

**TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING
Wednesday, May 24, 2017, 6:45PM**

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 - 060 AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Motion was made by Mrs. Van Valkenburg and was seconded by Mrs. Dalton

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

All ayes: Motion carried.

Executive Session began at 6:47 pm.

Mr. Lance made a motion to re-open the Regular Meeting at 7:40 pm. The Motion was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

Voice Vote: All ayes: Motion carried.

Mayor Shoemaker reported that a discussion was held in the Closed Session regarding the hours the Tax Collector will be in the office during the two weeks of each tax quarter resulting in the following:

Mayor Shoemaker made a motion that during the two weeks of each quarterly tax season the Tax Collector will work Monday through Thursday, Mr. Avery seconded the Motion.

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

All ayes: Motion carried.

PRESENTATION by Recreation Director Pat Sagan regarding North Warren Little League Scoreboard and dug out at Sycamore Park. Mr. Leigh Pagano, President of North Warren Patriots Little League was also present for the discussion. Mrs. Sagan explained that they are here because the approval of the Township Committee is needed due to the fact that the field is on Township property. Mrs. Sagan presented the Committee pictures of the Little League dug out explaining what they would like to do is replace the galvanized roof with wood. Mr. Pagano explained that the galvanized roof is

splitting and is dangerous. They also want to enclose the dug out on three sides. The North Warren Patriots Little League is going to pay for the dug out and do all of the work.

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve the request for the replacement of the roof and enclosing the dug out on three sides, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

Mrs. Van Valkenburg made note that she has a concern with anything that is done at the field because of the proximity to the airport.

Mrs. Sagan then presented pictures of a scoreboard that the North Warren Patriots Little League will be purchasing and they can save almost a thousand dollars if they place the order by May 31. The scoreboard is 4' by 8'. The scoreboard would not be higher than the soccer goal post or the dugout. Each scoreboard is around \$2,800.00 and they will be purchasing two. One for the big field as well. The scoreboard will be placed between the batting cage and the field at the Little League Field.

Mr. Lance made a motion to permit the North Warren Patriots Little league to install scoreboards at both fields in Sycamore Park, which was seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

Mrs. Sagan also explained that she would like to get the input of some local electricians as to what it would take to get more electric service at Sycamore Park. The consensus of the Township Committee was it is ok for Mrs. Sagan to get some estimates for this.

MINUTES

MARCH 22, 2017– Regular Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2017– Executive Session Minutes

Mr. Avery made a motion to approve both sets of minutes as presented. Mrs. Dalton seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – up to 5 speakers, 3 minutes each

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

1. - RESOLUTION NO. 2017-061 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING IN REM TAX FORECLOSURE

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-061, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

2. - Discussion with Hose Company regarding pump repair and Lease Option for a new truck. Fire Chief Calvin Inscho distributed quotes to the Township Committee from Fire Safety Services for the repair of the pumper truck. Every year the pumps on the firetrucks are serviced. The trucks are thoroughly inspected. During the inspection it was discovered that the bearings in the pump transmission are going bad and need to be replaced on Engine 46-62, which is the main attack pumper. There was nothing that could be done to avoid this problem. The quote to do the repair is \$29,600.00. Chief Inscho explained that the truck will be out for service for 3-6 months. There is a Darley Pump on the engine and that is considered top of the line. To fix them they need to be split top to bottom instead of front to back to pull the pump out of the truck. The pump is totally inoperative at this time. Chief Inscho explained that the Fire Company is going to need a truck to use in the interim. He explained that they are exploring other options such as getting a rental truck or a demo truck to use. Chief Inscho also noted that the Hose Company will pay that bill, they would just like to Township to cover the insurance portion of the bill.

Mr. Lance remarked that he would need to ask the CFO if this repair is feasible this year. There is only one quote usually 3 quotes are required. Chief Inscho reached out to 2 other places, one told him they were too busy and the other didn't get back to him. He explained that it is a matter of public safety at this point.

Mr. Lance also inquired as to whether the Township mechanic could do the job. Chief Inscho said no. He is not certified.

A discussion ensued and it was agreed that a discussion needs to be held with the CFO to see how this repair will be paid. Therefore, the Hose Company will return to the Committee in two weeks. In the meantime the Hose Company will obtain 2 more quotes for the repair of the pumper.

Mayor Shoemaker made a motion that the rental or loner truck that the Hose Company will be obtaining and paying for will be added to the Township insurance policy. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dalton.

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

Chief Inscho let the Township Committee know that they have been talking to truck manufacturers and advised them that there are lease options available for fire trucks which makes it more affordable to obtain a new truck. The manufacturers are willing to come to a Township Committee meeting to discuss this option.

Chief Inscho also noted that the Hose Company is still interested in putting security cameras in at the Firehouse. They are still waiting to hear from the Township Attorney regarding the legality of this.

3. - Request from Toni Lynch, President Better World Building Technology, LLC on behalf of BankOnSolar, would like to make a presentation at a Township Committee Meeting.

Mayor Shoemaker explained that Mr. Lynch would like to make a presentation on solar panels for the municipal building. The Township would get a 15% reduction for 3 years. Mrs. Leidner explained that he said he has made a presentation to the Committee in the past and that someone

on the Township Committee has asked him to come back again. The consensus of the Committee is that there is no interest at this time.

While the subject of energy was being discussed Mayor Shoemaker reported that today was the EMEX energy auction. The Township's new 2 year rate is \$0.07535 per kwh. This is a 12% savings from the last rate. That equates to a \$4000.00 savings over 24 months.

Mayor Shoemaker made a motion that the Mayor be authorized to sign the contract with Aggressive Energy for a fixed rate of \$0.07535 per kwh effective for 24 months beginning October 1, 2017 pending attorney review of the contract. Mr. Lance seconded the motion.

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

4. - Request from Gilbert Andwati requesting to attend a Township Committee Meeting to promote his anti-bullying campaign HOPE FOR THE HURT – Youth Suicide Prevention
The Township Committee agreed to have Mr. Andwati come and make a presentation at the June 13 meeting.

Mayor Shoemaker reported that a citizen in the LED lighting field stopped by the municipal building about a month ago. Mayor Shoemaker asked for a quote for replacing the bulbs. He came back with a quote replacing the lighting fixtures instead.

Mrs. Leidner asked to discuss the dates for the annual cleanup. She explained that when she called the Warren County Landfill to schedule the event she discovered that the Township could allow the residents to bring their items to the landfill all week instead of limiting it to Friday and Saturday only. She asked the committee if they would like to extend the cleanup to the week.

Mr. Lance made a motion to extend the cleanup to a full week. Mrs. Dalton seconded the motion.

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

The Mayor noted that the sidewalk agreement between the Presbyterian Church and the Township is ready to be executed. He explained that the Township currently has an agreement with Warren County that we will maintain the sidewalk. This agreement changes that agreement in that the church will now maintain the sidewalk in front of and on the side of the church.

Mr. Lance made a motion to authorize the Mayor and Township Clerk to execute the sidewalk agreement between the Presbyterian Church and Blairstown Township, which was seconded by Mr. Avery.

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

Mr. Avery reported that he had a meeting with a company by the name of Aquatronics to obtain some assistance with the water issues the Township has been having. The man that came out to was

a water chemist. Unfortunately, we did not have the data he needed to give us answers to some of the water problems. He came up with solutions for the short term, while obtaining the information he is requesting. One of the issues is sediment that is escaping from our media, and the chemist recommended that the Township install a bag filter ahead of the water that is leaving the water tower that will catch the sediment. The bag filter with installation will cost up to \$3000.00. Moving forward he recommended that we change the water testing lab, a lab in Sparta was recommended. Another recommendation was to test the water right out of the well to get an understanding of what our manganese issue may be. Mr. Stoddart is going to check with Warren County to see what the new manganese standards are currently.

Mr. Lance made a motion to approve up to \$3000.00 for the bag filter system and installation, which was seconded by Mrs. Dalton

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

Mr. Rodman, Township Engineer reported that the Township is going forward with the specs whether or not we receive the grant. The Township received an extension for the placement of the well to January 2018.

Mr. Rodman also reported that he spoke to the County today regarding the East Crisman Bridge project. The bridge and the road will be closed until August 2017.

Mr. Rodman also noted that quotes were obtained for the structural relining of the pipe under Cobblewood Road. There were 6 companies that were interested in doing the project. 3 companies gave no bid. There was a quote that was as high as \$62,500.00 and a low quote of \$38,000.00 which was under the bid threshold. The low bid was from Standard Pipe Services. Mr. Rodman explained that the CFO is a little leery because there will not be able to be any change orders due to the quote being so close to the threshold. Mr. Rodman noted that contract will need to be drawn up by the Township Attorney to be sure that the \$38,000.00 is a firm price.

Regarding Storm water Management, Mr. Rodman noted that the Township is a Tier B municipality. He noted that the requirements have changed and he asked that the Township Committee read over the memo he presented and decide what they would like to do regarding the Storm water Manager position. This is a very time consuming position.

Mr. Rodman also reported that he has the original report regarding the airport hazard zone in Blairstown. He emailed Kevin Benbrook, Township attorney and let him know that Mr. Rodman has the report but no one has stopped to look at the report as yet.

Mr. Rodman also gave an update regarding Mohican Road. He explained that a grant was received from DOT in the amount of \$240,000.00. He further explained that on the grant application the Township requested \$380,000.00. Mr. Rodman noted that since that application was submitted the prices of some of the paving materials have changed. Based on the new cost we would still need an additional \$85,000.00. Mohican Road could be done from Cobblewood to Gaisler. An option would be to do up to the bridge that would come to \$306,000.00. To get to the \$240,000.00 we could do 8/10 of a mile. A change in scope would need to be submitted to DOT if the Township chose this option. They normally approve these requests. Mr. Rodman's recommendation would be to do from

Cobblewood for a ½ mile, which is to the bridge, would cost \$306,000.00. A decision can be made at the next meeting.

Mr. Rodman also reported on the request for no parking on Route 521. Mr. Rodman spoke to Barth Johnson who works for Warren County part-time. The procedure would be for the Township to change our Ordinance, send a draft to the County and then they would have to pass a Resolution. The Township or the business owner would have to pay for the No Parking signs. There would be no parking on Route 94 going west on both sides. Mrs. Dalton spoke to Ed Smith, County Freeholder. He said the county was providing 2 No Parking signs. The Township would need to provide the poles and would be responsible for installing the signs. Mr. Rodman explained that a Township Ordinance and a County Resolution needs to be adopted in order for the no parking to be enforceable.

FROM THE PUBLIC

Debra Waldron, Land Use Board Chair - Reported that a meeting with Century Link is being scheduled by the Mayor of Hardwick and other local Mayors. This meeting is scheduled to be held at North Warren Regional High School. Mrs. Waldron also asked that if the opportunity becomes available again to offer the lower electric rate for residents that the Township Committee strongly considers this to be made available to residents. Mrs. Waldron noted that decision to not have discussion with a solar panel company was a good choice because she deals with people that had solar panels installed are permanent and the contracts are impossible to get out of.

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

Mr. Lance made a motion to go back into Executive Session to complete the discussion, Mrs. Dalton seconded the Motion.

Voice Vote: All ayes: Motion carried.

Executive Session began at 9:25pm

Mr. Lance made a motion to come out of the Executive Session, Mr. Avery seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All ayes, Motion carried.

Meeting was opened to the public at 9:41pm.

Mayor Shoemaker explained that the discussion in the Executive Session were contractual in nature and the final results will be announced at the next meeting.

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

All ayes: Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lance made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Avery. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:42pm.

Submitted by:

Linda Leidner, RMC
Municipal Clerk