

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

October 10, 2005

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Jerome Ogden called 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 Tonya McNamara; Councilmembers Raymond Kaminski, James Holleman, Cheryl Bubacz, Timothy Roupp, Thomas Bogaczyk; (absent, Mayor John Backman); Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; (absent, Chief Ronald Steffen); Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor.

Guests: John Eckman, Donald Krause, Shane Nickerson, Brendyn Stager and Dick Stager.

Minutes: The minutes of the August 8, 2005 meeting were accepted on motion of Raymond Kaminski; second, James Holleman. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Raymond Kaminski; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

Guests: John Eckman and Donald Krause attended the meeting to report the progress on the setting up of a separate entity, like a historical society and the feasibility of saving the former Borough Hall located at 206 Main Street. Due to the absence of Attorney Sandra Olson, who is doing all the paper work, Mr. Eckman and Mr. Krause couldn't give a report as planned.

Brendyn Stager and Dick Stager attended the meeting to express their interest in purchasing the former Borough Hall. Brendyn Stager would like to change the former Borough Hall into ± nine (9) apartments and is willing to work with newly proposed historical society, so they can use part of the building. Shane Nickerson has been working with Brendyn as to the repairs that need to be done on the building. A new roof is needed as soon as possible. Mr. Nickerson would like to get this job started before it gets too cold. Council asked Brendyn to write a letter expressing his purpose for the building and to provide a letter of intent from his financing bank. Council will reconvene on October 17, 2005 at 6:30 P.M. to review Brendyn's proposal.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Students:** No student present.

(B) **KCC:** No report. Charles Freeberg was absent tonight.

(C) **Committee Business Development:** Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment)

V.I.B.E. Minutes for September 21, 2005 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman told Council President that he wouldn't be attending meeting tonight.

(E) **Police:** Chief Steffen was absent due to illness.

Everyone has received a copy of the Police Report.

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Tonya McNamara; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

Reports:

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Tonya McNamara; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

Borough Manager reported the Taber Street Bridge job is coming along.

PennDOT Auction to be held on October 22, 2005. Borough Manager George Lloyd would like permission to attend auction to bid on a 1995-1996 10-wheel truck, which will be converted into a garbage truck. The cost should be \$20,000 - \$30,000 range. Motion to attend PennDOT Auction for the purpose of purchasing a 10-wheel truck was made by Raymond Kaminski; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

(H) **Planning Commission:** Meeting of September 27, 2005. Reviewed plans for Verizon cell tower.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(I) **Recreation:** Members worked on mailings for North Penn United Way drive.

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

Councilmembers on Fire Committee: Tonya McNamara, Raymond Kaminski and Cheryl Bubacz. Fire department meetings are held the last Monday of the month.

(K) **Television:** Channel 49 is now "Speed" channel. Two more channels to be added soon (Hallmark and a cartoon channel).

(L) **Library:** Nothing to report. A meeting is scheduled next month.

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

(N) **Budget:** Budget meeting scheduled for October 13, 2005 at 9:30 A.M.

Council reviewed letter to be sent to both the Blossburg Fire Department and the Blossburg Memorial Library asking each to meet with Council on the 2006 budget.

(O) **New Historical Society:** Discussed earlier.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Evaluation:** Councilmembers met before tonight's meeting and finished reviewing Personnel Policy. Borough Manager and Borough Secretary to clean up working copy and make copies for final review.

2. **Minor Sub-Division/Cul-D-Sac:** Borough Solicitor is working on Deed of Dedication.

OLD BUSINESS:

3. **Additional Railroad Property:** Tax Sale of old railroad property of 6.72 acres, purchased by the Borough, was to be sold on September 26, 2005. Borough Solicitor contacted Tioga County Court House to review listings. The wrong property was assessed. Sale put off for one (1) year.

4. **Electric System Assessment:** Borough Solicitor is working on.

Another power surge happened on Saturday, October 8, 2005 in the morning. Fuses blown behind the Laurel Youth Services. Some businesses that were affected: Bloss Beverage, Seals and Borough Hall.

Meeting scheduled on October 25, 2005 at 11:00 A.M.

5. **Home Occupation:** Proposed Home Occupation Ordinance as been amended. Changes need to be made.

6. **Williamson Commercial Park Access Street:** Ordinance and Deed of Dedication to be reviewed by Kwik-Fill engineer.

7. **Building Permit Fees / Rental Inspections:** New rates to be advertised. Borough Solicitor to get with George Lloyd for more information.

8. **Ward Manufacturing Petition Requesting Zoning Change:** Public Meeting to be scheduled for November 14, 2005 at 6:00 P.M. before the regular scheduled Council Meeting. Public Hearing to be advertised.

9. **Cell Tower Ordinance:** To be reviewed later.

10. **Attorney Fee Ordinance:** Borough Solicitor to do.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. REGULAR MEETING OF UPPER PINE CREEK COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS IS OCTOBER 17, 2005 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE GAINES TOWNSHIP BUILDING ON ROUTE 6 ACROSS FROM GAINES GARAGE. GUEST SPEAKER IS CAROL CROSBY. SHE WILL SPEAK ON GETTING A PROGRAM STARTED TO FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND CITIZENS TO KNOW HOW TO PREPARE FOR A DISASTER.

2. THE BLOSSBURG BOROUGH WILL HOLD HALLOWEEN ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2005. THE PARADE IS AT 5:00 P.M. - STARTING BEHIND THE BOROUGH HALL, 245 MAIN STREET - NORTH ON MAIN STREET TO THE NEW FIRE & AMBULANCE BUILDING WHERE THE JUDGING OF COSTUMES WILL TAKE PLACE. HALLOWEEN HOURS ARE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2005, 6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 7:35 P.M.

Borough Council Meeting continued from October 10, 2005 –
Reconvened October 17, 2005 at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Room of the Borough Building, 245 Main Street,
Blossburg, PA.

Attendance: President Jerome Ogden; Vice-President Tonya McNamara; Councilmembers Raymond Kaminski, (absent, James Holleman), Cheryl Bubacz, (absent, Timothy Roupp), Thomas Bogaczyk; Mayor John Backman; (absent, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett); Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; (absent, Borough Secretary Mary Signor).

Guests: Sandra Olson; Brendyn Stager and Dick Stager.

Former Borough Hall:

Sandra Olson read a proposal to Borough Council on the newly formed Coal and Iron Historical Society of Blossburg, which was incorporated as a private Nonprofit Corporation with the Pennsylvania Department of State on September 26, 2005. The organization will operate under the direction of twelve (12) person volunteer board directors. The organization is in the process of applying for 501 (c) (3) status with the IRS, which would allow for tax-free donations and also application for grants for renovation and operation of a museum.

The purpose of the Society was incorporated to collect and preserve the history of coal mining and related industries in the greater Blossburg area. The intent of the organization is to collect and preserve items from the coal-mining era and educate future generations about the history of our area. Special emphasis will be placed on the ethnic history of our area.

The next step is to get an organizational meeting scheduled to elect officers and board members.

The historical society has plans for developing and operating a museum in which to display artifacts from the coal-mining era and also to provide educational opportunities to interested parties especially students. The organization has as a goal to procure the old Blossburg Borough Building for a museum operated by the historical society. The organization would like the borough to gift/convey the building to the historical society for \$1.00. Plans are to renovate the building while maintaining the historical character of the building and eventually to try to obtain historic register status.

Lonny Frost, Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) representative, could not attend tonight's meeting, but sent in a letter expressing his views on the former Borough Hall. Lonny Frost asked Sandra Olson to read the letter on his behalf. Mr. Frost feels the building would benefit more people if it was used as a tourist attraction. The entire town of Blossburg would benefit from the income coming in from tourists.

Brendyn Stager presented his letter of intent, a letter of financial backing from First Citizens National Bank, apartment floor plans and a proposal from Nickerson Construction for the repair and installation of a new roof for the former Borough Hall.

All information from tonight's meeting will be forwarded to Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett for his review and legal advise.

Equipment Auction:

A resolution is needed to borrow money for equipment auction bid on a 1995-1996 Tandem Dump 10-wheel truck to convert into a garbage truck. Limit to bid is \$40,000.00.

Resolution to Authorize a \$40,000.00 Limit to Bid on a 1995-1996 Tandem Dump 10-Wheel Truck:
Resolution adopted on motion of Raymond Kaminski; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Budget:

2006 Blossburg Borough budget balanced with no tax increase. Motion to advertise 2006 Budget Ordinance was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

2006 Budget to be adopted at the December 12, 2005 meeting.

At the April 11, 2005 Council Meeting a motion was made to raise Occupation Privilege Tax from \$10.00 per person to \$20.00 per person for 2006. The ordinance needs to be advertised. Borough Solicitor to have ready for next Council Meeting.

Computer / Video Camera:

Mayor Backman reported that Tioga County would be installing a computer / video camera in his office for the District Justice to use on weekends and in emergencies. Council in agreement that the installation would help the District Justice and a police officer from traveling to Mansfield, Wellsboro or Elkland to process charges.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 7:28 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2005 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary