

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

October 8, 2007

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Jerome Ogden called the 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, Cheryl Bubacz, James Bogaczyk, Thomas Bogaczyk; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Ronald Steffen; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Charles Freeberg KCC Committee; Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) Members Bev Jones, Heidi Jones, Jill Nickerson; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Kenneth Hughes; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kefover.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 10, 2007 meeting were accepted on motion of James Bogaczyk; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. 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: **Outside Wood Burning Stoves:** At the Council meeting on September 10, 2007 Councilmembers discussed findings / suggestions from the Temporary Committee that was assigned to review all information dealing with Outside Wood Burning Furnace Ordinances from other communities. Councilmember Cheryl Bubacz presented a proposed ordinance the Temporary Committee had prepared. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett was to review all findings and complete a final ordinance. Mr. Barrett completed the final ordinance and a Notice of Intent to Enact "Borough of Blossburg Outdoor Wood Furnace Ordinance" was advertised.

Kenneth Hughes, 108 William B. Street; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kefover, 108 Bleker Street; Bev Jones, 386 Granger Street; attended the meeting to state their views and concerns on the proposed Outside Wood Furnace Ordinance. These Blossburg residents presently own outside wood furnaces. All four residents feel the proposed ordinance is unfair and the language in the ordinance is confusing.

After a lengthy discussion between Councilmembers and the attending wood stove owners, Councilmembers suggested these residents submit their comments in writing to Council. The "Outdoor Wood Furnace Ordinance" was tabled until November 12, 2007, the next scheduled Council meeting.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** No student present.

(B) **KCC:** Charles Freeberg reported the organization's regular checking account balance is \$1,037.00.

Councilmembers commended Mr. Freeberg on the outstanding job he has done with the repairs to the building.

Reports:

- (C) **Committee Business Development:** Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) V.I.B.E. meetings are held on third Wednesday of the month in the community room of the Blossburg Memorial Library at 6:00 P.M.

V.I.B.E. Minutes for September 19, 2007 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

Heidi Jones gave a PowerPoint presentation on Blossburg FreeNet (free wireless Internet access in the Blossburg business district). The Blossburg FreeNet is to promote downtown growth. "Building a Wireless Mesh network utilizing already accessible resources donated by "Sponsors" allows the network to exist and grow. A "Sponsor" donates access to their Internet service to provide an access point for the Wireless Mesh Network. The Blossburg FreeNet can be easily extended by anyone who wishes to purchase additional Merki units and hook them up to their Internet connection." Nodes and repeaters are required to get the network working. Three definite node / repeater sites are Blossburg Memorial Library, Toddler University and Angelina's (Old Borough Building, 206 Main Street). V.I.B.E. asked Council to be a "Sponsor" (node) and to have a repeater installed on rooftop or 2nd floor of the Borough Building. Councilmember James Bogaczyk made a motion to allow the Blossburg Borough office wireless Internet be used as a "Sponsor" for the FreeNet and have a repeater placed in or on the roof of the Borough Building; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

V.I.B.E. plans to hold an Environmental Fair on November 17, 2007 in downtown Blossburg from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Some collectable items are: Magazines, old computers, cell phones and outgrown clothing. Items may be brought to the fair and disposed in recycle bins provided by N.T.S.W.A. V.I.B.E. has purchased a one (1) year insurance policy to cover fundraising events.

Grant monies, for improving local communities, are available through Senator Scarnati's office. V.I.B.E. to apply for grant monies to help fund a new playground for Blossburg Elementary School Team (B.E.S.T.) and Island Park pool renovations.

Councilmember James Bogaczyk reported the Improvement Association has come up with a proposal to place decorative cloth banner signs along Main Street. The banners will cost \$100.00 - \$120.00 each. The plans are to get four (4) different kinds of banner signs for each pole. Approximately 20 + poles would hold these banner signs. The signs would be changed quarterly. The Improvement Association would like Council's permission on the project. A motion was made by Thomas Bogaczyk, "We as a Council approve the use of the banners on the poles in the downtown requested by the Blossburg Improvement Association."; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

- (D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman requested more dog signs be placed on Island Park. People are walking their dogs on the baseball and football fields. Councilmembers asked to have the police department enforce the issues of cleaning up after your pet and the proper places to walk your pet on Island Park.

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

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

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

Reports:

(G) Borough Manager:

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Southern Tioga School District asked to have more parking spaces allowed along Carpenter Street by North Penn High School cafeteria. Councilmembers asked Borough Manager George Lloyd to review current parking availability and report back to Councilmembers at next council meeting.

Mr. Lloyd reported he has listed the following items for bid on www.asset-auctions.com:

- 1) Galion 303 Grader.
- 2) York Road Rake.
- 3) Aluminum Dump Box for a 1996 Mack Tandem Truck.

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

Planning Commission member David Darby is moving from the Blossburg area. A person is need for his replacement. Borough Manager George Lloyd is to contact a few names mentioned.

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

(I) Recreation: The Recreation Board is current with all of their bills due from the Borough.

Recreation Board members and volunteers are to meet on Monday, October 22, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. at the North Penn High School Library to stuff envelopes for the 2007 North Penn Area United Fund campaign fund drive.

(J) Fire: No report received.

No Councilmember attended the meeting.

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

Channels 7, 24 are bad. Periodically, Channel 11 has a buzzing sound.

(L) Library: The Friends of the Library will hold their third annual book sale October 15 – 20, 2007, in the community room of the library. To donate books, contact the library at (570) 638-2197.

(M) Street Committee:

Salt has been ordered for this winter season.

The storm drain projects are completed for this year. A portion of charges is to be submitted to Tioga County for 2007 County Liquid Fuels allocation.

(N) Budget: 2008 Budget: No tax increase.

A motion to advertise the proposed 2008 Budget was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

Reports:

(O) Blossburg Municipal Authority:

Blossburg Municipal Authority gave approval to request bids for drilling well along East Creek Road.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR AT 8:28 P.M. RECONVENED 8:42 P.M. POSSIBLE LITIGATION DISCUSSED.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

The Borough Manager to get information to the Borough Solicitor.

2. Additional Railroad Property:

Tax Sale for old railroad property of 6.72 acres, purchased by the Borough. The wrong property was assessed. Mr. Barrett is working with Tioga County Tax Office in identifying the property lots and including the Borough's request to have these lots tax-exempt. A solution may be close.

3. Cell Tower Ordinance: Borough Solicitor is working on and should have proposed ordinance for next council meeting.

4. Engine Brakes Ordinance: Borough Solicitor is waiting to hear from State Representative Matthew Baker's office.

5. Building Permit Fees: Additional work needs to be done on amending Ordinance No. 402 to lower the square footage of buildings needing inspections from 1,000 Sq. Ft. to 600 Sq. Ft. Steps to be taken before Ordinance is amended: 1) The Department of Labor should be contacted. 2) The proposed amended ordinance will be advertised. 3) A Public Hearing will be held. 4) Ordinance No. 402 will be adopted as amended.

6. Outside Wood Burning Stoves: Discussed earlier.

The "Outdoor Wood Furnace Ordinance" is tabled until November 12, 2007, the next scheduled Council meeting.

7. Streetlights for the Blossburg Exit / Interchange: Nothing to report. The Borough Manager is to contact PennDOT.

8. Phelps Property on Davis Street: Nothing to report. Blossburg Borough did place a lien on the property. Borough Solicitor to check with Tioga County Court offices if they may have any information.

9. The Generic Bar: Owners to be contacted asking what their plans are for improving the building on property.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ENDLESS MOUNTAINS RC&D COUNCIL, ALONG WITH LYCOMING AND TIOGA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, AND VARIOUS OTHER PARTNERS ARE HOLDING A FLOOD SUMMIT ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2007, FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M. AT THE TROUT RUN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, TROUT RUN, PA. R.S.V.P. DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 15, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 8:47 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary