

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

December 11, 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; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Ronald Steffen; 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; North Penn High School students Ariel Berguson, Cassie Chase.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 13, 2006 meeting were accepted on motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, James Holleman. All in favor.

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

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Raymond Kaminski; second, James Holleman. All in favor.

Guests: None present.

Reports:

(A) NPHS Students:

Ariel Berguson and Cassie Chase are the new representatives for North Penn High School. Both girls hope to attend our regular monthly council meetings. Ms. Berguson and Ms. Chase gave a detailed report on current and upcoming events for school activities.

Mayor Backman suggested the district administration schedule school activities for each school on different days and times. When families have students attending a different Southern Tioga school some activities are missed, because the families can't be in two places at the same time.

Councilmembers thanked Ms. Berguson and Ms. Chase for attending tonight's meeting and expressed how pleased they were with their presentation.

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

James Bogaczyk reported the KCC kitchen construction is to start soon.

(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 November 15, 2006 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

Mrs. Jones handed out V.I.B.E. minutes for November 15, 2006 (an easier readable version) and a Financial Report.

Reports:

President Bev Jones reported Ray's Service Center received his façade monies. The Wood / Anthony Building has replaced windows and is having painting done, but the top of the façade facing Main Street still needs some stucco repairs.

The "Light Up the Holidays" in Blossburg was held on Saturday, December 9, 2006 at the Blossburg Memorial Library.

- (D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman received a "thank you" from North Penn High School Principal David for the Mayor issuing a Proclamation in recognition of the North Penn Panther football team qualifying for semi-final District IV AA game playoffs.

The Mayor explained the "Decree of Court Incorporating the Boro of Blossburg" survey map that was included in the Council packets. The Blossburg Police Department will assist with incidents happening on the Borough borderlines until boundaries are set.

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

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

Chief Steffen reported schooling is setup for next year.

Bev Jones reported vehicles are parking on the Granger Street cul-d-sac. Chief Steffen to talk with vehicle owners and have them park their vehicles elsewhere.

More complaints on dogs running loose and dog owners not cleaning up after their pets.

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

- (G) **Borough Manager:**

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

The construction on the Island Park path is almost completed. Councilmember Thomas Bogaczyk asked if grants could be applied for in the funding of the walkway. Mr. Lloyd is to contact Tom Schill of Northern Tier Regional Planning for available grants.

Verizon Cell Tower was placed on South Mountain. The directional bore under road is to be done Tuesday, December 12, 2006. The tower should be operational by the end of December.

The new garbage routes are to start on February 6 & 7, 2007. Route change notices will be mailed to all customers affected. Tuesday and Wednesday pickup days will remain the same.

The Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) report was received. This report is in reference to the Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule. Blossburg Code Office inspections are up and beyond the required inspections code.

- (H) **Planning Commission:** No applications were submitted. No meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

Reports:

(I) **Recreation:** No Meeting.

(J) **Fire:** No report received.

Councilmember Raymond Kaminski reported it will be 3 – 4 months before the Fire Department gets the new truck.

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

Channel 6 is bad.

(L) **Library:** No meeting.

Councilmember Thomas Bogaczyk reported a Basket Bingo is being planned as a fund raiser to benefit the Library.

The Library has a nice DVD selection available for the public to utilize. DVDs may be signed out for two (2) days.

(M) **Street Committee:** Nothing to report.

(N) **Budget:** The Budget Committee reviewed insurance quotes. Current Workers' Compensation quotes were received from Wilkinson Dunn Company and Gannon Associates, but not from H. A. Thomson.

Motion to accept Gannon Associates insurance quote was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Borough Manager George Lloyd is to check cost of a blanket Bond to cover Borough employees.

(O) **Blossburg Municipal Authority:**

The gas lease for Taylor Run property is almost finished.

A new water well should be drilled in the spring. There are two (2) possible water well sites. One is on East Creek State Forest property and the other is on Taylor Run property. A bond is needed to drill on State Forest property. Tioga County Commissioners gave the Blossburg Municipal Authority \$6,000.00 for the drilling of a well. Borough Manager George Lloyd is to notify the Commissioners as to how the monies are planned to be use.

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.

OLD BUSINESS:**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 2006 Real Estate taxes were paid for the above property. The Borough Solicitor will get monies back from county after the Property is assessed correctly.

3. Electric System Assessment:

Another major power surge occurred on December 8, 2006. This was the fourth major outage. "Blossburg Borough Council urges residents to come forward to report damages and losses suffered as a result of yet another power problem, which has caused expensive repairs or replacement costs for citizens. The Council asks that anyone who suffered a loss to bring a list of damaged items to the Borough Office, 245 Main Street. If you cannot bring the list during business hours, just drop your list in the marked slot provided for payments that is located in the entrance facing Main Street. Please keep track of all of your losses due to these blackouts." Councilmembers agreed Penelec needs to do something. These power surges are unacceptable. The Borough Solicitor and Councilmembers to continue investigating an answer to the power problem.

4. Williamson Commercial Park Access Street:

Mr. Lloyd has sent a copy of map and deed description to 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:** PennDOT is to do study on Route 15 tractor-trailer traffic before they approve.**8. Home Grant:** The Borough is accessing funds for invoices needing to be paid.**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.**NEW BUSINESS:****1. 2007 Fuel Bids:** Received as advertised:

<u>Williams Oil & Propane:</u>	Diesel Winter Mix -	\$2.1490 per gallon
	Diesel Summer Mix -	\$2.1340 per gallon
	Unleaded Medium Grade -	\$1.8880 per gallon
	(89 Octane (Midgrade) Gasoline	

Prices quoted are based upon a fixed differential of \$.1500 per gallon over wholesale rack price.

Motion was made by Raymond Kaminski to accept Williams Oil & Propane bid; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Adopt 2007 Emergency & Municipal Services Tax (EMS Tax) Ordinance:

Motion to amend Ordinance No. 406 entitled "An Ordinance of the Borough of Blossburg Emergency and Municipal Tax from \$20.00 per working person to \$36.00 per working person was made by Raymond Kaminski; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

3. Resolution Blossburg Police Pension Pan Act 600:

Annual requirement for record: Resolution for Police Pension Fund stating if necessary for officers to pay into the Pension or not. No payment required for 2007.

RESOLUTION NO. 8 – Motion to adopt Police Pension Fund Resolution was made by Raymond Kaminski; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

4. Outside Wood Burning Stoves:

Borough Solicitor to get a sample ordinance so Council can review.

5. Update Real Estate Transfer Tax Ordinance:

Ordinance amendment would allow State to collect Borough's share of tax.

Motion to advertise Real Estate Transfer Ordinance was made by Raymond Kaminski; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

6. Auditor: 2005 audit from auditor has yet to be returned. Borough Manager to contact her to see why.

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.

PRESIDENT JEROME OGDEN WISHES ALL HAPPY HOLIDAYS.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 7:59 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for January 2, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.