

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

March 14, 2011

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President James J. 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 Thomas Bogaczyk; Second Vice-President Jill Nickerson; Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jeffrey Everett, (absent, Mark Bowne), Roger Bunn; 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; (absent, Corey Snyder NPHS Student Representative); Rebecca Hazen Wellsboro Gazette; William and Beth Faughnan, Jr.; William Faughnan, Sr.; Douglas Matthews; Dave Jones; Bev Jones; Heidi Jones; Kenneth Hughes.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 14, 2011 meeting were accepted on motion of Jill Nickerson; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

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

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

Guests:

Dave Jones, Bev Jones, Heidi Jones and Kenneth Hughes were attending tonight's meeting for observation.

William and Beth Faughnan, Jr., William Faughnan, Sr. and Douglas Matthews attended the meeting to discuss the property at the end of Spring Street, which was purchased by William and Beth Faughnan. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett presented a proposed "Agreement between Blossburg Borough and William D. and Beth R. Faughnan and Bobby J. and Evelyn A. Hamel" earlier this month. Both Mr. and Mrs. Faughnan have issues with the proposed agreement; i.e. who is responsible for driveway maintenance, width of driveway, water and gas line locations, questions on Borough Code 1725 interpretations, etc. After a lengthy discussion (6:45 P.M. to 7:25 P.M.) it was agreed Mr. Barrett would set up a meeting, on a suitable date, after 4:30 P.M., between Mr. & Mrs. Faughnan, Mr. & Mrs. Hamel and Borough to reach an agreement between all parties.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** Corey Snyder was absent.

(B) **KCC:** Cub Scouts Pack 69 overnight activity to be held April 1 – 2, 2011.

(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 had no updates to report.

Skate Park: Nothing to report.

Workers are waiting for warmer weather to finalize required projects.

Reports:

(D) **Mayor:** Brian Isaccson, 23 years old, was introduced as a possible new part-time patrolman for the Police Department. Mr. Isaccson is a graduate from the Mansfield University Police Academy. He is presently attending Mansfield University majoring in criminal justice, and scheduled to graduate August 2011. If hired, Mr. Isaccson will be required to pass both a physical exam and a physiological examination. A motion was made by Thomas Bogaczyk to hire Brian Isaccson, part-time, for the Blossburg Police Department. His wages are to be \$9.00/hr.; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

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

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

A motion was made by Roger Bunn to enforce “no overnight parking” of private or commercial vehicles on Island Park, unless approved by Borough Manager, Police Chief or another Borough Official: second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

Use of Electronic Read Out Speed Signs: Nothing at this time.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Jill Nickerson; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

Mayor Backman, Roger Bunn and Borough Manager George D. Lloyd attended a Hazard Mitigation meeting in Wellsboro today. Review of 2005 Mitigation Projects form was presented to Council. Total of 24 projects: 3 are completed; 10 are started; and, 11 no progress. Hazard Mitigation proposals to be reviewed every five (5) years. Proactive approach to recognize problems is encouraged. Councilmember Roger Bunn suggested three (3) new actions be added to the Hazard Mitigation form. They are as follows: (1) Mitigate possibility of traffic accident at intersection of Bloss Mountain Road and Boone Run Road. (2) Spill response. (3) River dike improvements from Methodist Church to Freeberg’s Funeral Home (possibility to add a few additional areas). If Council agrees, these three (3) items are to be submitted by Friday, March 18, 2011. There is possible PEMA funding for some of the projects. Participation is required to receive funding. Motion was made by Jeffrey Everett to submit additional three (3) actions, in addition to any other areas that may be thought of before the deadline; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

(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. Shelby Kinsey has agreed to serve on Zoning Hearing Board, as Loretta Frost’s replacement.

Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board: Motion to appoint Shelby Kinsey to Zoning Hearing Board was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

(I) **Recreation:** Recreation Board to discuss United Fund disbursements this month. The organization is waiting to receive Ward Manufacturing’s donation. Overall donations should be approximately the same as last year.

Reports:

(J) **Fire:** A Financial Report was received.

Councilmembers Jeffrey Everett and Roger Bunn attended the meeting.

Councilmember Thomas Bogaczyk stated the Departments should be commended for the outstanding job they are doing.

(K) **Library:** Councilmember Roger Bunn reported the new carpet was installed.

The next quarterly meeting will be held on April 18, 2011 at 6:00 P.M.

(L) **Street Committee:** Nothing at this time.

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

(N) **Project Committee:** Borough newsletter is almost complete.

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

BMA is looking into options on existing Land Management Agreement for Taylor Run timber.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Nothing at this time.

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:

Nothing at this time.

Preliminary Editorial Report was reviewed with Keystate Publishers on November 30, 2010. New report with changes should be sent to Borough soon.

3. Condemned Properties Update:

(1) Schuylkill Street property owner has a Demolition Permit. (2) The home located on Main Street, is up For Sale. Contract is under a realtor.

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.

Shade Tree Committee meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2011. Vincent Cotrone – Urban Forester, from Penn State Cooperative Extension to attend. The trees on Main Street and Island Park are to be discussed.

OLD BUSINESS:

5. Reduce Speed Limit on Old Rt. 15:

A letter is to be sent to PennDOT, requesting a lower speed limit on Bloss Mountain Road (old Rt. 15), starting from B & D Transfer and ending at North Williamson Road, just before Main Street green bridge.

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.

7. Tioga County Commissioners Letter – RE: Marcellus Shale Natural Gas:

The Tioga County Board of Commissioners is concerned about the potential impact of approving groundwater withdrawals for the purpose of developing the Marcellus Shale Natural Gas through the hydro-fracking process.

Blossburg Borough requested to do letter of support. Councilmembers tabled the request.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Councilmember Mark C. Bowne Resignation:

Prior to tonight’s meeting, President James J. Bogaczyk received a letter from Councilmember Mark C. Bowne stating his resignation effective today March 14, 2011.

Council has 30 days to appoint Mr. Bowne’s replacement.

Cheryl Bubacz was contacted, before tonight’s meeting, asking Mrs. Bubacz if she would be interested in fulfilling Mr. Bowne’s term, which ends the end of 2011. Mrs. Bubacz accepted the position. Motion to appoint Cheryl Bubacz as Mark Bowne’s replacement was made by Jerome Ogden; second Thomas Bogaczyk.

Roll Call: Yes – James Bogaczyk, Thomas Bogaczyk, Jeffrey Everett, Roger Bunn, Jerome Ogden

No – Jill Nickerson

Motion carried.

2. Employees Safety Equipment:

Councilmember Jeffrey Everett requested the public works department wear safety equipment and the Borough Manager to enforce the issue.

Also, Mr. Everett suggested that Council approve to purchase “pizza for lunch” to show their appreciation for the great job the employees are doing, especially with all the snow removal they have done. Motion was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT AT 8:25 P.M.
RECONVENED 8:46 P.M. POSSIBLE LITIGATION DISCUSSED.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY,
MARCH 24, 2011 AT THE BLOSSBURG FIRE & AMBULANCE BUILDING, 324 MAIN STREET,
BLOSSBURG, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M.**

**TIOGA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 15TH ANNUAL TCDC LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST
AT THE PENN WELLS HOTEL, 62 MAIN STREET, WELLSBORO, PA ON THURSDAY, APRIL 21,
2011 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. (BUFFET OPENS AT 7:30 A.M.). R.S.V.P. & PAYMENT DUE BY
APRIL 12, 2011.**

ADJOURNMENT: President James Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 8:47 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary