

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **April 14, 2008**

AS ADVERTISED A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD ON APRIL 14, 2008 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF THE BOROUGH BUILDING, 245 MAIN STREET, BLOSSBURG, PA. THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING IS TO RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT ON THE DESIGNATION OF DETERIORATED AREAS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF BLOSSBURG IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE "LOCAL ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION TAX ASSISTANCE ACT" (LERTA).

**Attendance:** Council President Jerome Ogden; Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk; Councilmembers Jill Nickerson, James Holleman, Cheryl Bubacz, James Bogaczyk, Jeffrey Everett; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Dave and Bev Jones.

The Tioga County Board of Commissioners amended the Tioga County Tax Preferential Ordinance. Based on the amended Ordinance each Borough or Township may designate all or portions of their municipality as eligible under the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA) Law. Now Boroughs or Townships have the opportunity to designate the areas of their municipality they deem appropriate and in compliance with the law. Boundary areas eligible for these tax abatements need to be established through ordinance or resolution.

"Tax Abatement Program is a very effective economic development tool for any profit business in a designated area in our county who constructs new buildings and/or undertakes major renovations to an existing building adding real estate tax value. A company can receive a tax abatement for the new tax value assessed on their building(s) for a five (5) year period. The taxes generated are new taxes and do not affect the existing real estate which is currently assessed."

Councilmembers asked Borough Manager George Lloyd to contact Robert Blair, Tioga County Development Corporation (TCDC) to obtain copies of the Tioga County Enterprise Zone maps.

Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA) to be acted upon at the Blossburg Council regular meeting on May 12, 2008.

No public comment. Hearing closed 6:29 P.M.

# BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## April 14, 2008

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 Thomas Bogaczyk; Councilmembers Jill Nickerson, James Holleman, Cheryl Bubacz, James Bogaczyk, Jeffrey Everett; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; (absent, Chief Ronald Steffen); Corporal Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) Member Tonya McNamara; David Thompson, Sr. Coal Festival Chairman; Miranda Kline North Penn High School Student; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Dave and Bev Jones; Kenneth Hughes.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the March 10, 2008 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 Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

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

**Guests:** David Thompson, Sr., Chairman of the Coal Festival, attended the meeting to thank Council for purchasing the liability insurance package to cover the Coal Festival activities on May 21 – 24, 2008.

Mr. Thompson asked Council's permission to use the Riverside Plaza parking lot to hold the Octoberfest activities on October 4, 2008 or October 11, 2008 from 11:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. Mr. Thompson reported The Coal Festival Committee, Boy Scout Troop Pack 69, and V.I.B.E. all will be working together to put this event on. All Councilmembers agreed to allow the Octoberfest to be held at the Riverside Plaza parking lot.

### **Reports:**

(A) **NPHS Student:** Miranda Kline North Penn High School Student Representative gave a detailed report on current and upcoming school events.

Councilmembers thanked Ms. Kline for her presentation.

(B) **KCC:** Charles Freeberg did not attend tonight's meeting. Mr. Freeberg is still having some health problems. Councilmembers suggested contacting Mr. Freeberg to ask if he needs any help with the KCC Building.

### (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.

V.I.B.E. Minutes for February 2008 and March 2008 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

**Reports:**

Tonya McNamara reported on V.I.B.E. topics:

Projects V.I.B.E. is working on: (1) Community Garden – raised boxes may be rented – 4' x 4' are \$10.00 or 4' x 8' are \$20.00. (2) \$2,000.00 funding was received from The Farmers' Market Development Grant, United States Department of Agriculture, towards funding the Farmer's Market. The Farmer's Market will be located at the Riverside Plaza parking lot. The Farmer's Market will start the end of May and end in October and will be held on Saturdays, 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Additional liability insurance is being purchased. (3) Additional façade funding was received. All monies must be used by the end of June 2008.

(D) **Mayor:** Nothing at this time.

Councilmember James Bogaczyk thanked Mayor Backman for the Proclamation honoring the North Penn Basketball Team and reported the team appreciated his thoughtfulness.

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

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

Corporal Joshua McCurdy attended the meeting to answer any questions concerning the Police Department.

Two (2) new part-time officers were hired in January, Kent Warner and Richard Kotch. Both officers were introduced to Council. Corporal McCurdy explained to Council each officer must complete 20 hours of training before they can patrol independently.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

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

The Borough Manager reported on the following items:

Ben Jones Plumbing & Heating is working on the new air conditioner for the Borough Building. This expense was part of the 2008 budget.

FEMA is in process of updating flood maps for Tioga County. FEMA is asking the Borough to provide any information to them that may be beneficial. Borough Secretary Mary Signor e-mailed FEMA letter to Borough's surveyor. Gannett Fleming is doing the work.

Spring Cleanup is scheduled for May 5 – May 9, 2008. All materials should be put out for collection by Tuesday, May 6, 2008. All items will to be picked up by Friday, May 9, 2008. Island Park cleanup is scheduled for May 3, 2008, with the rain date set for May 10, 2008. The Tioga County Probation Department will be contacted for help in the Island Park cleanup. Both cleanups will be advertised in the Penny-Saver.

Mr. Lloyd received a Main Street Program Façade application to be completed for the Borough Building. The Main Street building front and the Carpenter Street side of building are eligible under the program. Mr. Lloyd to get estimates of work to be done.

**Reports:** Discussed any possible Brownfield sites in Blossburg. No sites were identified.

Hamilton Township water line to start June 2008 and end October or November 2008. Another backhoe / loader is needed. Hamilton Township or possibly Blossburg Borough to rent – lease – or purchase equipment. Hamilton Township has a reconvened Supervisors / Authority meeting scheduled on April 21. Supervisors to review costs of backhoe to lease or buy for installing new water line to Morris Run from Blossburg. Backhoe may be leased for 8 months and receive about ½ of cost through rentals to go toward purchase price. If Hamilton Township doesn't do this, Mr. Lloyd would like the Borough to look at information. He suggested Council reconvene Council meeting after April 21 to look at backhoe information. Council agreed to reconvene on April 24, 2008 at 5:00 P.M. Other items to be discussed at the reconvened meeting are: Enterprise Map, Blossburg Exit / Interchange off Route 15 streetlights, and suggested improvements to Borough Building.

Coalie Pickman banner signs along Main Street have been installed. There are plans to get four (4) different kinds of banners for each season. The signs will be changed accordingly.

**(H) Planning Commission:**

Reorganization meeting was held on March 25, 2008.

Planning Commission accepted request for a home occupation / special exemption for property located at 104 Taylor Street.

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

On April 30, 2008 a meeting is scheduled to review home occupation / special exemption for home located at 104 Taylor Street.

**(I) Recreation:** Advertise for Island Park pool lifeguards to work this summer.

New dugouts are being built for Little League baseball.

Discussed resubmitting Skate Park DCNR Grant Application.

**(J) Fire:** No report received. Councilmember Jeffrey Everett questioned why Council doesn't receive minutes / reports from Fire Department. Since Mr. Everett is attending their meeting, he will attempt getting Council the reports.

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

Council discussed the sale of Williamson Road Television Company vs. taking a loan out for the upgrading of the television lines. Customers are asking for additional options from the cable service that Williamson Road Television doesn't offer. More and more residents are going to dish satellites, because of what is offered and the cost per month. At one time there were approximately 700 customers. Presently there are about 550.

**(L) Library:** No meeting.

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

Borough Manager to look at roads needing tar & chipping this year. He will present list to Council.

**Reports:**

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

(O) **Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):**

Lynd Street water tank demolition is completed. The Borough crew will remove the concrete building.

Frank Wasowicz and Scott Fessler went to State College on April 2, 2008 to accept AWOP Award for Bellman Filter Plant.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

The Borough Manager gave information to the Borough Solicitor.

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

3. **Streetlights for the Blossburg Exit / Interchange:**

A letter was received from PennDOT that stated "installing and operating highway lighting rests with the local officials wherein it is to be located". Also, the Borough must make an application to the Department of Transportation for a highway occupancy permit.

Councilmembers discussed other ideas that may be approved through PennDOT on the streetlight installation.

*Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett suggested # 4 – Tioga County Tax Preferential Program and # 5 Transient Retail Business Ordinance be removed from the agenda.*

4. **Tioga County Tax Preferential Program:**

Discussed at Public Hearing tonight.

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

5. **Transient Retail Business Ordinance:**

New Sate law overrides current Borough Ordinance.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Appoint Borough Secretary as the Open-Records Officer:**

On February 14, 2008, Governor Rendell signed into law the Pennsylvania Right to Know Act (Act 3 of 2008). All Boroughs are required to name an official or employee to serve as the Open Records Officer. Councilmember James Bogaczyk made a motion to appoint Borough Secretary Mary Signor as the Open-Records Officer; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2. Outdoor Burning Ordinance:**

Repeal old burner ordinance. The Borough Solicitor is to make changes and send over.

**3. Bloss Area Swimming Association Funding Request:**

A letter was received from the Bloss Area Swimming Association requesting funding for the new pool project. The pledge requested was in the amount of \$25,000 to be disbursed in increments of \$5,000 over five years from 2008 – 2012. The Blossburg Borough 2008 Budget was approved on November 12, 2007 and no monies were allocated for the pool this year. However, Councilmembers agreed to include the pool in next year's budget by pledging funds up to a total of \$25,000 in increments of \$5,000 over five years from 2009 – 2013. Also, Councilmembers want the Bloss Area Swimming Association to know they will receive the Borough's full cooperation with this new endeavor.

Motion to pledge \$25,000 in increments of \$5,000 over five years from 2009 – 2013 was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz.

Roll Call: Yes – Thomas Bogaczyk, Jill Nickerson, James Holleman, Cheryl Bubacz,  
James Bogaczyk, Jeffery Everett.

Motion carried.

Councilmember James Bogaczyk asked that a letter be sent to the Bloss Area Swimming Association informing the Association of Council's decision.

**4. Skate Park Resolution:**

Councilmember Jill Nickerson is applying again this year for a DCNR Grant for a Skate Park on Island Park. The required resolution for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant application is due soon. A motion for Borough Council to approve sponsoring the DCNR Grant Application for the Skate Park was made by Cheryl Bubacz; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2008 AT THE ELKLAND FIRE & AMBULANCE BUILDING, 105 PARKHURST STREET, ELKLAND, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M.**

Meeting will not adjourn as there are some items to be completed. The meeting was dismissed at 8:07 P.M. by President Jerome Ogden, to reconvene April 24, 2008 at 5:00 P.M. in the Council Room of the Borough Building, 245 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

**Borough Council Meeting continued from April 14, 2008 –  
Reconvened April 24, 2008 at 5:00 P.M. in the Council Room of the Borough Building, 245 Main Street,  
Blossburg, PA.**

**Attendance:** President Jerome Ogden; Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk; Councilmembers Jill Nickerson, James Holleman, Cheryl Bubacz, James Bogaczyk, Jeffrey Everett; Mayor John Backman; (absent, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett); Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Charles Freeberg KCC Committee; David Thompson, Sr.

**KCC Building:** Charles Freeberg attended the meeting to resign his duties for the KCC Building, because of health reasons. He recommended David Thompson, Sr. to take over his duties. Mr. Freeberg will help Mr. Thompson get acquainted with managing the Recreation Building. Motion was made by Thomas Bogaczyk to accept Charles Freeberg's resignation and appoint David Thompson, Sr. to be in charge of the KCC Building; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Councilmembers thanked Mr. Freeberg for the exceptional work he did while managing the KCC Building.

**Backhoe Purchase:** Hamilton Township to look at the purchase of a new backhoe for the installation of the new water line to Morris Run.

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

**Meeting with Penelec:**

Today there was a meeting with Jody Place and Dan Strein. The purpose of the meeting was to help get things going with the installation of streetlights along the Blossburg Exit / Interchange off Route 15. PennDOT dictates type of pole to be set along interchange. Mr. Strein will meet with PennDOT and see what can be done. Maybe a meeting can be arranged between PennDOT, Penelec and Blossburg Borough.

Councilmember Thomas Bogaczyk reported on the completed work done by Penelec to upgrade Borough power lines from April 2007 – May 2007.

**North Penn High School Graduation:**

Blossburg Borough received request from Southern Tioga School District to use Island Park for the Class of 2008 graduation ceremony. The date of graduation is Saturday, June 7, 2008 at 10:00 A.M. and will be over by 12:00 P.M. The Island will also be needed for graduation practices on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Also, they would like the gates locked at night to help discourage possible trouble for the graduation set-up or on the football field. A possible Parade Permit may be requested, if the Class will be marching down Main Street to McIntyre Street – over the pedestrian bridge to the football field. Councilmember Jeffrey Everett made a motion to approve the S.T.S.D. requests; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

**124 Davis Street Property:** There is a contractor interested in purchasing the property located at 124 Davis Street. The contractor would like to raze the home and replace with another. Councilmembers suggested a letter of intent should be sent to the bank. Borough Manager George Lloyd to contact the Borough Solicitor to review.

**Borough Building Repairs:** Mr. Lloyd reported what needs to be repaired on the Borough Building and that he is waiting on contractor estimates. Two (2) sides of the building will qualify under the façade Main Street Program.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY MAYOR JOHN BACKMAN AT 5:25 P.M. RECONVENED 5:30 P.M. PERSONNEL ISSUES DISCUSSED. NO ACTION TAKEN.**

Tioga County Tax Preferential Program to be added to next month's agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT:** President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 5:31 P.M.

**Next Council Meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.**

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Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary