

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

September 12, 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, (absent, Timothy Roupp), Thomas Bogaczyk; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Ronald Steffen; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Charles Freeberg KCC Committee.

Guests: Richard S. MacIntire, President/C.E.O. of Martha Lloyd Community Services; Cindy Pequignot an employee at Martha Lloyd Community Services and Borough resident; Kathy Brooks, Pam Berguson, Catherine Bogaczyk all residents of South Williamson Road.

Lonny Frost Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) representative; Attorney Sandra Olson, John Eckman, Donald Krause.

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

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

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

Guests: A meeting at 6:00 P.M. was held before the regular scheduled Council Meeting tonight with Martha Lloyd Services Richard S. MacIntire, President/C.E.O. and South Williamson Road residents. This meeting continued into the regular scheduled Council Meeting. The residents wanted to meet with Mr. MacIntire personally to express their safety concerns they have with Martha Lloyd Community Services purchasing the William Carlson property located at 206 South Williamson Road to build a new home for persons with development disabilities. Two important issues the residents expressed were: 1. South Williamson Road is a high traffic area and the speed the vehicles travel. 2. Sluce problem under the driveway. Mr. MacIntire stated Martha Lloyd Community Services considered all safety concerns before purchasing the property and they feel 206 South Williamson Road is an excellent location. Also, Mr. MacIntire stated he would contact their engineer and ensure the sluce problem is a part of the construction plans.

Lonny Frost Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) representative, Attorney Sandra Olson, John Eckman, Donald Krause attended the meeting to discuss the feasibility of saving the former Borough Hall located at 206 Main Street. A few purposes mentioned were coal museum, microbrewery and historical society. V.I.B.E. is having difficulty in receiving their 501c. V.I.B.E. is not moving fast enough to answer to Council and they do not have the finances to purchase the building. The above-mentioned attendants feel it would be much faster if a separate entity is setup, like a historical society. A historical society should have easier access in applying for a 501c status. V.I.B.E. is willing to turn over their research and efforts to the new committee. V.I.B.E. will continue helping and working with new committee on rehabilitating of Borough Hall.

Sandra Olson to draw up a letter of intent to Council. New group will report back to Council next month on their progress.

Reports:

(A) NPHS Students: No student present.

A letter was received from Heather Steinbacher, NPHS Student Council Advisor asking Council approval of the upcoming Homecoming activities for the week of October 3 – 7, 2005.

Annual Homecoming Events:

Block Party at Island Park on Thursday, October 6, 2005. The Block Party would be held during school hours.

Friday, October 7, 2005 at 6:00 P.M. – Parade

Motion to approve NPHS Homecoming activities for the Week of October 3 – 7, 2005 was made by Cheryl Bubacz; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

(B) KCC: Charles Freeberg reported the organization's regular checking account balance is \$1,862.00.

KCC to submit letter for United Fund monies.

Kitchen repairs to be scheduled.

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

V.I.B.E. Minutes for August 17, 2005 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

Discussed earlier. V.I.B.E. plans to work with new group/historical committee to save former Borough Hall.

(D) Mayor: Mayor Backman reported Blossburg Municipal Authority members request Council to modify changes to the present ordinance to read when a request is made to change a home from a single family, to a duplex, it should be required that separate meters are put in. Motion to change existing ordinance to cover new construction only with any duplex requiring separate meters was made by Raymond Kaminski; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Halloween date and times to be set later, after the football schedule is reviewed.

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

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

Chief Steffen reported he attended a computer study course on National Incident Management System (NIMS). This class was mandatory for the Police Department to stay in line with Federal and State grants.

On Wednesday, September 14, 2005 the Blossburg Elementary School will be participating in the National Anthem Project. As part of the National Anthem Project the elementary children will gather around the flagpole and sing the National Anthem. For safety reasons, Chief Steffen asked permission to close Hannibal Street off for one (1) hour. Council approved request.

Reports: A complaint received from Henry and Betty Bartlett corner of Lynd Street and Granger Street of a tractor-trailer parking on Granger Street, which is causing several problems and concerns. The driver rents Bob Martin's apartment located at 204 Granger Street. Chief Steffen to contact driver and help him locate a suitable parking area.

(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 Mr. Smith is half done with his work on the Taber Street Bridge.

Thomas Bogaczyk mentioned the Walk Around Grant funding that is available. Possibly the Borough would be eligible for some monies for the Taber Street Bridge. State Senator Joseph Scarnati and State Representative Matthew Baker offices to be contacted.

Blossburg Municipal Authority is renewing their NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit application renewal. New testing parameters have to be met in order for the sewer plant to discharge into the Tioga River.

Pension Municipal Minimum Obligations (MMO's) for 2006 has been completed by the actuaries and needs to be presented to Council before September 30, 2005: Police – \$16,246.00 – Non-Uniform \$21,301.00. These totals will be used in the 2006 Borough Budget. In 2005 the Borough received \$39,680.00 from the State. Motion to accept actuaries totals was made by Raymond Kaminski; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Blossburg Municipal Authority will be increasing the water rates beginning with the January 2006 billing. The January 2006 billing will be calculated using the water consumption during the period of September 2005 – December 2005. New rates will be as follows: The base rate of \$60.00 for using 5,000 gallons or less of water per quarter. The rate for water usage over 5,000 gallons up to 300,000 gallons per quarter, will be \$3.25 per 1,000 gallons. The rate for water usage over 300,000 gallons will be \$3.00 per 1,000 gallons.

Greg Patryna, Susquehanna Valley Development Group, Inc., working for Martha Lloyd Community Services **HOME** Grant Investment Partnership program, telephoned to ask Council to decide who would be signing the **HOME** Program Funding Proposal. The required signatures will be Council President Jerome Ogden or Vice-President Tonya McNamara.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: Meeting of August 24, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. heard a request for a variance from William and Gloria Clark to build a deck on their home at 163 Joseph Street within rear yard setback requirements. Request was granted.

(I) Recreation: Pool is closed for season. Parts are in for big toy.

(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.

Reports:

- (K) **Television:** New channels are not working yet. Jerome Ogden doesn't know why.
- (L) **Library:** Thomas Bogaczyk reported the new librarian is doing an excellent job.
- (M) **Street Committee:** New storm drain installation by Marian Griswold's home on Lynd Street.
- (N) **Budget:** Budget meeting scheduled for September 20, 2005 at 9:00 A.M.

A letter is 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) **Attorney Fee Ordinance:** Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. **Evaluation:** Borough Manager and Borough Secretary to clean up working copy before the next Personnel Policy review.
- 2. **Minor Sub-Division/Cul-D-Sac:** Borough Solicitor is working on Deed of Dedication.
- 3. **Additional Railroad Property:** Tax Sale of old railroad property of 6.72 acres, purchased by the Borough, to be sold on September 26, 2005. Borough Solicitor to contact Tioga County Court House to review listings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR AT 8:08 P.M. RECONVENED 8:23 P.M. LITIGATION DISCUSSED.

- 4. **Electric System Assessment:** Borough Solicitor is working on.
- 5. **Home Occupation:** Borough Solicitor to have ready for next meeting.
- 6. **Williamson Commercial Park Access Street:** Ordinance and Deed of Dedication needed. Council suggested adding utility easements. Borough Solicitor to do.
- 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 October 10, 2005 at 6:00 P.M. before the regular scheduled Council Meeting. Public Hearing to be advertised. Borough Manager to get parcel numbers of lots to be included in zoning change to Borough Solicitor.
- 9. **Cell Tower Ordinance:** To be reviewed later.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Octoberfest:** Octoberfest to be held on Saturday, October 8, 2005.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TCAB DINNER, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2005 – BOROUGH OF KNOXVILLE – RSVP BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2005. SOCIAL HOUR 6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. DINNER. MENU: CHOICE OF BBQ CHICKEN OR HAM.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 8:28 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2005 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary