

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

August 13, 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, (absent, Thomas Bogaczyk (out of town); Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Ronald Steffen; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Charles Freeberg KCC Committee; Bev Jones Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment); Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette.

Minutes: The minutes of the July 16, 2007 meeting were accepted on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Holleman. 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 James Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

Guests: None present.

Reports:

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

(B) **KCC:** Charles Freeberg reported on the KCC building.

Partners in Progress will be done renting the building next week.

The organization's regular checking account balance is \$774.67.

(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.

Bev Jones distributed V.I.B.E. Minutes for July 18, 2007. No Financial Reports were presented. Mrs. Jones to get a current Financial Report from Heidi Jones and present at the next council meeting.

New officers for V.I.B.E. are as follows:

Tonya McNamara – President
Jill Nickerson – Vice-President
Jacqueline Smith – Secretary
Heidi Jones – Treasurer

V.I.B.E. had 2,000 "Blossburg Business Directory" placemats printed. The placemats are being circulated within a 25-mile radius of Blossburg.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman announced the local Cub Scout Pack 69 and Boy Scout Troop 69 were invited to participate in the 2007 Opening Ceremonies of the Little League World Series that is being held in Williamsport, PA on August 17, 2007. Along with the honor of participating in the ceremonies, the Troop Leaders requested a police escort out of town. All Councilmembers agreed to allow the police department to escort the Scout motorcade out of town.

Reports: Mayor Backman proclaimed Friday, August 17, 2007 to be known as "CUB SCOUT PACK 69 AND BOY SCOUT TROOP 69 DAY" in recognition of Cub Scout Pack 69 and Boy Scout Troop 69 participating in the 2007 Little League World Series Opening Ceremonies.

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

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

(F) Police Committee: Nothing further to report.

(G) Borough Manager:

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

Lisa Everett, Secretary of Covington Township and Deborah Kotulka, Secretary of Richmond Township are trying to start a Tioga County Local Government Secretaries Association. This group would be comprised of secretaries from townships and boroughs located within Tioga County. The plans are to have a meeting once a quarter at various locations throughout the county. Mrs. Everett and Mrs. Kotulka will be asking for support from the County Elected Officials Association at their annual convention on September 26, 2007, as well as, support from local municipalities. The annual dues will be \$25.00. Raymond Kaminski made a motion of support for the Tioga County Local Government Secretaries Association; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

A double center traffic line is to be painted on Taber Street. The work is to be done under the agility program with PennDOT.

A request was received from a Blossburg resident to close part of Morris Street (Bleker Street to Nevins Street) to have a Block Party. Councilmembers approved the request, but a date and time is needed.

A letter, including pictures, was received from a concerned Blossburg resident in regards to the condition and use of the property located at 206 Main Street. Borough Manager George Lloyd to contact the property owner to resolve the problems.

Councilmember James Bogaczyk questioned the design of the downtown plaza parking lot spaces. With the present 90° parking space layout, parking is more difficult. The layout was changed from 60° to 90° parking spaces to gain more parking spaces for the Dollar General. Mr. Bogaczyk thinks safety is more important than more parking spaces. The Borough Manager is to evaluate both 60° and 90° layouts of the plaza parking lot and report back to Council.

There have been more complaints on dogs running loose. Dog owners are not obeying the dog leash law. Mayor Backman is to turn complaints over to the Police Department.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

(I) Recreation: Southern Tioga School District plans to sign a new "User Agreement" for Island Park for a period of three (3) years, from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010, at \$13,000.00 per year.

The new design for the Bob & Marian Jones sign has been approved. The old sign will be moved to the football visitor's side bleachers.

Reports:

(J) **Fire:** No report received.
No Councilmember attended the meeting.
Blossburg Fire Department is allowing the police car to be park in one of their building garage bays when vehicle is not in use.

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

(L) **Library:** September is the Library's Quarterly Meeting.

(M) **Street Committee:** Tar and chipping is done. Roads were swept to pick up excess 1B stone from the tar and chipping.

Councilmember James Bogaczyk suggested a thank you should be sent to the Blossburg Improvement Association for the organization's reimbursement to the Blossburg Borough General Fund for the street sweeping of Main Street on July 18, 2007.

(N) **Budget:** A Budget Meeting is to be scheduled at the September 10, 2007 Council Meeting.

(O) **Blossburg Municipal Authority:** Borough Manager George Lloyd reported access road to proposed East Creek well drilling site has been started.

The water project on Schuylkill Street will be starting soon.

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.

3. **Electric System Assessment:**

Remove from agenda. Motion of Raymond Kaminski; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

4. **Cell Tower Ordinance:** Borough Solicitor is working on.

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

6. **Building Permit Fees:** Ordinance drafted to lower the square footage of accessory buildings needing inspections from 1,000 Square Feet to 600 Square feet. A Public Hearing is scheduled for September 10, 2007 at 6:00 P.M. to amend Ordinance No. 402, which adopted the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code.

OLD BUSINESS:

7. Outside Wood Burning Stoves:

Bev Jones handed out copies of information ("Outdoor Furnace Facts") that she had researched on outdoor wood burners. A discussion was held on the pro and cons of outside wood burning stoves. President Jerome Ogden suggested a temporary committee to be set up to review all old and new information that has been presented so far. The voluntary committee members are: Tonya McNamara, James Bogaczyk, Cheryl Bubacz and Charles Freeberg. A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 23, 2007 at 5:00 P.M. The Committee's findings / suggestions to be discussed at the September 10, 2007 Council Meeting.

8. Streetlights for the Blossburg Exit / Interchange:

The streetlight that is located at the entrance of Taber Street / old Rt. 15 changes are completed.

- 9. Phelps Property on Davis Street:** The current owner of the property is being determined through the local banks.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tioga County Researching Municipal Boundaries:

The Tioga County Department of Emergency Services is actively researching the municipal boundaries in an effort to define these boundaries with more certainty and to preserve important information before it is lost. The primary goal is to refine emergency services dispatch. The Tioga County Department of Emergency Services are asking for assistance in locating boundary defining documents, including: Ordinances and other legal instruments, boundary maps and physical boundary monument locations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR AT 7:59 P.M. RECONVENED 8:10 P.M. LITIGATION DISCUSSED.

2. Delinquent Sanitary Accounts:

A motion was made by James Bogaczyk to have collection letters sent to sanitary customers that are delinquent on their account. If the customer fails to pay on their account the Borough Solicitor is to file on delinquent customers through the District Magistrate office; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 8:17 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.