



TOWNSHIP OF BLAIRSTOWN

Incorporated 1845

106 Route 94
Blairstown, New Jersey 07825
www.blairstowntownship.org

January 6, 2021

Good evening Walter, Joanne, Debra, Steve and everyone watching and thank you all for joining in on this very different reorganization meeting for Blairstown as we enter 2021. Our Zoom meetings are a reminder of the way our lives were altered by the pandemic and how our way of doing things has become very fluid. Thank you to Pastor Harvey for carrying on the tradition of delivering a beautiful invocation and our Clerk Kristin Shipps, a wonderful addition to our staff last year, for being the glue that holds Town Hall together.

I'm honored by the opportunity to serve the residents of Blairstown. When I was in morning radio I used to joke that being on the air everyday was like running for Mayor 365 days a year. Everything said was scrutinized and even the most mundane conversation would be recalled years later by someone. I learned that while words convey thoughts, listening breeds ideas. Talking to people was always my favorite part of the job and the same will hold true for this position. I thank the committee for the trust they've shown by allowing me to serve as Mayor.

I want to congratulate Debra Waldron and Walter Orcutt on their successful elections. I welcome Walter back to the committee. His knowledge and experience will be a great asset to Blairstown and I know Debra will continue her dedicated service to the community this year as Deputy Mayor. I realize that I have very big shoes to fill with Mayor Steven Lance's departure and I want to thank he and Joanne Van Valkenburg, as his Deputy, for leading the town through a most difficult year and of course Steve's many years of service to Blairstown.

Congratulations to our new Fire Chief, Mark Slater and his entire department at Blairstown Hose Company No. 1. I look forward to working with all of you this year. Blairstown is very fortunate to have a full team of first responders who consistently make the wellbeing of our residents their highest priority.

While still in the grasp of the COVID-19 pandemic we need to plot our course to a time when we will worry less and laugh more. A time when our children can feel like kids and our businesses will once again experience the comfort of increased foot traffic.

We've had many projects in the works and 2021 will be the year we see many of our plans come to fruition. Our new well will soon come online and the Blairstown historic

district will be served by a very high-quality water supply and our soil remediation project at the old Walnut Valley Firehouse will wrap up this year this year as well.

Our focus on Main street will be ongoing as our Department of Public Works continue their efforts to improve traffic flow, parking, lighting and the safety of our residents and guests of our historic district.

We will continue to support and help grow all the things people love about our town. Whether it's fly fishing in the Paulinskill, hiking our trails, shopping our farmers market, supporting our family owned farms or enjoying a seasonal festival, we must do whatever we can as a town to promote and nurture the things that make Blirstown a true destination.

Through improved communication and promotion, we can help businesses impacted by 2020 climb back. We will listen, we will work, we will make it known how important our businesses are to us.

Finally, I'd like to thank my wife Maureen and my mother Patricia for their support as I lend my support to the community I love. I'm grateful to the residents who granted me this opportunity to serve and I look forward to hearing and learning from many of you this year.

Rob Moorhead
Blirstown Mayor-2021