

# BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## December 12, 2011

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Thomas Bogaczyk 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 Jill Nickerson; Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jeffrey Everett, Cheryl Bubacz, Roger Bunn, Jolene Hall; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett (late 6:50 P.M.); 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 (late); Rebecca Hazen-Witucki Wellsboro Gazette; Bev Jones; Kelsey Rudinski NPHS Student Representative; Newly Elected Councilmembers Paul Hosszu and Stephen Wagner.

**Minutes:** Correction on the November 14, 2011 minutes: Vice-President Jill Nickerson closed the meeting.

The minutes of the November 14, 2011 meeting, with correction, was accepted on motion of Jill Nickerson; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

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

**Bills:** Bills to be paid on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Jill Nickerson. 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.

### **Reports:**

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

Congratulations to the North Penn Football Team for winning the Division II Eastern Conference.

NPHS Christmas Band/Chorus Concert will be held December 14, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. in the NPHS Auditorium.

Kiwanis will be sponsoring a Girls and Boys Basketball Tournament from December 27 – 29, 2011.

(B) **KCC:** Organization is waiting on another siding bid.

A list of people who have keys to KCC Building was given to George Lloyd.

(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. No December meeting will be held. The next scheduled meeting will be January 25, 2012.

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

**Reports:**

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

The "Light up the Holidays" judging, in Blossburg, will be held on Sunday, December 18, 2011.

The new "Blossburg Business Directory" placemats were mailed.

Two proposed upcoming projects are: (1) Search for possible funding options for the Island Park Walking Trail. (2) "Welcome Packages" for new residents.

**Skate Park:** The Skate Park was inspected by Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) on October 18, 2011. The required handicap figure was painted on parking area, marking space. DCNR Grant paperwork to be finalized and mailed by December 31, 2011.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman was approached by Raymond (Keith) Lindie. Mr. Lindie and other residents are interested in having a building placed on the Island Park, designated for a "Blossburg Coal Museum". After a short discussion, Councilmembers decided to set up a committee to come up with some options; i.e. location, type of building, etc. Committee Members are: Thomas Bogaczyk, Jerome Ogden and Paul Hosszu. Raymond Kaminski will be asked to be on the Committee, as well. Committee is to bring back their recommendations.

(E) **Police:** *Police Reported was discussed at beginning of tonight's meeting, because Chief McCurdy had other commitments.*

Everyone has received a copy of the Police Report.

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

Nothing to report.

Chief McCurdy left the meeting at 6:35 P.M.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

Nothing to report.

(H) **Planning Commission:** Meeting of November 29, 2011.

Committee discussed a request for a single family home on Lynd Street to be changed into a two (2) family unit home. There are questions on applicable parking space area. DEP is to be contacted concerning sewer connection.

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 person was contacted by George Lloyd to see if she / he would be interested in fulfilling Mr. Wagner's remaining term. Mr. Lloyd is waiting for their answer.

**Reports:**

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

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

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

Pool: Main Line Commercial Pools are PAID IN FULL.  
Paperwork was submitted to DCNR for \$275,000.00 Grant money.  
Pool Association are working on a proposed "splash pad" in 2012, if there is sufficient money.

(J) **Fire:** No Financial Report was received.

Fire equipment was updated to be covered for replacement value under the Selective Insurance Policy.

At the Fire Meeting, nominations for officers were made. Also, discussed the annual Fire Banquet.

(K) **Library:** Next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2012. Other scheduled meetings are the third Monday in April, July and October at 6:00 P.M.

Blossburg Memorial Library received a donation from the Ward Foundation in the amount of \$5,000.00.

(L) **Street Committee:** Bev Jones reported potholes on Granger Street need repaired.

(M) **Shade Tree Commission:** Councilmember Jeffrey Everett made the suggestion, since the leaves are off the Main Street trees, this would be an ideal time for all to visualize no trees on Main Street and what the building would look like with no trees in front of them.

(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.

Motion to accept the 2012 Budget, as presented, was made by Cheryl Bubacz; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

(O) **Project Committee:** Items Committee is working on: (1) January 2012 newsletter contents.  
(2) Recycle Program. (3) Blossburg Memorial Monument tree problems.

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

Meeting with engineer on December 15, 2011 to discuss I & I problems.

360 tons of STP sludge was hauled to South Mountain Reclamation Project.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**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. In case State makes changes, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett suggested holding off for one (1) month before Preliminary Draft is reviewed.

**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.

Another property on Schuylkill Street is in bad condition. Property to be evaluated.

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

**5. Review New Employee Applications:** Mr. Lloyd is in the process of contacting two (2) more applicants.

**6. New Electrical Service Behind the Downtown Monument:**

Nothing to report. Possibility the Legion and the VFW may be willing to donate towards project.

**7. Borough Building Upgrades:** Contractor not able to schedule work this year. Upgrades are to be done ASAP. Upstairs windows are to be included in the upgrade.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. 2012 Fuel Bids (Coverage Period: January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012):**

Received as advertised:

<u>Williams Oil &amp; Propane:</u>	Diesel Winter Mix -	\$3.3282 per gallon
	Diesel Summer Mix -	\$3.3282 per gallon
	Unleaded Medium Grade -	\$2.8215 per gallon

<u>Superior Plus Energy Services:</u>	Diesel Winter Mix -	\$3.3913 per gallon
	Diesel Summer Mix -	\$3.1113 per gallon
	Unleaded Medium Grade -	\$3.0615 per gallon

Motion was made by Jeffrey Everett to accept Williams Oil & Propane bid; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

**2. Advertise 2012 Tax Ordinance:**

A motion to advertise the proposed 2012 Tax Ordinance was made by Cheryl Bubacz; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**3. New Garbage Rate Increase of \$.25/Week:**

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 toward purchase of new garbage truck. Motion to advertise the Garbage and Refuse Ordinance to allow for the authorized increased revenue for collection of garbage and refuse within the Borough of Blossburg was made by Cheryl Bubacz; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor. Amended ordinance to be adopted at the January 2, 2012 Council Meeting.

**4. The Mansfield Chamber of Commerce – Requesting the Blossburg Borough to Become a Member in 2012:**

Motion to decline invite to become a member of the Mansfield Chamber of Commerce was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

**5. Councilmember Roger Bunn Vacancy on Council:**

The recent Primary Election of Roger Bunn as Tioga County Commissioner has created a vacancy on Council as of December 31, 2011. Mr. Bunn's term would have ended December 2013. An ad will be published in the Wellsboro Gazette requesting any Borough resident wishing to fill this vacancy should submit a letter of interest. Two (2) interested residents have already submitted their letters of interest.

President Thomas Bogaczyk thanked Councilmembers Cheryl Bubacz, Jeffery Everett and Roger Bunn for their dedication while serving on Blossburg Borough Council.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

THE 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW PUBLIC OFFICIALS DAY WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2012. ON PUBLIC OFFICIALS DAY, A BRUNCH WILL BE SERVED IN THE PA PREFERRED BANQUET HALL AT 11:00 A.M. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE CONTACT BEN JUNKIN AT (717) 772-2854 OR [bejunkin@pa.gov](mailto:bejunkin@pa.gov) BY JANUARY 5, 2012.

**ADJOURNMENT:** President Thomas Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 7:40 P.M.

**Next Council Meeting is scheduled for January 2, 2012 at 6:30 P.M.**