

# BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## September 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; 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; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Bev Jones; Kenneth Hughes.

Council President Thomas Bogaczyk asked for a moment of silence in honor of the 9/11 victims. On September 11, 2011 it was the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the August 8, 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 Cheryl Bubacz; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

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

**Guests:** Bev Jones asked if school dumpsters could be emptied after lunch period.

Councilmember Jeffrey Everett commented he would like to see the dumpsters in an enclosed area. Borough Manager George D. Lloyd reported the new school architects already have included the dumpsters to be in an enclosed area.

Bev Jones stated old Granger Street was washed out from the recent heavy rains and need attention. A few sections on the north end of Granger Street should be made wider. The Street Committee is to review the Granger Street problems on September 14, 2011 at 1:00 P.M.

### **Reports:**

(A) **NPHS Student:** No student present.

Councilmember Jill Nickerson e-mailed Sarah Brion, NPHS Student Council Advisor/English Teacher asking if any student(s) would be interested in attending the Council meetings. Mrs. Nickerson is waiting for a reply.

(B) **KCC:** Partners in Progress used the building for the summer and moved out on August 19, 2011.

(C) **Committee Business Development:**

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) meetings were usually held on fourth Wednesday of the month in the KCC Building on Island Park at 7:00 P.M. Meetings are still being held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, but are now being held at the Brick Tavern at 6:30 P.M.

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

Fall Festival is scheduled October 16, 2011 from 12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Vendors will be charged a \$10.00 table fee. Contact person is Jackie Smith.

**Reports:**

**Skate Park:** Two (2) "Skate Park" informational signs are almost completed. After the signs are installed, the Skate Park is ready to be inspected by Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

**(D) Mayor:** On September 8, 2011 major flooding occurred throughout the region. The Blossburg Fire Department building was being used as "command center" during the emergency. The Wi-Fi went down, causing problems, because accurate rain fall measurements could not be monitored. A more reliable system needs to be installed or purchased. A few options were discussed: (1) Add a cell phone to existing Borough Verizon package. (2) Purchase a cell phone with data package for Emergency Coordinator Richard Williams (approximate cost \$100.00/month). (3) Purchase a USB Broadband Card device for Fire Department computer (approximate cost 60.00/month). After a discussion, Jerome Ogden made a motion to look into available program / options, and work out the details at a later date; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

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

Chief McCurdy made a correction to the July 2011 Police report. Traffic Citations should read 14 not 1014.

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

Chief McCurdy left the meeting at 6:45 P.M. A "makeup" varsity football game against Canton was being held tonight. The game was originally scheduled for Friday, September 9, 2011, but due to the flooding was rescheduled for tonight.

**Use of Electronic Read Out Speed Signs:** Purchase cost is \$3,395.00 for a portable battery power sign, with an additional cost of \$325.00 for data software. The sign would make drivers aware of their speed. This sign could not be used for enforcing speed limits. No action was taken.

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

**(G) Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

2012 Financial Requirements & Minimum Municipal Obligation for Pension Plans (MMO's):  
Police - \$10,164.00 / Non-Uniform - \$31,524.00. Councilmembers discussed the shortfall of obligations over a few years. Possibly \$5,000.00 for Police and \$10,000.00 for Non-Uniform. These totals will be discussed during the preparation of the 2012 Budget.

**(H) Planning Commission:** No meeting.

**Zoning Hearing Board:** No meeting.

**(I) Recreation:**

The 2011 – 2012 Island Park User Agreement statement was delivered to Southern Tioga School District. The amount to be received this year is \$14,000.00.

**Reports:**

Cub Scouts built more benches around Island Park trees.

Parents of Little League boys are the group that is working on the baseball fields. Money is needed to complete the projects. Group is soliciting for funds.

Lowe's donated materials and labor to repair the damage from the wind shear or tornado on May 26, 2011 at Island Park. A thank you letter is to be sent to Lowe's for their charitable donations.

Walking Trail: Borough crew is working on, as time allows. Some area was under water from the flooding.

Pool: Main Line Pools submitted Invoice #9 for the 5% held back on work completed at the pool. The invoice amount is \$30,261.86. All work is completed.

Potential \$29,500.00 penalties for Main Line Pools, because Island Park pool was not ready by May 17, 2010. Additional consulting / engineering costs paid by Borough, because of bad construction performed by Main Line Pools: \$18,787.90.

- (J) **Fire:** A Financial Report was received.
- (K) **Library:** No meeting.
- (L) **Street Committee:** Meeting set for September 14, 2011 at 1:00 P.M. to look at Granger Street widening and unimproved street washed out.
- (M) **Shade Tree Commission:** Nothing to report.
- (N) **Budget:** Start on budget. Template for starting is the last of September or first part of October.
- (O) **Project Committee:** Fire and Ambulance Departments "Thank you" picnic / concert, for their help with Island Park cleanup after the May 26, 2011 storm damage, was held on August 27, 2011. Jill Nickerson reported 40 people attended and the picnic went great. Bloss Beverage donated the soda and ice and the Holiday Market also donated items. The total cost for party was \$613.95.
- Newsletter is almost completed and should be ready for mailing in October.
- (P) **Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):**
- Inspections for water infiltration into sewer system located 17 pumps and one (1) floor drain. Eleven roof drains on Main Street need storm drain to connect to. Borough is to budget storm drain extension for next year.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

Nothing to report. All going as planned.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

Nothing at this time.

Preliminary Editorial Report was reviewed with Keystate Publishers on November 30, 2010. Nothing received yet. Process is taking longer than originally thought.

Motion made by Roger Bunn to have a letter sent to Keystate Publishers requesting information by last Tuesday in September; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

**3. Condemned Properties Update:**

(1) Schuylkill Street property owner has a Demolition Permit. Demolition has started. (2) South Williamson Road properties were sold.

**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 fall to alert properties owners for spring repairs.

**5. Review New Employee Applications:** Borough Manager is working on.

**6. New Electrical Service Behind the Downtown Monument:** Borough Manager is to check with Stoudt's Electric.

**7. Borough Building Upgrades:** Cost estimate is  $\pm$  \$3,500.00 to replace six (6) windows on 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Five (5) are in Council Room and one (1) is small window in back entrance. Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to have windows replaced as soon as possible; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Tioga County 2011 Hazard Mitigation Plan – Municipal:**

**Resolution No. 2 2011:** Motion to approve Tioga County 2011 Hazard Mitigation Plan was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

**2. Tioga County 2011 Emergency Operation Plan:**

**Resolution No. 3 2011:** Motion to approve Tioga County 2011 Emergency Operations Plan was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

**3. 2011 Halloween Trick-or-Treat Date:**

The Blossburg Borough will hold Halloween on Monday, October 31, 2011. The parade is at 5:00 P.M. – starting by the former Blossburg Ambulance Building located at the corner of Hannibal and Morris Streets. The parade will proceed West on Hannibal Street – then turn right onto Main Street and proceed North to the new Fire & Ambulance Building, 324 Main Street, where the judging of costumes will take place. Halloween hours are Monday, October 31, 2011, 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**4. Request STSD Homecoming Activities – Parade on October 14, 2011:**

A letter was received from Dr. Al Lindner asking Council's approval on the upcoming Homecoming activities. The parade is scheduled from 5:00 P.M. to 6:15 P.M. on October 14, 2011. Traffic control and a parade permit from PennDOT are requested.

Motion to approve NPHS Homecoming activities on Friday, October 14, 2011 was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

**5. America's Power Army:**

A letter was received from America's Power Army asking for support in the use of coal for providing affordable power to America. Councilmember Jerome Ogden made a motion to send a letter of support to America's Power Army, but motion died for lack of a second motion.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT AT 8:25 P.M.  
RECONVENED 8:40 P.M. PROPOSED LITIGATION DISCUSSED.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Bradford / Sullivan / Susquehanna / Tioga Area Agency on Aging Services - "We're In Your Neighborhood" "Meet and Greet Night" on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 from 6:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. at the Wellsboro Firemen's Annex, 21 East Avenue, Wellsboro, PA.**

**TCDC's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meet Our Member Mixer on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at the Tioga Central Railroad, 9 Muck Road, Wellsboro, PA. 5:15 P.M. – Boarding Starts at Wellsboro Junction. Departure 6:00 P.M. SHARP. Return 8:00 P.M.**

**TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2011 AT THE KNOXVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER (FORMER GERTRUDE CASE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL), 301 EAST MAIN STREET, KNOXVILLE, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** President Thomas Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 8:42 P.M.

**Next Council Meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.**