

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

January 3, 2011

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President James J. Bogaczyk 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; Second Vice-President Jill Nickerson; Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jeffrey Everett, (absent, Mark Bowne), Roger Bunn; Mayor John Backman: Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) Member Josh Jones; Corey Snyder NPHS Student Representative; Rebecca Hazen Wellsboro Gazette; Crystal and Kurt Hess; Heidi Jones; Rick Stewart.

Council President James J. Bogaczyk wished all a Happy New Year.

Minutes: The minutes of the December 20, 2010 meeting were accepted on motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

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

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

Guests:

Crystal and Kurt Hess attended the meeting to get an update on what is being done about the four wheelers and dirt bike issues in their neighborhood. Chief McCurdy reported the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) were here to patrol on Wednesday, but there wasn't any activity on that day. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) plan to return on another date. The use of motion cameras was discussed. A motion to purchase and install motion cameras, in this problem area, was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Thomas Bogaczyk.

Roll Call: Yes – James Bogaczyk, Thomas Bogaczyk, Jeffrey Everett, Roger Bunn,
Jill Nickerson
No – Jerome Ogden

Motion carried.

Rick Steward attending the meeting to introduce himself and ask for support in the appointment of Constable for the Blossburg Borough. A Constable is an elected position, with a term of 6 years. Mr. Steward has Been a resident for 1-1/2 years and is an active fire and ambulance member in the Blossburg Departments. He has a criminal justice degree. Also, the required constable class would need to be taken and passed. If Mr. Steward is appointed, it would be for 1+ year, and then he would be required to run for election. Councilmembers agreed to support Mr. Steward with the signing of his petition.

Heidi Jones was attending tonight's meeting for observation.

Reports:

A) **NPHS Student:** Corey Snyder reported the school is getting ready for renovations.

Students are preparing for the SAT's.

Reports:

(B) **KCC:** Nothing to report.

(C) **Committee Business Development:**

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) meetings are usually held on fourth Wednesday of the month in the KCC Building on Island Park at 7:00 P.M.

V.I.B.E. Minutes were not available from the Internet.

V.I.B.E. member Josh Jones reported the next meeting will be held on January 26, 2011.

The new placemat edition is still being updated.

Skate Park: Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Grant resources are requesting additional/required information in order to process another payment.

Borough Manager George Lloyd reported two (2) items need to be completed before any additional grants funds will be released: (1) The pavilion needs to be completed. (2) DCNR must do an inspection of project. Since it will be a few months before the Skate Park Project is completed, Mr. Lloyd requested the American Ramp Company invoice balance of \$15,000.00 be paid in full. Thomas Bogaczyk made a motion to withdraw money from a Certificate of Deposit #26 for the payment of the American Ramp Company invoice, with the notation the \$15,000.00 be reimbursed back to the Certificate of Deposit #26 upon receiving the additional grant funds; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

(D) **Mayor:**

Mayor Backman has been in contact with Representative Matthew Baker's office on the four wheelers and dirt bike issues. Pennsylvania does not address these vehicles.

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

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

Brianna Bubacz is working with Chief McCurdy as an intern, a requirement for her schooling. At this time, Ms. Bubacz has completed half of her internship.

Use of Electronic Read Out Speed Signs: Corresponding with PennDOT for contacts and pricing.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Jill Nickerson; second, Roger Bunn. All in favor.

Reports:

Spring Cleanups:

Jeffrey Everett made a motion to hold Spring Cleanup and Island Park Cleanup on the following dates; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Spring Cleanup is scheduled for April 25 – April 29, 2011. Items for pickup should be put out on Saturday or Sunday night, April 23 – 24, 2011. **All items must be out by Tuesday Night.** All spring cleanup items will be picked up by Friday, April 29, 2011. **Local trash only!**

Island Park cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, 2011, with the rain date set for May 7, 2011.

Borough Manager researched The Pennsylvania Conservation Corps (PCC) Grant information that was offering grants to political subdivisions wishing to carry out recreation preservation projects. Mr. Lloyd recommends that the PCC information be kept for use on a future project.

Route 15 Coalition and Appalachian Thruway Association agreed to initiate a proposal to consolidate both organizations into a single organization. The newly consolidated organization would be called I-99 / CSVT Corridor Coalition. In accordance with the organizational bylaws of the Appalachian Thruway Association and Route 15 Coalition, a majority of the membership of each organization must approve of the proposed consolidation. If no response is received, the Board will assume you are in support of the consolidation. Borough Council approves the consolidation.

The 8th Annual Pennsylvania Farm Show Public Officials Day Luncheon will be held on Thursday, January 13, 2011 in the VIP Room of the Farm Show Complex Cafeteria, beginning at 12:00 P.M. Please contact Michael Pechart at (717) 705-2122 or email mpechart@state.pa.us.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(I) Recreation: No meeting.

Borough public works employees started working on proposed Island Park walking trail.

(J) Fire: Councilmember Jeffrey Everett attended the meeting and reported elections were held.

(K) Library: Nothing to report.

(L) Street Committee:

Borough Solicitor had an ordinance typed, limiting truck traffic on streets, and will bring back to Council for February's Council meeting.

A discussion of was held about Main Street parking spaces. A few end parking spaces, when occupied, cause poor visibility when a driver is trying to pull onto Main Street. A discussion of eliminating two (2) parking spaces was suggested or adjusting the size of the parking spaces.

Roll Call to eliminate two (2) parking spaces: Yes – Jeffrey Everett, Jill Nickerson, Roger Bunn

No – James Bogaczyk, Thomas Bogaczyk, Jerome Ogden

Reports:

Motion to adjust size of parking spaces, to help with visibility, was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

(M) Budget: Year to Date 2010 Revenue / Disbursement totals were sent to Councilmembers.

(N) Project Committee: Nothing new to report.

(O) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA): No meeting, since last Council Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Southern Tioga School District Plans for New North Penn High School:

Preliminary design is on school website. Mayor Backman suggested the floor plan should be removed from the web site due to terrorists being able to view.

The Community is still being encouraged to support and keep updated on the decisions regarding repairs or new construction on the Blossburg schools.

2. Borough Code of Ordinances – Update:

Preliminary Editorial Report was reviewed with Keystate Publishers on November 30, 2010.

New revision was not received yet.

3. Condemned Properties Update:

(1) Davis Street property owner has secured home. His plans are to either gut home and remodel or tear down by end of year, if property not sold. Property owner to be contacted again requesting he moves forward with his plans. (2) Borough Solicitor filed papers on Schuylkill Street property owner. Property owner is suppose to come in for demolition permit. (3) Nevins Street property was sold. New owner in process of remodeling the house. (4) Borough Manager is waiting for reply from the property owner of home located on Main Street, which had a fire inside it.

4. Sidewalk Repair Letter:

Borough Solicitor and Code Officer are to review letter and give final approval. Property owners requiring sidewalk repairs will be notified in the spring. Also, Borough owned sidewalks will be included on list needing repairs.

5. Engine Brake Ordinance (Jake Brake Ordinance):

No official letter from PennDOT received yet. Three roads are eligible for engine (Jake) brakes signs. Road requirements are speed limit < 55 mph, downhill grade < 4%, no history of runaway truck crashes or rear-end crashes involving a truck.

Referred to committee for review and bring back suggestions at February Council Meeting.
Committee Members: Jeffrey Everett, Roger Bunn, Mark Bowne and Chief McCurdy.

OLD BUSINESS:

6. New Flood Plain Ordinance:

New Flood Plain Ordinance was reviewed and approved by Councilmembers. The “draft” Flood Plain Ordinance was sent to Tioga County Conservation. FEMA to review by April 1, 2011.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: The federal government requires that municipalities actively participate in the planning process in order to be covered by the plan and to receive certain types of disaster funding for hazard mitigation. Tioga County Flood Summit to held on Friday, February 25, 2011 from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Tokishi Training Center, 124 NYPUM Drive, Wellsboro, PA.

7. Landlord / Tenant Registration Ordinance:

Amending the Code of Ordinances and mandating landlords within the borough to provide the Borough with a monthly registration form identifying its residential tenants. Councilmembers accepted to advertise with changes. Borough Solicitor to make changes and advertise for February's Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution: Tax Collection Committee (TCC) Representatives:

At the present time, the following individuals are appointed as TCC delegates for the Borough of Blossburg:

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| 1. Primary Voting Delegate: | Mayor John E. Backman |
| 2. First Alternate Voting Delegate: | Councilmember Jill Nickerson |
| 3. Second Alternate Voting Delegate: | Council President Jerome Ogden |

Motion for Representatives to remain the same was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Roger Bunn. All in favor.

2. Charting the Future of Our Community – Tioga County:

The Charting process involves five sessions in which citizens and community leaders create a workable plan of action for enhancing the quality of life in their community. All meetings will be held on Wednesday evening beginning at 4:00 P.M.. The meeting dates are: February 16, February 23, March 16, March 23 (snow date), April 20, and May 18. Motion authorizing Mayor Backman and Roger Bunn to attend meetings was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

3. PA Municipal Planning Education Institute – The Course in Community Planning:

Learn how to carry out planning responsibilities under the PA Municipalities Planning Code. Wysox Fire Hall – Thursdays, January 13, 20, 27, 2011. Motion not to attend was made by Roger Bunn; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President James J. Bogaczyk and Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk will not attend February's Council meeting. Second Vice-President Jill Nickerson will preside.

ADJOURNMENT: President James J. Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 7:54 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary