so concerned about drug abuse and the continual use of Narcan. Ms. O'Brien also told the Township Committee that with all of the meetings she attends she

wanted to let them know that they are doing a pretty good job. She recommended that we put all of the things that the Committee is working on in the newsletter.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Dalton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Lance. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

Submitted by:

Linda Leidner, RMC
Municipal Clerk