

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

November 14, 2011

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council Second Vice-President Jill Nickerson 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: (absent, President Thomas Bogaczyk (in Florida)); Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jeffrey Everett, (absent, Cheryl Bubacz (sick)), Roger Bunn, Jolene Hall; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) Member Josh Jones; Rebecca Hazen Wellsboro Gazette; Bev Jones; Kelsey Rudinski NPHS Student Representative; Paul Hosszu and Stephen Wagner Newly Elected Councilmembers; Kenneth Hughes; Michael Nickerson; Grace Hill.

Minutes: The minutes of the October 10, 2011 and October 24, 2011 meetings were accepted on motion of Jeffrey Everett; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Jeffrey Everett; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Jeffrey Everett; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

Guests: Newly elected Councilmembers Paul Hosszu and Stephen Wagner attended tonight's meeting to become current with council meeting topics, before taking oath in January 2012.

Kenneth Hughes was attending for observation.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Supreme Sacrifice Post 8730 Representative Michael Nickerson reported the VFW will be donating \$100.00 toward the Blossburg Police Department.

Grace Hill was in attendance to discuss the problem of the sewer water backing up in her home located at 101 Hannibal Street. When it rains hard, for a long time, the toilet backs up on the first floor and sewer water comes up in the basement sink. During these times, she is unable to use the water and sewer facilities and has to go elsewhere or sometimes finds it necessary to use a 5 gallon container. If she uses the bucket – where does she dispose of the contents? One suggestion was to bring in a portable toilet and set it by her home. Ms. Hill pays her water and sewer bills and should not have to go for days at a time without being able to use these services. Borough Manager George Lloyd reported there are a few other areas in town with the same problem. The plan is to get the flows under control by fixing bad sewer lines, but the repairs may take awhile. To take pressure off the STP, the Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA) has purchased a 6" pump that is used with a 4" pump to pump excess flows on the ground. Homes with sump pump connections to the sewer and leaking sewer lines need to be identified. BMA has paid \$4,350.00 to DEP in fines so far. Fines are issued every time the 4" or 6" pumps pump water on the ground and bypass the STP.

Bev Jones asked about the following topics: (1) School dumpsters need to be picked up more often. (2) Potholes on Granger Street need fixed. (3) The maps for the Granger Street Extension have the street name as Granger Street Extension, not Miss Daisy Lane. Corrected maps are needed. (4) A few properties / homes on Schuylkill Street are in bad condition. These properties are bringing down the value of the other homes located on that street.

Reports:

(A) **NPBS Student:** Kelsey Rudinski gave a Student Council Activity Report.

(B) **KCC:** Organization is getting estimates for remodeling.

A list of people who have keys to KCC Building is needed.

(C) **Committee Business Development:**

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) meetings are held on fourth Wednesday of the month at the Brick Tavern at 6:30 P.M.

V.I.B.E. Minutes were not available from the Internet.

V.I.B.E. Officers are: President – Heidi Jones, Vice President – Jill Nickerson, Secretary – Josh Jones and Treasurer – Kelly Rossell.

The October 16, 2011 Fall Festival was a success. This year's festival was a joint operation between V.I.B.E. and the Blossburg Elementary School Team (B.E.S.T.). The hayride, which was sponsored by American Legion William B. Wilson Post 572, was enjoyed by 381 people. All attending enjoyed having KC101 as the DJ.

The new "Blossburg Business Directory" placemats are printed and should be in the mail by end of week.

"Light Up the Holidays" is coming up.

Skate Park: The Skate Park was inspected by Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) on October 18, 2011. A handicap sign is required. Grant needs to be closed out by December 31, 2011. After Skate Park Grant is closed out, Grants for the Walking Trail will be assessed.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman reported he had received complaints about the mess from the berries off of the Main Street trees. Trees in front of the Borough Office are dangerous and need to come down and are to be replaced with Japanese lilac trees. Every other pine tree by the Monument should be taken down. Borough crew is to remove trees when time is available.

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

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

A \$5,000.00 Police Grant was received from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

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

Reports:

(G) Borough Manager:

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Jeffrey Everett; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

On November 9, 2011, South Mountain Reclamation Project by Kyler Environmental started hauling biosolids for reclaiming old mined areas. South Williamson Road and William B. Street will be the access roads.

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

Planning Commission member Stephen Wagner was elected to Blossburg Borough Council on November 8, 2011. A person is needed for his replacement in January 2012. Mr. Wagner's last term year is 2013. A name was suggested and the person will be contacted by George Lloyd to see if she / he are interested in fulfilling Mr. Wagner's remaining term.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(I) Recreation:

Recreation Board members and volunteers met to work on mailing letters requesting donations for the Blossburg Area United Fund.

Jerome Ogden presented three checks from the Williamson Road Foundation. Check #1: \$1,000.00 toward purchase and installation of a handicap accessible water fountain for Island Park. Check #2: \$3,689.75 to help fund the Walking Trail Project around Island Park. Check #3: \$2,000.00 toward removing trees and putting in a new electric service at the Blossburg Monument.

Walking Trail: Borough crew is working on, as time allows.

Pool: Main Line Commercial Pools are PAID IN FULL.

(J) Fire: No Financial Report was received.

Selective Insurance is to be contacted to review if fire equipment is insured for replacement value.

(K) Library: Library Board is in process of changing their meeting time, so Council Library Committee Members will be able to attend the Library Board meetings.

(L) Street Committee: Nothing to report.

(M) Shade Tree Commission: Nothing to report.

(N) Budget: Proposed 2012 Budget: \$674,165.00 Revenues/Expenses.
Borough: 5.807 Mills – Fire: .568 Mills – Library: .250 Mills. Effective rate: 6.625 mills.

No tax increase.

A motion to advertise the proposed 2012 Budget was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

Reports:

Garbage rate increase of \$.25/week. New quarterly bill would be \$31.85. This new rate would be an 11.4% increase in quarterly bill. The increase should generate \$9,490.00/year, which would be used to purchase a new garbage truck. Motion to amend the Garbage and Refuse Ordinance to allow for the authorized increased revenue for collection of garbage and refuse with the Borough of Blossburg was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

(O) Project Committee: Working on a January 2012 newsletter.

(P) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA): Authority is working with DEP on new limits the STP had to meet for phosphorus. Also, looking for I & I problems.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Southern Tioga School District Plans for New North Penn High School:** Nothing to report.

2. **Borough Code of Ordinances – Update:**

Received eight copies of the Preliminary Draft along with editorial notes for the Borough Code of Ordinances. Preliminary Draft to be reviewed. Pennsylvania plans to change Borough Code of Ordinances. Possibility of putting a hold on updates by Keystate Publishers until state finishes their changes.

3. **Condemned Properties Update:**

(1) Schuylkill Street property owner has a Demolition Permit. Property owner hasn't started work yet.
(2) South Williamson Road properties were sold. New owner plans to remove trailer from the one property.

4. **Sidewalk Repair Letter:** The Borough Solicitor to review and approve letter. Letter to be reviewed with Code Official Michael Stoudt. A letter to be sent in the winter to alert properties owners for spring repairs.

5. **Review New Employee Applications:** Nothing to report.

6. **New Electrical Service Behind the Downtown Monument:** Stoudt's Electric to be contacted for approximate costs.

7. **Borough Building Upgrades:** Contractor was contacted and is not able to schedule work this year.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution Blossburg Police Pension Plan Act 600:**

Annual requirement for record: Resolution for Police Pension Fund stating if necessary for officers to pay into the Pension or not. No payment required for 2012.

RESOLUTION NO. 5 – Motion to adopt Police Pension Fund Resolution was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. **Advertise for Vehicle Fuel Bids:** Motion to advertise for vehicle fuel bids was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

3. **Permission to Purchase Thanksgiving Turkeys for Borough Employees:**

A motion to purchase Thanksgiving turkeys for Borough employees was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

4. **Re-Appointments to Committees and Boards (Last Term Year 2011):**

Re-Appointment to Planning Commission: Deb Everett, 331 South Williamson Road (agreed to re-appointment); 4yrs. – Term ending 2015. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Roger Bunn. All in favor.

Re-Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board: Shelby Kinsey, 127 North Williamson Road (agreed to re-appointment); 5yrs. – Term ending 2016. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Roger Bunn. All in favor.

Re-Appointment to Blossburg Municipal Authority: John Eckman, 311 Davis Street (agreed to re-appointment); 5yrs. – Term ending 2016. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Roger Bunn. All in favor.

Re-Appointment to Blossburg Recreation Board: Jill Nickerson, 217 Parkhurst Street (agreed to re-appointment); 5yrs. – Term ending 2016. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Roger Bunn. All in favor.

5. **KCC Building Usage Request (Zumba):**

A letter was received from Beth Weiskopff asking Council's approval to use the KCC Building for Zumba on Mondays from 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M., Wednesdays for strength training from 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M., and Saturday or Sunday mornings from 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. for cardio.

Motion to approve the use of the KCC Building for the above exercise classes, at no cost, was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011 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. RSVP BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT: Vice-President Jill Nickerson closed the meeting at 7:47 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary