

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

September 8, 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: Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk; Councilmembers Jill Nickerson, James Holleman, (absent, Cheryl Bubacz (child ill)), 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; Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) Member Tonya McNamara; David Thompson, Sr. KCC Committee; Kenneth Hughes.

Minutes: The minutes of the August 11, 2008 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, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

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

Guests: None present.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** A letter was sent to Principal David asking if any student(s) would be interested in attending the Council meetings. Borough Secretary Mary Signor is waiting on Principal David's reply.

(B) **KCC:** David Thompson, Sr. reported on the KCC Building.

The old refrigerator in the KCC Building quit. The Booster Club replaced / purchased a new refrigerator for the building.

All bills for the KCC Building are paid to date. The organization's regular checking account balance is \$2,178.00.

(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 August 20, 2008 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

Tonya McNamara reported on V.I.B.E. topics:

The balance of the New Communities (Façade) Program regular checking account is \$11,636.78.

The organization is working on new newsletter / place mats.

V.I.B.E. is planning on doing a recycling booth for the Fall Festival.

Reports:

The movie theater is up for sale. V.I.B.E. is checking on any possible funding that may be available for person(s) that would be interested in purchasing the business property.

Skate Park: DCNR Grant Application was mailed. May have a reply in December.

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

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

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

Corporal McCurdy to attend Taser classes in Doylestown, PA on November 10 – 11, 2008.

Police Department to enforce the no riding of bikes on sidewalks. Councilmembers suggested having “No Bikes” stenciled on Main Street sidewalks, because the trees cover the “No Riding Bikes” signs.

A request was received from a Blossburg resident to close part of Morris Street (Bleker Street to Nevins Street) to have a Block Party on Saturday, September 27, 2008, 2:00 P.M. until late evening. Councilmembers approved the request.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of James Bogaczyk; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

The Borough Manager reported on the following items:

The new water line to Morris Run is progressing. The work should continue until possibly the week before Thanksgiving.

2009 Financial Requirements & Minimum Municipal Obligation for Pension Plans (MMO's):
Police - \$10,345.00 / Non-Uniform - \$25,685.00.

Discussed “Yield to Pedestrian Channelizing Devices Pedestrian Safety Program” (Crosswalks). PennDOT approves crosswalks between intersections. Under new guidelines, crosswalks are not allowed if less than 100' from an intersection with a crosswalk. A preliminary study of “problem” crosswalks must be done before application is submitted. Signs are to be put up and taken down daily. The Police Department would need to be scheduled for extra work. Councilmembers decided to have the Street Committee Members meet to look over “problem” areas and bring back to Council their findings. The Street Committee to meet on September 15, 2008 at 9:00 A.M.

Reports:

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

Zoning Hearing Board: A meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2008. Lewis Brill, owner of a single family dwelling, 302 North Williamson Road applied for a variance. The proposed addition would be too close to an existing right of way.

Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board: Jeffrey Manikowski replacement – Annie Metarko; motion of James Bogaczyk; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

(I) **Recreation:** Councilmember James Bogaczyk reported the Recreation Board received money from the Southern Tioga School District and Covington Township.

Mr. Bogaczyk questioned the billings, from the Borough, for pool testing wages, especially the invoice of June – July 2008. The totaled billed was approximately \$1,200.00 +. He feels the Borough should cover the charges. After a lengthy discussion, Councilmember Jill Nickerson volunteered to do a study of Borough billings to the Recreation Board. Mrs. Nickerson will report back to Council on her findings.

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

Department questioned the use of propane tanks in the Borough. The Codes Office has already reviewed the use of propane tanks and found the Borough cannot regulate their use, because of new laws passed by the state.

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

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

(M) **Street Committee:** A meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2008 at 9:00 A.M. to select crosswalks for "Yield to Pedestrian Channelizing Devices Pedestrian Safety Program".

(N) **Budget:** A budget meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2008 at 4:00 P.M.

(O) **Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):**

Blossburg Municipal Board Members would like to receive the Blossburg Borough Council minutes. Borough Secretary Mary Signor to start forwarding copies to BMA Board Members.

Council asked Borough Manager George Lloyd to ask BMA if Council can help in getting the delinquent utility bills paid. Perhaps a joint meeting could be arranged.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

The Borough Solicitor is working on.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. Cell Tower Ordinance:

Borough Solicitor suggested this be removed from the agenda. Remove from agenda. Motion of James Bogaczyk; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

3. Borough Building Repairs / Estimates:

Borough Manager George Lloyd reported the cost for the concrete work is \$3,600.00. The cost will be covered under the Façade Grant Program (50% Façade Grant Program – 50% Borough expense). Thomas Bogaczyk made a motion to have the concrete work done on the Borough Building; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

4. Island Park Oil & Gas Lease:

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett is putting together a proposed lease to submit for bid. All Borough owned lands are to be included in bid.

5. List of Homes to Start Condemnation Proceedings:

A meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2008 at 2:00 P.M., 2:30 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. for three (3) properties to start condemnation proceedings. Properties to be acted on are: 1) The Generic Bar, Main Street. 2) William E. Robinson home, 126 Schuylkill Street. 3) Richard Phelps home, 129 Davis Street.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. North Penn High School Homecoming Activities:

A letter was received from Sarah Brion, NPHS Student Council Advisor/English Teacher asking Council's approval on the upcoming Homecoming activities. The parade is scheduled to start at 6:00 P.M. on October 3, 2008. Traffic control and a parade permit from PennDOT are requested. A Block Party is to take place on Morris Street, which will require a portion of Morris Street (Carpenter Street to Hannibal Street) to be closed from 7:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. on Friday, October 3, 2008. Parents and community members are welcome to attend in the afternoon.

Motion to approve NPHS Homecoming activities on Friday, October 3, 2008 was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

2. 2008 Halloween Trick-or-Treat Date:

The Blossburg Borough will hold Halloween on Saturday, November 1, 2008. **“New Parade Route and Location for the Judging of Costumes”**. The parade is at 5:00 P.M. – starting and ending at the former Blossburg Ambulance Building located at the corner of Hannibal and Morris Streets. The parade will proceed West on Hannibal Street – then turn right onto Main Street and proceed North to the intersection of Carpenter and Main Streets – turn right on Carpenter Street – turn right on Morris Street – turn right on Hannibal Street and back to the old Blossburg Ambulance Building, where the judging of costumes will take place. Halloween hours are **Saturday, November 1, 2008, 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. PLEASE – ONLY TRICK OR TREAT TO HOMES THAT HAVE THEIR PORCH LIGHTS ON.**

Borough Secretary Mary Signor is to apply for a parade permit from PennDOT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TCDC) 1st ANNUAL MEET OUR MEMBER MIXER WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2008 AT PARTNERS IN PROGRESS (PIP), 332 SOUTH MAIN STREET, MANSFIELD, PA. 5:00 P.M TO 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY SEPTEMBER 10, 2008.

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH'S DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008 AT THE KNOXVILLE COMMUNITY CCENTER (FORMER GERTRUDE CASE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL), EAST MAIN STREET, KNOXVILLE, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2008.

BLOSSBURG KIWANIS AUCTION, SEPTEMBER 20, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M. AT OLD AMBULANCE BUILDING.

B.E.S.T. IS HOLDING A FALL FESTIVAL AND SILENT AUCTION ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2008. 4:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M. MONEY RAISED TO BENEFIT THE BLOSSBURG ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUND.

“SAVE THE DATE” ROUTE 15 COALITION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 1, 2008. 11:00 A.M. – PENNDOT ROUTE 15 RIBBON CUTTING. 12:30 P.M. – ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. *INVITATION TO FOLLOW.*

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 8:32 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary