

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

February 13, 2006

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: (absent, Vice-President Tonya McNamara (sick); Councilmembers Raymond Kaminski, James Holleman, Cheryl Bubacz, James Bogaczyk, (absent, Thomas Bogaczyk (in Florida)); Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Ronald Steffen; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 3, 2006 and January 9, 2006 meetings were accepted on motion of Raymond Kaminski; second, James Holleman. All in favor.

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

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

Guests: None present.

Reports:

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

(B) **KCC:** Charles Freeberg did not attend tonight's meeting.

Ronald Steffen reported the organization's regular checking account balance is \$1,100.00.

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

V.I.B.E. Minutes for January 18, 2006 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

No representative present to give a report.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor John Backman reported the presentation at the Tioga County Association of Boroughs meeting was on the new biological nutrient regulations for the removal of nitrogen and phosphorus at sewer plants. These new restrictions are to be costly. Borough Engineer William S. Bray is reviewing the new regulations and will report his conclusions to Borough Manager George Lloyd and Sewer Plant Operator Daniel Grinnell.

Mayor Backman discussed the significance on enforcing the control of leashed or unleashed dogs in town.

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

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

All of Police Department employees to attend update training classes in Mansfield next week.

Officer Joshua McCurdy and Officer Chad Buttorff are scheduled to attend a Pennsylvania Title 67 Inspection Law class in Westfield.

Reports:

(F) Police Committee: Nothing further to report.

(G) Borough Manager:

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

Edward Stanley is on short-term disability. He has many health problems and may not be able to return to work. Borough Manager suggested, if Borough Council plans to hire a replacement for the position that a math aptitude test be a requirement.

Since the former Borough Building has been sold, Fire Chief Kevin Lindquist has asked for the fire siren to be moved. After a few new locations were discussed, the Borough Garage at Island Park was decided as the best location. Raymond Kaminski is to report back to the Fire Department to see if they thought this location would be alright.

Due to numerous complaints from vehicle operators and citizens walking the sidewalks, the trees along Main Street need to be trimmed. The Borough Manager to contact Mr. Ostopovich of Harmona Landscaping to see if he is interested in doing the trimming and obtain a price quote.

Companies have been contacting the Blossburg Municipal Authority with reference to gas leases. Companies are willing to pay money for leasing land, at so much per acre. Tonight Benjamin Jones and Michael Stoudt, both Municipal Authority members, are attending a workshop at Trout Run, PA on leasing land to gas companies. These proposed leases are still in the future. At that time, the Blossburg Municipal Authority will hold for the best offer.

The former Borough Building has old Borough Christmas decorations in storage. Local communities are to be contacted to see if they would want them. Also, the Arron Bloss sign at entrance of old building needs to be moved. George Lloyd to contact present owner about sign.

Susan Blackwell of Laurel Youth Services telephoned the Borough Office today to ask permission to hold a 5K Run in conjunction with the Blossburg Coal Festival. Ms. Blackwell stated the route would be the same as last year. PennDOT Parade Permit paperwork will need to be sent in by the Borough Secretary. Motion to give Laurel Youth Services permission to hold 5K Run, subject to State and Borough approval, was made by Cheryl Bubacz; second James Holleman. All in favor.

(H) Planning Commission: Meeting of January 31, 2006 no quorum, but did discuss Ruah Street Emmanuel Church with neighbors. George Lloyd contacted Jim Weaver. Mr. Weaver interpreted the remodeling of a church into an apartment building as a change in use even though in R-2 new owner would need to comply with ordinances i.e. (1) Planning Commission (2) Tioga County Planning Commission (3) Zoning Hearing Board. Council should contact their solicitor so as not to set precedence.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

Reports:

(I) **Recreation:** No quorum for meeting.

Lawn mower dealer has a John Deere 48" cut lawn mower for sale in the amount of \$1,150.00. The lawn mower is in excellent condition. George Lloyd would like to purchase the mower, for Island Park use. Motion was made to purchase a John Deere 48" cut lawn mower at the cost of \$1,150.00, to be a split between the Recreation Board and Blossburg Borough, by James Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

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

Councilmembers on Fire Committee: Tonya McNamara, Raymond Kaminski and Cheryl Bubacz.

Tonya McNamara and Raymond Kaminski attended last meeting.

The Fire Department plans to trade in equipment. Two (2) vehicles are to be sold and will be replaced with one (1) piece of equipment.

(K) **Television:** Board meetings are second Tuesday of month. Cartoon channel is messed up.

(L) **Library:** Thomas Bogaczyk was absent. No report.

(M) **Street Committee:** A meeting is needed to discuss 2006 bid project for storm drainpipes and basins. Project will cost ± \$20,000.00, budgeted \$21,000.00. Proposed project to include 700' on St. Mary's Street, 600' on Granger Street by Kuzneski's, 200'-15" on Davis Street by Clarence Leinhard's, 300'-15" on Davis Street by John Eckman's, and Morris Street by Edgar Carlson's. Tonya McNamara needs to be contacted to see when she can meet with other Street Committee members to look at sites for approval.

(N) **Budget:** Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Minor Sub-Division/Cul-D-Sac:** Borough Solicitor is working on Deed of Dedication.
2. **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. The wrong property was assessed. Borough Solicitor is working on.
3. **Electric System Assessment:** Borough Solicitor is working on letter.
4. **Home Occupation:** Proposed Home Occupation Ordinance has been amended. Ready to advertise for next meeting.
5. **Williamson Commercial Park Access Street:** Ordinance is done. Needs review by Council then advertised. Want to enforce stop sign. To be ready for next meeting.
6. **Building Permit Fees / Rental Inspections:** New rates to be advertised. Borough Solicitor to get with George Lloyd for more information.

OLD BUSINESS:

7. **Ward Manufacturing Petition Requesting Zoning Change:** Ordinance is done. Needs review by Council then advertised. Public Hearing is needed. Thirty-day (30) notice required.
8. **Cell Tower Ordinance:** Borough Solicitor researching on Zoning issues.
9. **Attorney Fee Ordinance:** Ordinance is done. Needs review by Council then advertised.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Personnel Policy:**

Vacation pay in question as to when it is alright to pay. New ideas are needed. A Personnel Policy change may be needed. Councilmembers suggested to put on next month's agenda.

2. **TCAB Dinner – Blossburg Borough Host for March:**

Tuesday, March 21, 2006 was decided as the date, because Thursdays are bad for some Councilmembers to attend. The Blossburg Fire Department Auxiliary is to be asked about doing the meal. George Lloyd to contact a few people for a speaker or program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2006 AT THE TIOGA BAPTIST CHURCH, 16 CHURCH STREET, TIOGA, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2006.**
2. **TIOGA COUNTY VISTORS BUREAU CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A WORLD PREMIER EVENT AT THE LOG CABIN RESTAURANT LOCATED 3501 ROUTE 6, WELLSBORO, PA ON FEBRUARY 21, 2006 FROM 6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY FEBRUARY 14, 2006.**

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 7:54P.M.

Next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2006 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary