

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

November 13, 2006

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Jerome Ogden called Blossburg Borough Council regular meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Room of the Borough Building, 245 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

Attendance: Vice-President Tonya McNamara; Councilmembers Raymond Kaminski, James Holleman, James Bogaczyk, Cheryl Bubacz, Thomas Bogaczyk; Mayor John Backman; (absent, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett); (absent, Chief Ronald Steffen (attending school at State College, PA); Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Bev Jones Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment); Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette.

Minutes: The minutes of the October 9, 2006 meeting were accepted on motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Guests: None present.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Students:** No student present. Zara Johnson, a senior at N.P.H.S. and working at the Borough under the "school-to-work" program, had agreed to attend meetings. At the end of this semester, Zara changed her mind, because she decided to pursue other interests.

(B) **KCC:** Charles Freeberg did not attend meeting.

Thomas Bogaczyk gave the finance report. The organization's regular checking account balance is \$2,284.75.

The local football teams donated \$1,500.00 to the KCC Building.

The Booster and Gridiron Clubs are to help with the updating of the KCC kitchen.

(C) **Committee Business Development:** Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment)

V.I.B.E. meetings are held second Wednesday of the month.

V.I.B.E. Minutes for October 18, 2006 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers. No Financial Reports were presented.

President Bev Jones reported the Wood / Anthony Building and the Baptist Apartment building started the work on their building façades. Mr. Robert Martin owner of Bloss Hardware is interested in applying for the Main Street Façade Program. Mr. Martin is interested in having a mural painted on the side of Bloss Hardware south wall, painting his storefront and redoing several windows. Mrs. Jones stated the mural would qualify under the Main Street Façade program.

Reports:

A requisition was sent to Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for additional funds in the amount of \$18,000.00. The properties to be covered under this funding are as follows: 1) \$12,000.00 (Four (4) store fronts – Wood / Anthony Building. 2) \$3,000.00 Ray's Service Center. 3) \$3,000.00 Dr. Ollock's.

The "Light Up the Holidays" in Blossburg is scheduled for Saturday, December 9, 2006. The Tree Lighting Ceremony will begin at 6:00 P.M.

Both James Bogaczyk and Thomas Bogaczyk commended the V.I.B.E. organization for the work they have done.

- (D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman asked about constructing a walkway from the footbridge and going west where the Tioga River and Johnson Creek come together. The Borough Manager is to check as to what would be involved.

The ice-skating rink, that was constructed last year, on the old Steffen property will not be done again this year because of the work it takes to keep it going, especially with the unpredictable weather temperatures.

- (E) **Police:** Everyone has received a copy of the Police Report.

Chief Steffen was absent tonight, because he was attending classes at State College for two (2) days.

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Tonya McNamara; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

- (F) **Police Committee:** Nothing further to report.

- (G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Tonya McNamara; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

A request to have a bon fire on Island Park if the North Penn Panther Football team wins Saturday, November 17, 2006. Football supporters would like permission from the Borough to hold the event. Councilmembers in favor, contingent they contact the Southern Tioga School District, Blossburg Fire Department and follow Department of Environmental Protection regulations.

The Borough employees attended a Methamphetamine Resources class at Whitneyville on November 1, 2006. The class discussed Meth Labs, environmental hazards, potential health effects and safety issues if a person finds discarded containers used for the making of Meth.

Mayor Backman discussed the county boundary lines. The county lines are different than the Borough maps. These boundary lines causes problems when it comes to Police protection, as to who should respond to a police call. These boundaries need to be verified. Mr. Lloyd is to contact the County.

Reports:

(H) Planning Commission:

Meeting of October 31, 2006. Reviewed and approved James Bogaczyk subdivision to deed over 561 square feet of land to Elaine Kurzejewski. A motion to approve the maps of James Bogaczyk subdivision was made by Raymond Kaminski; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

(I) Recreation: Meeting of October 30, 2006.

Jill Nickerson (V.I.B.E. Youth Recreation) would like to have a 3,300 to 4,500 sq. ft. skateboard park constructed on Island Park. Mrs. Nickerson would like to include the skateboard court with the pool grant application. The Borough liability insurance would only increase \$1,000.00 if park is built within state specifications. Councilmembers would like Mrs. Nickerson to collect all of the necessary information and present to Council.

There were trees cut down on Island Park. The Borough owes \$500.00 towards the cost.

Pool Association hired Wade Associates to do a Feasibility Study for the renovating of Blossburg Community Pool. Wade Associates did the design of existing pool. The Pool Association to is pay for the total cost of \$6,000.00. Motion to move forward with the Feasibility Study, on the existing pool, to be done by Wade Associates at the cost of \$6,000.00 was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

(J) Fire: No report received.

(K) Television: Board meetings are second Tuesday of month.

Fox and Food channels may be included on cable system, subject to review by James Lamonski. If approved, the process will take awhile.

(L) Library: Thomas Bogaczyk did not attend last meeting.

A Chinese Auction fundraiser will be held in the spring.

Councilmembers would like to see a study on the usage of the Blossburg Memorial Library.

(M) Street Committee: The storm drain project is completed.

New street signs were applied for through Pine Creek COG Grant.

(N) Budget: The 2007 Budget was advertised and is ready to be approved.

An insurance meeting was scheduled to review insurance quotes on November 21, 2006.
1) Wilkinson Dunn Company at 9:00 A.M. 2) Gannon Associates at 10:00 A.M.

(O) Blossburg Municipal Authority: The paperwork for the drilling of a well on State Game lands along East Creek Road is the process, as well as the gas lease for Taylor Run property.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Minor Sub-Division/Cul-D-Sac:

The Borough Manager has to get information to the Borough Solicitor to finish this deed of dedication.

2. Additional Railroad Property:

Tax Sale for old railroad property of 6.72 acres, purchased by the Borough. The wrong property was assessed. Borough Solicitor is working on.

The 2005 Real Estate taxes are due by November 30, 2006 for the above property. The Borough Solicitor suggested the Borough pay the notice and he will get monies back from county after the Property is assessed correctly.

3. Electric System Assessment:

Penelec will be inspecting the lines on Tuesday, November 14m 2006 pursuant to our agreement with them. The letters of agreement are completed. President Jerome Ogden signed agreement tonight and will be mailed.

4. Williamson Commercial Park Access Street:

Mr. Lloyd has to get copy of map and deed description for solicitor.

5. Cell Tower Ordinance: Mr. Barrett is attempting to draft an ordinance. The height of structures and areas restricted need some revisions to the wording.

6. Outdoor Burning Ordinance: Garbage Ordinance reviewed by Committee. Mr. Barrett to stay with recommendations of Committee.

7. Engine Brakes Ordinance: The Borough Solicitor presented a sample ordinance for Council to review. PennDOT is to do study on Route 15 tractor-trailer traffic before they approve.

8. Home Grant: The Department of Community and Economic Development informed Blossburg Borough that we are set up in a project in the Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) under Blossburg Borough 2006 HOME. The Borough Secretary has a meeting set up by teleconference on November 16, 2006 to discuss questions.

9. Building Permit Fees: The Borough Solicitor is writing up an ordinance, which would lower the square footage of buildings needing inspections from 1,000 sq. ft. to 600 sq. ft. Labor and Industry has to be notified of the proposed ordinance before adoption.

10. Emergency and Municipal Services Tax (EMST):

Motion was made by Raymond Kaminski to amend Ordinance 406 from \$20.00/working person employed in Blossburg to \$36.00/working person employed in Blossburg; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Bid Opening for Mowers: Received as advertised:

Bruce Toothaker, 118 South Williamson Road, Blossburg, PA 16912: John Deere 210 - \$ 51.00
John Deere 317 - \$151.00

Joe Brion, 142 Liberty Lane, Liberty, PA: John Deere 317 - \$650.00

Motion was made by James Bogaczyk to accept Bruce Toothaker bid for the John Deere 210 in the amount of \$51.00; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Motion was made by James Bogaczyk to accept Joe Brion bid for the John Deere 317 in the amount of \$650.00; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

2. Adopt 2007 Budget: Motion that the proposed 2007 Tax Ordinance is adopted as advertised: Borough 5.507 mills / Fire 0.568 mills / Library 0.250 mills was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Amending the Emergency and Municipal Services Tax Ordinance from \$20.00 per working person in Blossburg to \$36.00 per working person in Blossburg. New rates need to be advertised. Council will adopt new rates next month.

3. Advertise for Fuel Bids: Motion to advertise for vehicle fuel bids was made by Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

4. Re-Appointments to Committees and Boards (Last Term Year 2006);

Re-Appointment to Planning Commission: Ralph Mundis, 111 McIntyre Street (agreed to re-appointment); motion of James Bogaczyk; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Re-Appointment to Planning Commission (to keep on schedule): Patrick Marriner, 136 North Williamson Road; motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Re-Appointment to Shade Tree Commission (to keep on schedule): Jeffrey Everett, 331 South Williamson Road; motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Re-Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board: Loretta Steffen, 140 Main Street (agreed to re-appointment); motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Re-Appointment to Blossburg Municipal Authority: John Eckman, 311 Davis Street (agreed to re-appointment); motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Appointment to Recreation Board: Joyce Lloyd wants off Board. Suggested replacement for Joyce Lloyd is Jill Nickerson, 217 Parkhurst Street. Motion to appoint Jill Nickerson to the Recreation Board, subject to her acceptance, was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

STSD Member: Richard (Pete) Hall term ends 2006. Mr. Hall to check with Southern Tioga School District to confirm his re-appointment.

5. Jeff Harman Memory Donation: A motion was made by James Bogaczyk to make a donation in Mr. Harman's memory to the Blossburg Memorial Library; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

6. Permission to Purchase Turkeys for Borough Employees for Thanksgiving:

A motion to purchase turkeys for Borough Employees for Thanksgiving, the cost to be split with the Blossburg Municipal Authority was made by Cheryl Bubacz; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

7. 2007 Contribution to Endless Mountain Transportation Authority (EMTA):

A motion to make a \$100.00 donation to EMTA was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2006 AT THE PENN WELLS HOTEL, MAIN STREET, WELLSBORO, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2006.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH IS SPONSORING "PA WILDS" INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON DECEMBER 19, 2006 AT THE PENN WELLS LODGE, WELLSBORO, PA. THE DAY WILL CONSIST OF AN ABBREVIATED AFTERNOON SESSION FROM 2 – 4 PM. FOLLOWED BY THE FULL EVENING MEETING FROM 4 – 8 PM. DISCUSSION WILL ADDRESS HOW TO BEST MANAGE THE GROWING LOCAL TOURISM ECONOMY TO SUSTAIN THE REGION'S CHARACTER. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING EITHER CLASS – PLEASE RETURN THE FORM (WHICH WAS INCLUDED IN YOUR COUNCIL ENVELOPE) BY DECEMBER 1.

"BLUE AND WHITE" THIS WEEK IN SUPPORT OF THE NORTH PENN PANTHER FOOTBALL TEAM. RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES ASKED TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT. MAYOR BACKMAN PROCLAIMS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2006 "NORTH PENN PANTHER FOOTBALL DAY" IN RECOGNITION OF THE NORTH PENN PANTHER FOOTBALL TEAM QUALIFYING FOR SEMI-FINAL DISTRICT IV AA GAME PLAYOFFS.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 8:44 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2006 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary