

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

July 8, 2013

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Thomas 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 Jill Nickerson; Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Paul Hosszu, Stephen Wagner (absent, Jolene Hall (vacation) and James Rakoski); Mayor John Backman; (late, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett); Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Kelly Stemcosky Wellsboro Gazette; Nathan McNamara, Kenneth Hughes.

Minutes: The minutes of the June 10, 2013 meeting were accepted on motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

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

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

Guests: None present.

Reports:

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

(B) **KCC:** Partners in Progress are using the KCC Building from June 12, 2013 to August 26, 2013.

(C) **Committee Business Development:**

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) meetings are held on fourth Wednesday of the month at the Brick Tavern at 6:30 P.M.

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

V.I.B.E. Officers are: President – Heidi Jones, Vice President – Jill Nickerson, Secretary – Josh Jones and Treasurer – Kelly Rossell.

Elections of officers for organization will be held this month.

V.I.B.E. upcoming events: (1) August 10, 2013 Slezzy BBQ for V.I.B.E. (2) October 20, 2013 Fall Festival. (3) November 30, 2013 Small Town Christmas.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman is concerned with Blossburg Police Department furnishing mutual aid to other Municipalities in county. Is Borough covered for any problems? Is a Regional Police Force Protection Resolution needed? Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett is to evaluate.

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

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Jill Nickerson second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Reports: Chief McCurdy reported the Department will have a few schedule changes for the purpose of traffic patrols.

Chief McCurdy left the meeting at 7:02 P.M.

(F) Police Committee: Nothing to report.

(G) Borough Manager:

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Jill Nickerson; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

A Blossburg Community Festival is being planned by The American Legion Post 572 and will be held at 323 South Williamson Road. The Festival will start at 11:00 A.M. and end at dusk. No admission fee will be charged for this event.

(H) Planning Commission: Meeting of June 25, 2013 and reconvene meeting of July 3, 2013.

Reviewed proposed sub-division of St. Mary's Rectory. Information on sub-division was provided to Council prior to tonight's meeting. Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to approve St. Mary's sub-division on condition water and sewer utility hookups are separate and re-zone to R – 1; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

(I) Recreation:

Councilmember Jill Nickerson reported the Skate Park had a routine maintenance check done by Shane Nickerson. All equipment is in good condition.

Pool Manager Nathan McNamara presented financial reports and reported on upcoming events.

Councilmembers discussed the purchasing of a Midland Park Forecast Weather Alert device for the pool. Motion was made by Paul Hosszu to purchase the weather alert device at a cost limit of \$150.00; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Councilmember Jill Nickerson reported 20 more new chairs are needed at the pool. Mrs. Nickerson is planning on doing a funding campaign to replace at least 10 chairs this year.

Young Lungs at Play: "Young Lungs at Play / This is a tobacco-free zone". Councilmembers discussed enforcement of a tobacco-free zone and feel it would be hard to do. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett to rework sample ordinance.

Walking Trail: Councilmember Jerome Ogden reported bikes on trail are a problem. Mr. Ogden would like bikes not to be allowed. Councilmember Jill Nickerson stated the Island Park is a recreational area and bikes should be allowed.

President Thomas Bogaczyk requested a roll call for allowing bikes on the Walking Trail.

Roll Call: No – Thomas Bogaczyk, Jerome Ogden, Paul Hosszu.

Yes – Jill Nickerson, Stephen Wagner.

Motion carried. Bikes will be restricted from riding on Walking Trail.

Reports:

Signs will be purchased with rules and be placed at start of Walking Trail and by the Pedestrian Bridge.

Pool (Splash Pad): Received repaired top for Storm Spinner. Now all of Splash Pad is operational.

(J) Fire: No Financial Report or Minutes were received.

(K) Library: July 28, 2013 Garden Party to be held at the Hamilton Club.

New landscaping is being planned for the Library. Councilmembers received Ettinger's Landscaping proposal to replace landscaping and repair the concrete that is too low. Council would like to have more than one (1) estimate for comparing prices.

No update for Landscape Renovation received.

(L) Street Committee: Total miles and cost of Tar & Chipping: 1.98 miles at ± \$29,500.00.

Work to start on July 9, 2013, weather permitting.

(M) Shade Tree Commission:

Meeting with Pete Herres on July 9, 2013 at 5:00 P.M.

V.I.B.E. to hold a Public Meeting on July 30, 2013 at 6:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. to discuss Main Street trees. Jill Nickerson to bring back information to Council for next Council Meeting.

(N) Budget: 2013 Second Quarter Budget Revenues / Expenses report (until 06/30/2013) was included July Council packets.

Laurel Youth Services, Ruah Street is listed as Tax Exempt in Tax Book. Tioga County Tax Assessment Office to be contacted to change from Non-Profit status.

(O) Project Committee: Nothing to report.

(P) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA): Sewer main repair to start on July 15, 2013.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Southern Tioga School District (STSD) Plans:

Decide to change Council Meeting Schedule / Date so Councilmembers could attend Southern Tioga School Board Meetings.

President Thomas Bogaczyk requested a roll call for the changing of the Regular Council meeting dates.

Roll Call: Yes – Thomas Bogaczyk, Jill Nickerson, Jerome Ogden, Stephen Wagner, Paul Hosszu.

Motion carried. Regular Council Meetings will change to the 2nd Wednesday of each month, until the end of 2013.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. Borough Code of Ordinances – Update:

A “Final Draft” letter was received, with Keystate Publishers recommendations and changes. Comments on Keystate Publisher’s recommendations and changes were reviewed and comments / changes e-mailed to Keystate Publishers. Keystate Publishers are reviewing changes suggested by Council.

3. Condemned Properties Update:

- (1) 219 South Williamson Road – Trailer was razed, but there still is some cleanup to be done.
- (2) 127 Schuylkill Street – Jeffrey McFall is trying to sell property on Craig’s List. County to be contacted to see if there were stipulations if Mr. McFall ever tried to re-sale property.
- (3) 101 Post Street – Condition of property to be evaluated and mortgage holder to be contacted. Lien is already on property. Borough to get grass cut. Labor and equipment costs to be added to lien.

4. New Electrical Service Behind the Downtown Monument:

Nothing to report. Stoudt’s Electric is working on design for Josh Jones. Councilmembers would like to have design done by July 2013.

5. Update Comprehensive Plan:

Council decided to amend existing Comprehensive Plan. How detailed updated Comprehensive Plan is will affect the cost. Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to hire Rettew to update existing Comprehensive Plan at a cost of \$26,800.00 (\$25,000.00 plus \$1,800.00 for mileage). Projects need to be prioritized; second Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Hamilton and Arnot Townships to be contacted to see if they are interested in doing a joint Comprehensive Plan.

6. Talisman Agreement to Use Borough Streets:

Talisman would like permission to access surrounding areas by using Borough streets. A Road Maintenance Agreement with Talisman is being negotiated.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT AT 8:38 P.M.
RECONVENED 8:57 P.M.**

Resolution: Arbon Cemetery: Blossburg Borough Council to approve and execute an asset transfer agreement with the Arbon Cemetery Company and accepting a warranty deed from the Arbon Cemetery Company. Motion to adopt the Arbon Cemetery Resolution was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH'S DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2013 AT THE CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HALL, 6 FRANKLIN STREET, LAWRENCEVILLE, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 6:30 P.M. R.S.V.P. BEFORE FRIDAY JUNE 15, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT: President Thomas Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 9:00 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2013 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary