

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

April 9, 2007

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, (absent, Cheryl Bubacz (out of town), James Bogaczyk, (absent, Thomas Bogaczyk (in Florida)); Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Ronald Steffen; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Charles Freeberg KCC Committee; V.I.B.E. members President Bev Jones, Vice-President Jill Nickerson and Heidi Jones; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Carol Tama Blossburg Pool Association; Joann Ogden; Flat Stanley.

Minutes: The minutes of the March 12, 2007 meeting were accepted on motion of Raymond Kaminski; second, James Holleman. All in favor.

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

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

Guests: Resident Mrs. Joann Ogden, 262 South Williamson Road introduced Flat Stanley from Indian Prairie Community Unit School District 24, Spring Brook Elementary, Naperville, IL. The paper character traveled here by the United States Postal Service. Flat Stanley is a school assignment being done by Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Ogden's grandson. Flat Stanley is to visit different places / groups in our area. The Ogden's will mail Flat Stanley, along with all of his travel mementos, back to Illinois after all of his visits in our community. Councilmembers welcomed Flat Stanley and had their picture taken with him for one of his mementos. Also, the Borough Secretary will write a thank you letter to Flat Stanley for visiting the Blossburg Borough Council meeting.

Mrs. Ogden thanked Council and left the meeting.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** NPHS Student Representatives did not attend meeting tonight.

(B) **KCC:** Charles Freeberg reported the organization's regular checking account balance is \$561.19.

The KCC received a check in the amount of \$300.00 from the Track Association.

The remodeling on the KCC kitchen is almost completed. Councilmembers would like to see the improvements to the building. It was suggested that Councilmembers attend the next KCC meeting, which is to be held on April 19, 2007 at 6:00 P.M.

(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 March 21, 2007 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

Reports:

President Bev Jones reported Ray's Service Center, 314 Main Street and the Baptist Church Apartment Building, 213 – 215 Main Street, have completed their building facades. Mrs. Jones presented before and after pictures of the two property improvements. The Wood / Anthony Building is still being worked on. Mr. Robert Martin, owner of Bloss Hardware, is to do a Main Street Grant application. Mr. Martin is still interested in having a mural painted on the south sidewall of his store. Mrs. Jones is interested in any old pictures that anyone may have that V.I.B.E. could scan for historical references to the way Blossburg once was.

Resolution DCNR Grant Application for Skate Park: At the March 12, 2007 Council meeting, Council directed V.I.B.E. member Jill Nickerson to discuss her skate park proposal with the Recreation Board. On March 26, 2007 the Recreation Board meeting was held. The Recreation Board gave unanimous support for the skate park. The required resolution for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant application has a deadline date of April 13, 2007. Councilmembers asked additional questions and expressed more concerns they have on the skate park. The funding will be processed the same as the Main Street Grant monies. A motion for Borough Council to approve sponsoring the DCNR Grant Application for the Skate Park, contingent on requirements are met, i.e. prevailing wage, bonding, bidding, was made by Tonya McNamara; second, Raymond Kaminski.

Roll Call: Yes – Tonya McNamara, Raymond Kaminski, James Bogaczyk, Jerome Ogden

No – James Holleman

(D) **Mayor:** Nothing to report.

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

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

The new police car is in town and is being used. Councilmembers discussed keeping the old police car for George to use or for out of town trips. Motion to retain old car, remove collision and keep liability insurance on car, was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

The conditions / appearance of 129 Davis Street, North Williamson Road and The Generic Bar were discussed. The Borough Solicitor is to check these properties out. A meeting is to be scheduled with owners of The Generic Bar.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Tonya McNamara; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

Spring Cleanup is scheduled for April 30 – May 4, 2007. Materials should be put out for collection on Sunday, April 29, 2007. All items will to be picked up by Friday, May 4, 2007.

Island Park cleanup is scheduled for May 5, 2007, with the rain date set for May 12, 2007.

Josh Lisowski is trimming the pine trees at Island Park.

Reports:

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

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

(I) **Recreation:** Discussed and approved the Skate Park for DCNR Grant Application.

Advertise for Island Park pool lifeguards to work this summer.

Discussed and approved a \$550,000.00 DCNR Grant Application for pool rehabilitation.

The required resolution for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant application has a deadline date of April 13, 2007. Detailed planned improvements from Wade Associates were copied and included in Councilmembers packets.

Resolution DCNR Grant Application for Island Park: A motion for Borough Council to approve sponsoring the DCNR Grant Application to remodel the Island Park Pool was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

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

No Councilmember attended the meeting.

It will probably be another month before the new fire truck arrives.

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

No contract with Food Channel yet.

(L) **Library:** Quarterly meeting is next month..

On April 21, 2007 the Blossburg Memorial Library is having a Basket Bingo Fundraiser. The games start at 11:00 A.M. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Blossburg. Advance tickets are \$20, or \$25 at the door. There will be special games, raffles & games of chance. Food and beverages will also be available to purchase.

(M) **Street Committee:** New street signs obtained through a Pine Creek COG Grant will be coming. Supplemental signs will need to be ordered, because the Pine Creek COG Grant didn't cover all that were needed.

Additional Main Street sweeping will be done in the summer and the fall, with the cost to be paid by the Blossburg Improvement Association.

(N) **Budget:** Nothing at this time.

(O) **Blossburg Municipal Authority:** The gas lease on Taylor Run property is on hold.

A water leak on Carpenter Street was repaired. Blossburg Municipal Authority is looking for another leak in the same area.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

The Borough Manager did not 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 trying to get a meeting scheduled to identify property lots.

3. Electric System Assessment:

Penelec started the major line replacement project. The project is being subcontracted. On March 28, 2007 another power surge occurred from repair work. Twenty-one customers were affected. Those customers affected should file a claim through Penelec. The necessary claim forms that need to be completed will come in mail.

4. Cell Tower Ordinance: Mr. Barrett is attempting to draft an ordinance with descriptions on sites / height restrictions. These plans will need to go before Planning Commission.

5. Engine Brakes Ordinance: Borough Solicitor hasn't heard anything from PennDOT. Mr. Barrett plans to start everything over.

6. Home Grant: Martha Lloyd Home site located on South Williamson Road is being worked on. Blossburg Municipal Authority is trying to install new water line to home. The new line will be put under South Williamson Road using a directional bore machine.

7. Building Permit Fees: The Borough Solicitor did draft ordinance to lower the square footage of buildings needing inspections from 1,000 sq. ft. to 600 sq. ft. The ordinance was sent to Labor and Industry. A mistake was found in ordinance and needs to be corrected. The ordinance should be ready for next meeting.

8. Outside Wood Burning Stoves: A sample ordinance pertaining to outside wood burning stoves was received from Tioga Borough. Tioga Borough to hold public meeting on ordinance.

Outside Wood Burning Stoves to be discussed next meeting.

9. Coalie Pickman Sign: V.I.B.E. to take over the electric charges for the Coalie Pickman sign at the North end of Main Street by green bridge. Michael Stoudt did an inspection and his findings were sent to Penelec. At the present time, no timer is on sign. V.I.B.E. would like the light for the sign to turn off and on by using an electric eye.

10. Auditor: 2006 Borough and Authority audit boxes to be taken to Lisa Guthrie on April 23, 2007. Stipulations to be work on as to when audit will be completed by her office. Penalties to be worked up by the Borough Solicitor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Application for County Aid:

At the March 13, 2007 Tioga County Commissioners Meeting, the Commissioners made the decision to allocate County Aid to each political subdivision in Tioga County. The total allocation for 2007 County Aid for Blossburg Borough is \$2,756.50. The county aid will be used for storm drain installation along borough streets, if funds are granted.

2. TCCCC, Inc. Request Letter of Support:

TCCCC request a letter of support for a multi-phase final design and construction plan to reclaim the Fall Brook tributary to the Tioga River. A motion to send a letter of support to TCCCC, for their efforts in reclaiming the Upper Tioga River Watershed, was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

3. Blocking off Carpenter Street:

First Baptist Church, Chairperson of the Executive Board, Linda M. Shypulefski sent a letter of request to block off Carpenter Street from Main Street to the entrance of Borough Hall parking lot from June 24 – June 28, 2007, 5:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. They would like the street blocked off for the safety of the children. All Councilmembers agreed that Carpenter Street could be blocked off for the times requested by the church. Motion to block off Carpenter Street as requested by the First Baptist Church was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

4. Dog Signs for Island Park:

Motion to purchase a handicap, blind pediatrician (for Main Street) and dog signs (for Island Park) stating – cleanup after your pet and the penalty amount if you do not comply – was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SOUTHERN TIOGA SCHOOL DISTRICT, MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY AND PreK COUNTS PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION SUCCESS LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 11, 2007 FROM 7:30 A.M. UNTIL 9:30 A.M. AT THE MANSFIELD FIRE HALL. R.S.V.P. BY MARCH 28, 2007.

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2007 AT THE ELKLAND FIRE & AMBULANCE BUILDING, 105 PARKHURST STREET, ELKLAND, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.