

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

February 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 James J. Bogaczyk); (absent, Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk (in Florida)); Second Vice-President Jill Nickerson; Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jeffrey Everett, Roger Bunn, Mark Bowne; 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; Corey Snyder NPHS Student Representative; Rebecca Hazen Wellsboro Gazette; Rick Stewart.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 3, 2011 meeting were accepted on motion of Roger Bunn; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

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

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

Guests:

Rick Stewart attended the meeting to announce he was appointed Constable. Mr. Stewart's appointment will be for 1+ year, and then he would be required to run for election.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** Borough Manager George Lloyd congratulated Corey Snyder for being selected one (1) of 22 Youth Leaders of Tomorrow for Southern Tioga School District. On February 28, 2011 a banquet will be held at New Covenant Academy to choose an overall winner.

(B) **KCC:** Cub Scouts Pack 69 requested permission to use KCC Building for an overnight activity. The overnight would be held on a Friday or Saturday night. Permission was granted by Councilmembers.

(C) **Committee Business Development:**

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) meetings are usually held on fourth Wednesday of the month in the KCC Building on Island Park at 7:00 P.M.

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

V.I.B.E. member Josh Jones reported in the following topics:

On January 26, 2011, Mr. Jones and a few others attended the first introduction meeting on Charting the Future of Our Community. The focus was on Tioga County as a whole. Approximately 125 people attended this meeting. "The Charting the Future of Our Community program is a visioning process developed by Penn State Cooperative Extension and is delivered in partnership with local organizations and volunteers. Charting the Future of Our Community is a tool that local citizens use to build consensus for planning their community's future. The program brings together community leaders and

Reports:

interested citizens who are willing to commit time and energy to discovering their vision and building a plan of action to achieve it.” Additional information about the program is available on their website: www.tiogacharting.com.

The date for the Community Yard Sale is May 7, 2011. Location maps are to be made available.

The third Sunday in October will be the Fall Festival activities.

V.I.B.E. members are reviewing methods for increasing business for the Farmers Market.

Skate Park: Workers are waiting for warmer weather to finalize required projects. After jobs are completed, inspections by DCNR will be scheduled. If projects pass inspections, another payment will be processed from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Grant resources.

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

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

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

Use of Electronic Read Out Speed Signs: Corresponding with PennDOT for contacts and pricing.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Jeffrey Everett; second, Mark Bowne. All in favor.

The Shade Tree Commission is to meet on March 15, 2011 at 4:00 P.M. The trees along Main Street will be the topic of discussion. Vincent Cotrone, Urban Forester, Penn State Cooperative Extension will be attending. The cost for Mr. Cotrone's travel reimbursement will be approximately \$115.00.

The crosswalk located on North Williamson Road next to the Methodist Church is to be relocated due to the fact that the existing crosswalk is not ADA-compliant and is not at an intersection location to safely convey pedestrians from one side of S.R. 2005 to the other. New proposed crosswalk to be moved 25' North of the existing crosswalk. Additional signage will be needed after project is completed.

Dates for filing Petitions for May 17, 2011 Primary:

February 15, 2011 – 1st day to obtain signatures for petition.

March 8, 2011 – Last day to file petition at Courthouse.

March 23, 2011 – Last day to remove name from primary.

Reports:

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

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

Zoning Hearing board member Loretta Frost has moved out of town. Four (4) possible names mentioned as Ms. Frost's replacement. Nominated replacement names are to be contacted and will be announced at March 14, 2011 Council Meeting.

(I) **Recreation:** Recreation Board to discuss United Fund disbursements next month.

On January 10, 2011 the Southern Tioga School District Board of Education, approved Stephen Hall as Board representative to the Blossburg Recreation Board.

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

No members from Council attended meeting.

Councilmembers attending the Blossburg Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Association's annual Appreciation Banquet on January 15, 2011 stated it was very nice.

(K) **Library:** Councilmember Roger Bunn reported on the January 2011 Library Report:

New carpeting to be installed sometime in February. Cost to be paid through a matching 2010 Public Library Facilities Mini-Grant through Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund. Help is needed to move books and shelving, since this not included in the bid.

Received a matching grant from the Williamson Road Cable Company in the amount of \$400.00 to purchase 5 Kindles and e-books for the library. Kindles are only to be used in library.

Heritage Quest, a popular database used for genealogy research, is back.

(L) **Street Committee:**

Borough Solicitor has a proposed ordinance, limiting truck traffic on streets. Mr. Barrett will be presenting to Council.

(M) **Budget:** Nothing at this time.

(N) **Project Committee:** Councilmembers Jill Nickerson and Jeffrey Everett met. They discussed composing and mailing a Borough newsletter this spring.

(O) **Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):** Materials are in for water projects to be done around town.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Southern Tioga School District Plans for New North Penn High School:

Act 34 Public Hearing to renovate and reconstruct North Penn High School and renovate Blossburg Elementary School is scheduled tonight.

The Community is still being encouraged to support and keep updated on the decisions regarding repairs or new construction on the Blossburg schools.

2. Borough Code of Ordinances – Update:

Preliminary Editorial Report was reviewed with Keystate Publishers on November 30, 2010. New report with changes should be sent to Borough the first part of March 2011.

3. Condemned Properties Update:

(1) Davis Street property sold. New owner is a contractor. A building permit was issued for repairing the home. (2) Borough Solicitor filed papers on Schuylkill Street property owner. Property owner was in for a Demolition Permit. (3) Nevins Street property was sold. New owner is a contractor and is in process of remodeling the house. (4) Borough Manager is waiting for reply from the property owner of home located on Main Street, which had a fire inside it.

4. Sidewalk Repair Letter:

Borough Solicitor and Code Officer are to review letter and give final approval. Property owners requiring sidewalk repairs will be notified in the spring. Also, Borough owned sidewalks will be included on list needing repairs.

Sidewalk repairs to be included in the Borough's Spring Newsletter.

5. Engine Brake Ordinance (Jake Brake Ordinance):

Road requirements: (1) Speed Limit < 55 mph. (2) Downhill Grade < 4%. (3) No history of runaway truck crashes or rear-end crashes involving a truck.

Committee Members: Jeffrey Everett, Roger Bunn, Mark Bowne, Chief McCurdy and George D. Lloyd met and brought back lowering the speed limit on old Rt. 15, from B & D Transfer to North Williamson Road, just before Main Street green bridge. A letter will be sent to PennDOT, requesting the lower speed limit.

6. New Flood Plain Ordinance:

New Flood Plain Ordinance was reviewed and approved by Councilmembers. The "draft" Flood Plain Ordinance was sent to Tioga County Conservation. FEMA to review by April 1, 2011.

Tioga County Flood Summit to held on Friday, February 25, 2011 from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Tokishi Training Center, 124 NYPUM Drive, Wellsboro, PA.

OLD BUSINESS:

7. Landlord / Tenant Registration Ordinance:

Amending the Code of Ordinances and mandating landlords within the borough to provide the Borough with a monthly registration form identifying its residential tenants. Motion that the proposed Landlord / Tenant Registration Ordinance to be adopted as advertised was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Jeffrey Everett. Unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. TCAB Dinner – Blossburg Borough Host for March:

Thursday, March 24, 2011 was decided as the date. Location to be the Blossburg Fire and Ambulance Building. The Blossburg Fire Department Auxiliary will be providing the meal. The program will consist of Tioga County Commissioner candidates speaking about their campaign objectives.

2. North Penn High School Students – Grades 9th and 10th:

North Penn High School student's grades 9th and 10th will be participating in a community service project, between the dates of March 14, 2011 and April 8, 2011. These students will be around the community from 8:30 A.M. through 10:00 A.M. each school morning. Their services are extended to anyone within walking distance of the school that might need help with odd jobs. The following is a list of services the students are offering: Raking leaves or other yard work, painting, washing walls, picking up trash, cleaning windows and sweeping up stones from winter. Mrs. Samantha Yonker may be contacted at 638-2158 on school days between 7:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Corey Snyder is to ask Mrs. Yonker, if students might be able to help with the moving of books and shelves when the Blossburg Memorial Library has the carpet installed.

3. Tioga County Commissioners – Marcellus Shale Natural Gas:

The Tioga County Commissioners forwarded a letter to Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) stating their concerns about the potential impact of approving groundwater withdrawals for the purpose of developing the Marcellus Shale Natural Gas through the process of hydro-fracking. Liberty Township has sent a letter to SRBC in support of the Tioga County Commissioners concerns.

This topic to be discussed at the March 14, 2011 Council Meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT AT 7:22 P.M.
RECONVENED 7:35 P.M. POSSIBLE LITIGATION DISCUSSED.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011 AT THE TRINITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 6 BROAD STREET, TIOGA, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M.

A BENEFIT DINNER FOR LEIGHTON HILL WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2011 AT THE HILLSIDE ROD & GUN CLUB, BLOSSBURG, PA. BEGINNING AT 5:00 P.M. UNTIL ?. \$8.00 PER PERSON. CHILDREN UNDER 5 ARE FREE. CONTACT: TIMOTHY TRESKOTT AT 570-772-7450.

TIOGA COUNTY FLOOD SUMMIT TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2011 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M. AT THE TOKISHI TRAINING CENTER, 124 NYPUM DRIVE, WELLSBORO, PA.

ADJOURNMENT: Second Vice-President Jill Nickerson closed the meeting at 7:36 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary