

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

September 11, 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, Jolene Hall, Stephen Wagner, (absent, James Rakoski); Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette.

Minutes: Correction on the August 14, 2013 minutes: **Mayor:** Mayor Backman is concerned with Blossburg Police Department off duty officers responding to incidents at other Municipalities in county.

The minutes of the August 14, 2013 meeting, with correction, was accepted on motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

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

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

Guests: None present.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** No student was present. Paul Hosszu is to contact STSD Principal Al Lindner to ask if he might help in finding a NPHS student representative for Council.

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

The main water line to the KCC Building was repaired.

(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.

V.I.B.E. upcoming events: (1) October 20, 2013 Fall Festival.
(2) November 30, 2013 Small Town Christmas.

Reports:

- V.I.B.E. Topics:
- (1) V.I.B.E. applied to Williamson Road Foundation for monies to pay for electric installation behind the Blossburg Monument. After service is installed, Blossburg Borough will pay monthly electric bill.
 - (2) Organization asked if Wi-Fi on Island Park could be connected and if the Borough would pay the approximately \$50.00 monthly charge. Motion was made by Stephen Wagner to approve the W-Fi request; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.
 - (3) V.I.B.E. would like to the initiate a Rental Booking Program – www.bookingbug.com – an online scheduling, booking, reservation and appointment system for all the public rentals in the Blossburg area. The charge would be approximately \$34.00/month. Before making a decision, Councilmembers would like more information on this proposal.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman is concerned with Blossburg Police Department off duty officers responding to incidents at 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 and Borough Manager George D. Lloyd is to check insurance coverage through Gannon Associates.

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

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

Nothing to report.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Nothing to report.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: A meeting was held on August 27, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. to review variance request submitted by Scott and Teresa Williams to build a garage at 110 Granger Street, with the maximum height of 21'. There were no objections from neighbors. ZHB members approved request.

(I) **Recreation:**

Young Lungs at Play: “Young Lungs at Play / This is a tobacco-free zone”. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett to rework sample ordinance.

Island Park River Walk: New “rule” signs were installed at start of Walking Trail and by the Pedestrian Bridge. Signs were funded by extra money remaining from purchase of Island Park handicap water fountain, which was received from Williamson Road Foundation.

Pool (Splash Pad): Pool closed on September 2, 2013.

Reports:

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

(K) **Library:** No update received for Landscape Renovation.

Next Library Meeting is September 16, 2013.

(L) **Street Committee:** Nothing to report.

(M) **Shade Tree Commission:** Jill Nickerson is working on the Main Street trees presentation. A Public Meeting will be scheduled when Mrs. Nickerson is ready.

(N) **Budget:** An appeal hearing was held with the Tioga County Tax Office and Tioga County Commissioners to change Laurel Youth Services, located on Ruah Street, from Non-Profit status. Decision from Hearing was to have the Parcel re-assessed and put on the 2014 taxes.

A 2014 Budget meeting was scheduled for September 25, 2013 at 9:00 A.M. Also, Impact Fee monies to be discussed at meeting.

(O) **Project Committee:** Working on Comprehensive Plan and Main Street trees presentation.

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

DEP granted ten (10) new sewer connections to Blossburg, because of repairs made to the sewer system.

Water leaks were found at Island Park and Liberty Street, saving ± 80,000 gallons per day.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Southern Tioga School District (STSD) Plans:** Nothing to report.

2. **Borough Code of Ordinances – Update:**

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

Mr. Lloyd reported Keystate Publishers are requesting two (2) additional items. Items to be forwarded to Keystate early next week.

3. **Condemned Properties Update:**

(1) 127 Schuylkill Street – Jeffrey McFall is trying to sell property on Craig’s List.

(2) 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.

(3) 134 Taber Street – Property is in bad condition.

Reports:

4. New Electrical Service Behind the Downtown Monument:

Nothing to report. Stoudt's Electric is working on 200 AMP design for Josh Jones. Cost to be approximately \$5,000.00. V.I.B.E. applied for funding through the Williamson Road Foundation.

5. Update Comprehensive Plan:

First Steering Committee Meeting to be held on September 24, 2013 from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the Blossburg Memorial Library. Jill Nickerson to do letter, agenda, and mailings for this scheduled meeting.

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 to be negotiated.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2013 Halloween Trick-or-Treat Date:

The Blossburg Borough will hold Halloween on Thursday, October 31, 2013. The parade is at 5:00 P.M. – starting by 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 new Fire & Ambulance Building, 324 Main Street, where the judging of costumes will take place. Halloween hours are Thursday, October 31, 2013, 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TCDC's 6th Annual Meet Our Member Mixer on Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at Erb Inspections, Inc., 174 Water Tower Road, Lawrenceville, PA 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2013 AT THE KNOXVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER (FORMER GERTRUDE CASE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL), 301 EAST MAIN STREET, KNOXVILLE, PA. R.S.V.P. BY SEPTEMBER 13, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT: President Thomas Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 8:10 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2013 at 6:30 P.M.

AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT, AT END OF MEETING. POSSIBLE LITIGATION DISCUSSED. NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN. EXECUTIVE SESSION 8:15 P.M. TO 8:45 P.M.