

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

December 10, 2007

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Jerome Ogden 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 Tonya McNamara; Councilmembers Raymond Kaminski, (absent, James Holleman), Cheryl Bubacz, James Bogaczyk, Thomas Bogaczyk; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; (absent, Chief Ronald Steffen (hurt leg)); Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Charles Freeberg KCC Committee; Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) Member Bev Jones; Newly Elected Councilmember Jeff Everett; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Kenneth Hughes; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kefover.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 12, 2007 meeting were accepted on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

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

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

Guests: **Outside Wood Burning Stoves:**

Kenneth Hughes, 108 William B. Street; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kefover, 108 Bleker Street; Bev Jones, 386 Granger Street, Blossburg residents that presently own and operate outside wood furnaces, attended the meeting to hear and review concerns they have with the proposed "Outside Wood Furnace Ordinance".

Outside Wood Burning Stoves will be discussed under "Old Business" Item No. 6.

Reports:

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

(B) **KCC:** Charles Freeberg reported the organization's regular checking account balance is \$483.23.

No rentals of KCC building are scheduled. Mr. Freeberg may need money from Blossburg Borough General Fund for the purpose of paying bills.

(C) **Committee Business Development:**

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) V.I.B.E. meetings are held on third Wednesday of the month in the community room of the Blossburg Memorial Library at 6:00 P.M.

The next V.I.B.E. will be held in January 2008, no meeting will be held in December.

V.I.B.E. Minutes for November 28, 2007 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

A current Financial Report was presented for Councilmembers.

The new "Welcome Sign", which will replace the old sign by the green bridge at the north end of Main Street, is done and ready to be put up.

Reports:

NTSWA promotional grocery bags have not arrived.

No grant award news on Skate Park.

Josh Jones is working on the Blossburg FreeNet (the wireless Internet for the Blossburg Borough downtown business district). The wireless equipment is now installed on the 2nd floor of the Borough Building. The Blossburg FreeNet area can be easily increased by anyone wishing to purchase additional Merki units and hooking them up to their Internet connection.

The judging of homes for the "Light Up the Holidays" in Blossburg is scheduled for December 23, 2007 between the hours of 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Homes will be judge in five (5) categorizes for prizes. No previous year winners will be eligible.

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

(E) **Police:** Chief Steffen was not at tonight's meeting, because he fell and hurt his leg.

Everyone has received a copy of the Police Report.

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

Per Councilmember Raymond Kaminski request, Mayor Backman asked Councilmembers if Pages 2, 3, and 4 of the Police Report could be eliminated. Page 5 explains these three pages in more detail and is easier to understand. Also, Page 5 will have an "A" for case active and a "C" for case closed added next to each complaint. Councilmember James Bogaczyk suggested the Police Report be checked for typing and spelling errors before being copied for Council. All Councilmembers agreed to the suggested changes.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

The Borough Manager had noting to report.

(H) **Planning Commission:**

No applications were submitted. No meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

(I) **Recreation:** No Meeting.

(J) **Fire:** No report received. No Councilmember attended the meeting.

The new fire truck is here. The Blossburg Fire Department is not sure what they will do with the old fire truck, because under the grant restrictions the old truck can't be sold to another fire company.

Reports:

(K) **Television:** Board meetings are second Tuesday of month.

Councilmembers reported to Jerome Ogden that several channels are off or have other problems.

(L) **Library:** Santa Claus came for pictures on Saturday, December 8, 2007.

(M) **Street Committee:** New street signs are being installed, when time allows.

Councilmember Thomas Bogaczyk asked if the old street signs are for sale. He was approached by two (2) residents asking if they could purchase some of the old street signs.

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

(O) **Blossburg Municipal Authority:**

The testing is done on East Creek Well. No final report has been received.

Borough Manager George Lloyd has talked to a company about spreading sewer sludge on South Mountain properties. This proposal is only in the discussion stage at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Minor Sub-Division/Cul-D-Sac:**

The Borough Manager gave information to the Borough Solicitor.

2. **Additional Railroad Property:**

Tax Sale for old railroad property of 6.72 acres, purchased by the Borough. The wrong property was assessed. Mr. Barrett is working with Tioga County Tax Office in identifying the property lots and including the Borough's request to have these lots tax-exempt.

The application is being drafted.

3. **Cell Tower Ordinance:** Borough Solicitor is working on.

4. **Engine Brakes Ordinance:** Borough Solicitor reported that PennDOT is reluctant to do anything about engine brakes.

5. **Building Permit Fees:** Additional work needs to be done on amending Ordinance No. 402 to lower the square footage of buildings needing inspections from 1,000 Sq. Ft. to 600 Sq. Ft. Steps to be taken before Ordinance is amended: 1) The Department of Labor should be contacted. 2) The proposed amended ordinance will be advertised. 3) A Public Hearing will be held. 4) Ordinance No. 402 will be adopted as amended.

OLD BUSINESS:**6. Outside Wood Burning Stoves:**

The proposed "Outside Wood Furnace Ordinance" was revised. Copies were sent to council. Again, more corrections and suggestions were presented to Council from attending wood stove owners, Mayor Backman and Councilmembers. Councilmembers decided to have the first Temporary Wood Furnace Committee review all the new information. The voluntary "Temporary Wood Furnace Committee" members are: Tonya McNamara, James Bogaczyk, Cheryl Bubacz and Charles Freeberg. Tonight is Councilmember Tonya McNamara's last meeting. Mrs. McNamara decided not to run for re-election to Council, so her term is done December 31, 2007. Since a new voluntary member is need for the Temporary Committee, Councilmembers decided to table the proposed "Outside Wood Furnace Ordinance" until January 7, 2007, the next scheduled Council meeting. At this time, a new committee member will be appointed.

7. Streetlights for the Blossburg Exit / Interchange:

The Borough Manager did not get anything back from telephone calls. Councilmembers decided to have several Councilmembers and other important citizens meet with Montoursville PennDOT to see if this approach would be more effective in getting the streetlights installed. Mr. Lloyd is to schedule the meeting.

8. Phelps Property on Davis Street: The Borough Solicitor and the Borough Manager are working on.

9. The Generic Bar: The Borough Solicitor and the Borough Manager are working on. A letter is to be sent to owner.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2008 Fuel Bids: Received as advertised:

<u>Williams Oil & Propane:</u>	Diesel Winter Mix -	\$2.8400 per gallon
	Diesel Summer Mix -	\$2.8400 per gallon
	Unleaded Medium Grade -	\$2.5498 per gallon
<u>Montour Oil:</u>	Diesel Winter Mix -	\$3.0299 per gallon
	Diesel Summer Mix -	\$2.9699 per gallon
	Unleaded Medium Grade -	\$2.6695 per gallon

Motion was made by Thomas Bogaczyk to accept Williams Oil & Propane bid; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

2. Adopt 2008 Emergency and Municipal Services Tax Ordinance (EMST) to Comply with the New Local Services Tax (LST) Ordinance Provisions:

Motion to adopt 2008 Emergency and Municipal Service Tax Ordinance with it being renamed as Local Services Tax (LST) was made by Cheryl Bubacz; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

3. 2008 Tax Ordinance:

Motion that the proposed 2008 Tax Ordinance is adopted as advertised: Borough 5.507 mills / Fire 0.568 mills / Library 0.250 mills was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. Re-Appointments to Committees and Boards (Last Term Year 2007):

Appointment to Recreation Board: Raymond Kaminski wants off Board. A list of possible name replacements were sent to Councilmembers prior to tonight's meeting. Councilmembers were to prioritize the name list. Borough Manager George Lloyd totaled the votes from the returned ballots. The top persons will be contacted to see if they are interested in serving on the Recreation Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2007 AT THE PENN WELLS HOTEL, MAIN STREET, WELLSBORO, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M.

PRESIDENT JEROME OGDEN THANKED COUNCILMEMBERS TONYA McNAMARA AND RAYMOND KAMINSKI FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE ON BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL.

PRESIDENT JEROME OGDEN WISHED ALL TO HAVE HAPPY HOLIDAYS.

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

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.

Oaths of Offices are scheduled for January 7, 2008 at 6:20 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary