

# BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## February 12, 2007

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, 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; Charles Freeberg KCC Committee; Jill Nickerson V.I.B.E. member; David Thompson, Sr. Coal Festival Chairman; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the January 2, 2007 meeting were accepted on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; 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 Raymond Kaminski; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

**Guests:** David Thompson, Sr., Chairman of the Coal Festival, attended the meeting to ask Council to pay for the liability insurance package to cover the Coal Festival activities in May. The cost is  $\pm$  \$1,100.00 yearly. President Jerome Ogden turned Mr. Thompson's request over to the Finance Committee. A meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. Borough Manager George Lloyd is to check with Gannon Insurance regarding if the Coal Festival could be covered under the Borough's policy. The Finance Committee to get in touch with Mr. Thompson as to their findings.

### **Reports:**

(A) **NPHS Student:** N.P.H.S. Student Representatives did not attend meeting tonight.

(B) **KCC:** Charles Freeberg reported on the KCC building. The organization's regular checking account balance is \$1,394.40.

Partners in Progress are scheduled to rent the KCC building from June 17, 2007 to August 18, 2007.

The KCC kitchen remodeling is 90% completed.

(C) **Committee Business Development:** Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) V.I.B.E. meetings are held second Wednesday of the month.

V.I.B.E. Minutes for January 17, 2007 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

V.I.B.E. member Jill Nickerson gave a presentation on the proposed skate park to be built on Island Park. Mrs. Nickerson is working through Larson Design. Funding is expected from \$60,000.00 in grants with \$12,000.00 matching funds. V.I.B.E. is hopeful to receive \$38,000.00 in donations towards the project. These monies would also cover the expense of a new basketball court.

A meeting will be held on March 5, 2007 at 6:00 P.M. in the Blossburg Library to discuss the skate park plans.

**Reports:**

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman attended the "PA Wilds" Regional Meeting held on December 19, 2006 at the Penn Wells Lodge, Wellsboro, PA. At the meeting discussions were on "how to best manage the growing local tourism economy to sustain your region's character and address the issues associated with integrating a federal multiple-use natural-resource strategy with the desire of local economic development plans."

Mayor Backman supplied Councilmembers copies of previous notes from borough files and a recent letter sent to property owner who is located at the north end of North Williamson Road. There was no response from the recent letter sent from the property owner. Mayor Backman recommended withdrawing the variance granted to the property owner. The Borough Solicitor is to research on revoking the variance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT AT 7:27 P.M. RECONVENED 7:40 P.M. PERSONNELL DISCUSSED.**

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

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

A discussion was held on purchasing a new police car. The present police car has over 102,000 miles on it. The cost of a Ford Crown Victoria is \$27,976. The cost of a Dodge Charger is \$27,503. The purchase of a new car is in 2007 budget.

A motion to purchase a new Dodge Charger police car was made by Raymond Kaminski; second, James Bogaczyk.

Roll Call: Yes – Tonya McNamara, Raymond Kaminski, James Holleman, Cheryl Bubacz, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Motion carried.

Chief Steffen reported the department is scheduled for continuing education at Mansfield University this month.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Tonya McNamara; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, in conjunction with the National Weather Service is sponsoring a Weather Emergency Preparedness Week. A statewide weather exercise will be held on March 15, 2007. Mr. Lloyd hopes to have the new borough emergency siren, which is now located on Island Park, hooked up and ready for the exercise.

Bonds: Presently the Borough has a \$250,000 crime bond (for all employees) that costs \$443.00 every four (4) years (2007 to 2010). The bond was purchased in 2003 and is due for renewal in February 2007.

Garbage pickup has been change to only Tuesday and Wednesday for residential customers.

**Reports:**

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

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

**(I) Recreation:** Partial United Fund monies were disbursed.

Skate park was discussed.

Need cost estimates for repair work on old pavilion.

Update Island Park cost for Southern Tioga School District lease.

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

No Councilmember attended the meeting.

The annual Blossburg Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Association Banquet will be held on Saturday, February 17, 2007. Mr. Dean Hall is to be recognized for his 50 years of service to the departments. Mayor Backman would like to proclaim February 17, 2007 as Mr. Dean Hall Day. Motion to have Mayor Backman compose a proclamation in recognition of Mr. Dean Hall was made by Raymond Kaminski; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

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

Fox News Channel to be #52 and the Food Channel to be #53.

**(L) Library:** Councilmember Tonya McNamara attended the last meeting.

A basket bingo to be done as fundraiser in April.

**(M) Street Committee:** Borough Manager George Lloyd provided a map of the proposed 2007 Storm Drain Project. \$14,100 is in 2007 budget / estimate cost is \$9,400 – basins cost is \$4,000. Mr. Lloyd to check with state bids for pipe. Council agreed to proceed with project.

**(N) Budget:** A meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. to review ways to help Coal Festival pay for its liability insurance.

**(O) Blossburg Municipal Authority:**

A new water line from Blossburg to Morris Run is being planned. Morris Run to apply for PennVEST funding in fall. Work should start in spring of 2008, with the Borough supplying the labor & equipment.

The well drillings on East Creek and Taylor Run properties are to start this spring.

Authority requested Mr. Lloyd to get cost estimates for a new auditor.

Cost estimates have been received for the removal of the water tank on Parkhurst Street. The Borough Manager to check with Laurel Youth Services to see if they would also like their unused water tank removed. Maybe if removal of both tanks were scheduled together, a lower cost estimate may be obtainable.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

The Borough Manager did not get information to the Borough Solicitor to finish this deed of dedication.

**2. Additional Railroad Property:**

Tax Sale for old railroad property of 6.72 acres, purchased by the Borough. The wrong property was assessed. Borough Solicitor is working on.

**3. Electric System Assessment:**

Penelec to do major line replacement project in spring of 2007.

**4. Williamson Commercial Park Access Street:**

**Ordinance #412 – Boone Run Road Ordinance / Realty Transfer Tax Ordinance:**

Ordinance was reviewed and advertised for tonight's meeting. Motion to adopt a deed of dedication for a borough street and further naming said borough street Boone Run Road was made by Raymond Kaminski; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Remove from agenda. Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

**5. Cell Tower Ordinance: Mr. Barrett is attempting to draft an ordinance.**

New Verizon tower is now on and working.

**6. Engine Brakes Ordinance: PennDOT is to do study on Route 15 tractor-trailer traffic before they approve. Borough Solicitor to look up old information on ordinances.**

**7. Home Grant: Work is on hold at Martha Lloyd Home site located on South Williamson Road, due to bad weather.**

**8. Building Permit Fees: The Borough Solicitor is writing up an ordinance, which would lower the square footage of buildings needing inspections from 1,000 sq. ft. to 600 sq. ft. Labor and Industry has to be notified of the proposed ordinance before adoption.**

**9. Outside Wood Burning Stoves: Borough Solicitor to get a sample ordinance so Council can review. Covington Township passed an ordinance pertaining to outside wood burning stoves. Lisa Everett Covington Township secretary to be contacted for a copy of their ordinance.**

**10. Coalie Pickman Sign: The electric meter supplying power to the Coalie Pickman sign by the Main Street bridge was disconnected after Jim's McIntosh's Service Station was sold. V.I.B.E. is willing to reimburse electric charges if power is restored.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**11. Update Real Estate Transfer Tax Ordinance:**

**Ordinance #413 – Real Estate Transfer Tax Ordinance:**

Ordinance was reviewed and advertised for tonight's meeting. Motion to adopt a Realty Transfer Tax and other tax related provisions pursuant to Article XI-D of the Tax Reform Code of 1971, and authorizing the Department of Revenue of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to determine, collect and enforce the tax, interest and penalties was made by Tonya McNamara; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

Remove from agenda. Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

**12. Auditor: Discussed earlier.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Ordinances Restricting a Sex Offender's Residency:**

The Pennsylvania Sexual Offenders Assessment Board is trying to determine which municipalities in Pennsylvania have passed ordinances restricting where sex offenders can live in their municipalities. Questionnaire to be answered and returned.

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

Thursday, March 22, 2007 was decided as the date. The Blossburg Fire Department Auxiliary is to be contacted about doing the meal. Councilmembers would like the same menu as last year. A few program suggestions were discussed, as well as guest speakers. Mayor Backman and Mrs. McNamara to get with Mr. Lloyd to finalize program and speakers.

**3. Planning for Agriculture Workshop:**

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett reported a workshop is to be held on March 21, 2007 in Williamsport at the Holiday Inn from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. The workshop is to learn more about agricultural law and regulations. Mr. Barrett and Mr. Kaminski plan to attend.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHS DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2007 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 16, 2007.**

**BLOSSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL APPRECIATION BANQUET WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2007 AT THE FIRE & AMBULANCE SOCIAL HALL, 324 MAIN STREET, BLOSSBURG, PA. SOCIAL HOUR – 6:00 P.M. DINNER – 7:00 P.M. MUSIC & DANCING 9:00 P.M. – 1:00 A.M.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 8:35 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.

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Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary