

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

July 14, 2008

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: (late, Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk); Councilmembers Jill Nickerson, James Holleman, (absent, Cheryl Bubacz), James Bogaczyk, Jeffrey Everett; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; (absent, Chief Ronald Steffen); Corporal Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; David Thompson, Sr. KCC Committee; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Bev Jones.

Minutes: The minutes of the June 9 and 16, 2008 meetings were accepted on motion of James Bogaczyk; second, James Holleman. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Jill Nickerson; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

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

Guests: None present.

David Thompson, Sr., Chairman of the Coal Festival, announced the Octoberfest ("Fall Festival") will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2008 at Riverside Plaza from 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** School is out for summer break.

(B) **KCC:** David Thompson, Sr. reported the organization's regular checking account balance is \$661.84. All bills are paid.

(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 were printed off the Internet and distributed to Councilmembers.

Councilmember Jill Nickerson reported there are 100 reservations, to date, for "Music Meets Memories" event, which is scheduled for August 1, 2008.

Skate Park: DCNR Grant Application was mailed. No reply yet.

(D) **Mayor:** On June 24, 2008, Mayor Backman took the wheels from the World War I cannon to Vicksburg, PA for repair.

Tony Shattuck, a local serviceman and former North Penn High School student was wounded on June 26, 2008 in the country of Afghanistan. Mayor Backman proclaimed today, Monday, July 14, 2008, for the citizens of Blossburg to wish Chief Petty Officer Tony Shattuck a full and speedy recovery.

Reports:

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

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

Councilmembers commended the Police for the prompt work in solving the vandalism painting that was done on different areas of Island Park.

Council discussed the use of tasers. Corporal McCurdy to check on the cost of taser equipment including training and report back to Council at next month's meeting.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of James Bogaczyk; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

The Borough Manager reported on the following items:

Tar and chipping of borough streets was completed on July 11, 2008.

The new water line from Blossburg to Morris Run was started on June 24, 2008.

On Wednesday, June 18, 2008, Blossburg Borough got the bid for the 1997 International Single Axle truck from online Asset Auctions – PennDOT Equipment – in the amount of \$12,500.00.

The repair cost for the World War I cannon on Island Park is approximately \$2,000.00 for wheels repair, \$5,000.00 for footer/mount and \$100.00 for miscellaneous expenses. Council would like to shop around for better prices.

Seismic testing started North of Bath and will go to Interstate 80 ± 140 miles. The company should travel 5 miles / day.

(H) **Planning Commission:**

No applications were submitted. No meeting.

Nathan McNamara agreed to serve as a member on the Planning Commission.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

Borough Manager is waiting on replies from nominated replacement names for Zoning Board member Jeffrey Manikowski.

(I) **Recreation:** Councilmember James Bogaczyk reported on items discussed at Recreation Board meeting:

Raymond Nealen to teach tennis classes at Island Park.

More mushroom soil to be brought in for the football field this fall.

Reports: Swimming lessons have started. Fuel prices seem to be affecting the daily attendance at pool.

(J) Fire: No meeting.

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

(L) Library: The next Quarterly meeting is in July.

Computer classes are being offered at the library.

The annual Library Garden Party fundraiser will be held on July 27, 2008 at the Hamilton Club in Morris Run.

(M) Street Committee: Discussed earlier.

(N) Budget: Act 8 of 2008 (House Bill 1133) has passed and provides Borough officials with new Fire and EMS budgeting tools.

“The Act directs borough officials to meet with fire and EMS personnel to evaluate service needs. These meetings would take place at least annually, in conjunction with the budget process. Fire and EMS organizations are required to provide borough officials with an itemized accounting of expenditures that were paid for out of borough appropriations from the previous year. This itemized accounting must be presented before any additional funding can be considered by the borough. This will prove to be an invaluable tool for borough officials as they deliberate budgetary requirements for the next budget cycle.”

Council suggested a letter should be sent to the Blossburg Fire Company explaining the Act 8 of 2008.

(O) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA): Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

The Borough Manager gave information to the Borough Solicitor.

2. Cell Tower Ordinance: Borough Solicitor sent to another lawyer for his review.

3. Borough Building Repairs / Estimates:

Borough Manager George Lloyd to get separate prices for concrete work and window replacements. The Borough Building would be eligible under the Main Street Façade Program for the building sides that face Main and Carpenter Streets.

4. Island Park Oil & Gas Lease:

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett researched East Resources proposed lease. Mr. Barrett suggested subsurface lease only, no drilling, no gas storage, and no access through Island Park. Councilmember James Bogaczyk made a motion to allow the Borough Solicitor to put together a plan and submit for bid; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

5. List of Homes to Start Condemnation Proceedings:

A qualified person is to be brought in to inspect four (4) homes in the borough to verify if homes meet the requirements to be condemned. Motion made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tax Assessment Meeting for Borough Property from Railroad is Scheduled for July 15, 2008 at 3:00 P.M.

2. Edgar A. (Bergen) Carlson:

Edgar Carlson passed away on June 24, 2008. Mr. Carlson was an outstanding resident of Blossburg, as well as serving as Tioga County Treasurer and as a Pennsylvania State Representative. All Councilmembers agreed to make a donation to the Blossburg Memorial Library in his memory.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TCDC) 15th ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 28, 2008 AT WELLSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT CENTER, 227 NICHOLS STREET, WELLSBORO, PA. SOCIAL RECEPTION 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. PROGRAM, AWARDS & ENTERTAINMENT 7:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY JULY 18, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 7:58 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary