

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

February 11, 2015

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President James Rakoski 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, (absent, Thomas Bogaczyk (in Florida)), Jolene Hall, Paul Hosszu, Stephen Wagner; Mayor Shane Nickerson; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Corporal Robert Scott; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; John Eckman Blossburg Municipal Authority.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 5, 2015 meeting were accepted on motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

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

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

Committees of Council: President James Rakoski requested Council to review Committees of Council for any changes. The changes will be discussed at the April Council Meeting. Mr. Rakoski will be in Florida for the month of March.

Guests: John Eckman was attending to request Council to consider increasing the Blossburg Municipal Authority members from 5 to 7, for more input. Also, Mr. Eckman invited Council to the Blossburg Municipal Authority meetings.

Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette reported the former Blossburg State Hospital located at 520 Ruah Street is scheduled for auction on March 19, 2015.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** Nothing to report.

(B) Committee Business Development:

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) meetings are held on fourth Wednesday of the month in the Blossburg Recreation Building at Island Park at 6:00 P.M.

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

Thank you bags were handed out to Councilmembers from V.I.B.E.

V.I.B.E. projects: (1) Donor Appreciation Dinner was cancelled twice due to bad weather. Event to be scheduled in March. (2) A Branding Project Survey.

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

Reports:

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

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

Addition to the Police Report: District Magistrate Fines Total - \$918.21.

The 2013 Ford Explorer that was bought from Wellsboro Police Department is now in service.

Chief McCurdy attended the Hamilton Township Meeting and reported they have no concerns or problems.

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

(F) **Borough Manager:**

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

Councilmembers commented on the good job the borough crew is doing on snow removal.

The next Upper Tioga River Regional Authority (UTRRA) meeting will be held on February 12, 2015. On February 3, 2015 UTRRA will be reviewing proposals from four (4) engineering firms on doing water study for Authority.

New Zoning Maps were presented to Councilmembers. Only a few minor changes were noted.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(H) **Recreation:**

Blossburg Area United Fund stuffed envelopes for donation campaign on January 27, 2015 at the Victoria Theater.

Island Park River Walk: The Blossburg Borough Council and Borough Manager George D. Lloyd would like to acknowledge Robert Metarko for clearing the Island Park River Walk and Skate Park of snow, while borough workers were busy doing snow removal on our borough streets.

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

Light tower was installed on 4 – 1.

Annual Firemen's Appreciation Banquet will be held on February 21, 2015.

(J) **Library:** Shane Nickerson is Library Board President, replacing Joann Ogden.

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

(L) **Shade Tree Commission:** Nothing to report.

Reports:

(M) **Budget:** Nothing at this time.

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

More testing being done on Taylor Run Well so paperwork can be sent to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC). Hope to do pump tests on wells this summer, when get SRBC approval.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) tested Bellman Water Treatment Plant. Based on DEP findings Blossburg Municipal Authority's Water Treatment Plant was provided with an overall commendable performance rating.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

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

Keystone Publishers sent completed "Final Draft". Attorney William Stokes is reviewing Final Draft. Mr. Lloyd to meet with Attorney Stokes on a few additional items: (1) 1 way streets (St. Mary's and Granger). (2) No snow or grass put onto streets. (3) A survey must be included in sale of property. (4) Hamilton Township Police Protection.

3. **Condemned Properties Update:** 101 Post Street. Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Act 13 – Gas Well Fund Usage Report for 2014:**

2014 Act 13 Funding of \$117,911.23 used as follows:

\$84,329.31 – New Borough Garage
\$26,188.17 – Local or regional planning - \$20,163.17 Park Master Plan, \$3,525.00 Capital Improvement Plan, and \$2,500.00 Flood Study
\$ 7,393.75 – Capital Reserve

Motion was made by Paul Hosszu to submit the 2014 Unconventional Gas Well Fund Usage Report to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

2. **Floodplain Ordinance:**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is requiring each community to undertake specific activities during the next few months to ensure both continued participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and a high quality digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for their community. All activities are involved and must meet Federal and State approvals.

3. **TCAB Dinner – Blossburg Borough Host Meeting for March:**

Thursday, March 19, 2015 was decided as the date. Location is to be the Blossburg Fire and Ambulance Building. The Blossburg Fire Department Auxiliary to provide the meal. Jill Nickerson is working on speaker.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. Spring Cleanup:

Spring Cleanup is scheduled for April 27 – May 1, 2015. All spring cleanup items will be picked up by Friday, May 1, 2015.

Island Park cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2015, with the rain date set for May 9, 2015.

Motion of Jolene Hall; Second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

5. Coal Festival: Festivities to be moved up one (1) week later this year, because of carnival scheduling.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BLOSSBURG FIRE AND AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL BANQUET WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2015 AT 6:00 P.M. RSVP BY FEBRUARY 8, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT: President James Rakoski closed the meeting at 7:09 P.M.

Motion of Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in Favor.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Blossburg Borough Building Council Room.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary