

# BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## November 12, 2012

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council 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 (death in family)); Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jolene Hall, Paul Hosszu, (absent, Stephen Wagner and James Rakoski); 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.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the October 8, 2012 and October 24, 2012 meetings were accepted on motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:** Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

**Bills:** Bills to be paid on motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

**Guests:** Bev Jones questioned Borough Manager George Lloyd's job scheduling of borough workers. Mrs. Jones said manual labor is focused on the wrong priorities. Borough employees have worked on the Walking Tail and improving the pool, rather than working on the infiltration of the Borough's sewer system. No new homes mean there will be no increase to the Borough's tax base. Blossburg Municipal Authority is under sanction by the Department of Environmental Protection until the infiltration problem is corrected, meaning additional customers are not permitted to hook onto the Borough's sewer system. Mr. Lloyd said workers are working on identifying infiltration problems and illegal hookups to the sewer system. Both Councilmember Jerome Ogden and Mr. Lloyd assured Mrs. Jones sewer infiltrations are a priority. Mayor John Backman suggested Mrs. Jones should direct her complaints to the Blossburg Municipal Authority.

### **Reports:**

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

(B) **KCC:** Nothing to report.

### (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 21, 2012 Fall Festival was a success. The 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 358 people.

**Reports:**

Small Town Christmas is scheduled for Sunday, November 25, 2012 from 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

- (D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman reported Police Chief McCurdy responded to a call on a possible rabid raccoon near the intersection of Bleker and Morris Streets. In the process of capturing the raccoon a white fluffy cat was bite by the raccoon. Chief McCurdy shot and killed the raccoon, but the cat fled to an unknown location. Pennsylvania Game Commission was contacted to test the raccoon carcass for diseases, including rabies. Mayor Backman recommends all outdoor pets be vaccinated and all residents should make sure their pets have an up to date rabies vaccination.

Mayor Backman contacted Heidi Jones for a proposal on a new Blossburg Borough Comprehensive Plan.

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

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

At the October 8, 2012 Council Meeting, Frank (Sandy) Higgins, 115 Carpenter Street, attended the meeting asking the Blossburg Police Department to enforce the "No Parking" zone in front of his residence. Since that time, Chief McCurdy and Dr. Albert Lindner, Principal Blossburg Elementary School, have observed the "No Parking" zone in question and the school area traffic patterns. To correct the situation the following steps have been taken: (1) Additional "No Parking" signs were erected. (2) Students are now using other exits at dismissal. (3) Drivers picking students up are using the NPHS parking lot. (4) The Police Department is monitoring the parking and are issuing tickets to drivers parking illegally.

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

- (G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

Hydro Recovery LP Expansion: Hydro Recovery LP is requesting Council approval to start earth moving and construction of Phase One, which is the construction of residual waste storage tanks. Construction of these tanks will not affect sewage flows or require municipal connections. Phase Two and Three will be an Oil Mud treatment building and an Evaporator / Crystallizer. Both Phases Two and Three will require at least 1 EDU and an approved sewage module. Borough Engineer Williams S. Bray has no objections, as long as, the necessary infrastructure and storm water management facilities are included with each Phase. Councilmember Jerome Ogden questioned if Hydro Recovery's bonding was in order. Borough Manager is to check on bonding. Motion was made by Paul Hosszu to approve Hydro Recovery LP request to start earth moving and construction of Phase One contingent that the bonding is in order; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

PVR asked to use old dump road for access to their proposed gas pipeline work. Councilmembers asked Mr. Lloyd for more information on road use.

- (H) **Planning Commission:** Meeting of November 6, 2012.

Board received two (2) requests: (1) Reviewed and approved a request from Brendyn Stager to operate a firearm manufacturing / importing business in his commercial building located at 206 Main

**Reports:**

Street (old Fire Hall). (2) Reviewed and approved Phases One, Two and Three of Hydro Recovery Land Development Expansion.

Zoning Hearing Board: Brendyn Stager hearing is scheduled for November 28, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.

Council discussed Brendyn Stager's request to be a firearms dealer. The purchased dismantled weapons would arrive from overseas. Mr. Stager would weld guns together and sell them online. After consulting with Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett, Councilmembers asked Mr. Barrett to prepare a list of conditions on the approval; i.e. limits on number of employees, hours of activity, etc.

(I) **Recreation:** On November 7, 2012 Recreation Board met and worked on mailing letters requesting donations for the Blossburg Area United Fund.

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

Pool (Splash Pad): Concrete work is done and building is up. Electric and plumbing work will be done, weather permitting.

(J) **Fire:** Fundraisers and donations for "Jaws of Life" are at \$22,000.00 ±. Total amount needed is \$40,000.00. Organization is still asking and receiving donations for this equipment.

On December 2, 2012 members will hold their Christmas Party.

(K) **Library:** No meeting.

(L) **Street Committee:** Nothing to report.

(M) **Shade Tree Commission:** Some trees branches were trimmed along Main Street.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY VICE-PRESIDENT JILL NICKERSON AT 7:33 P.M.  
RECONVENED 7:57 P.M. PERSONNEL ISSUES DISCUSSED. NO ACTION TAKEN.**

(N) **Budget:** Proposed 2013 Budget: \$719,778.00 Revenues/Expenses. (No tax increase.)  
Borough: 5.807 Mills – Fire: .568 Mills – Library: .250 Mills. Effective rate: 6.625 mills.

A motion to advertise the proposed 2013 Budget was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

**Insurance Coverage will be issued by Years of Employment:**

- 1 – 5 years **Employee** Coverage **ONLY**.
- 5 – 10 years **Children OR Spouse** Coverage.
- 10 Years **Family** Coverage.

Vision and Dental Rates are the same for Husband & Wife, Parent & Child, Parent & Children, or Family. Family Coverage will be offered to employees with 5 years of service. If rates should increase per category, coverage will be issued as stated above or employee can opt to pay the difference, by payroll deduction.

**Blossburg Borough Personal Policy to be updated with the new insurance coverage's.**

**Reports:**

(O) **Project Committee:** Nothing to report.

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

Well drilling at Taylor Run scheduled for November 19, 2012.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

Upcoming Meetings: November 13<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 P.M. at NPHS (Hear Closing Options)  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6:30 P.M. at NPHS (School Closure Vote)

The community is encouraged to attend all the above meetings for public support.

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

Recent adopted ordinances were sent to Keystate, so they can incorporate into the New Borough Code from Pennsylvania. Borough is expecting new updated book soon.

Borough Solicitor to contact on status.

3. **Condemned Properties Update:**

(1) 126 Schuylkill Street property – House demolished. (2) 219 South Williamson Road – Nothing.  
(3) 127 Schuylkill Street – A contractor wants to purchase and fix up property, but Federal Liens are a problem.

4. **Sidewalk Repair Letter:** Tabled until spring.

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

Josh Jones sent information to Stoudt's Electric. 200 AMP service is needed.

6. **Stone Quarry – Hamilton Township:**

“Special Public Meeting” – Surface Mining Application – Glenn O. Hawbaker – Hamilton Township – Proposed Stone Quarry.

Bureau of District Mining Operations set up a meeting at the Blossburg Fire Hall on November 13, 2012 from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. 5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. will be for questions and answers. 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. will take sworn testimony from citizens.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Resolution No. 9 – 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 2013.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION NO. 9 – Motion to adopt Police Pension Fund Resolution was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

2. **Advertise for Vehicle Fuel Bids:** Motion to advertise for vehicle fuel bids was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. 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, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

4. **Re-Appointments to Committees and Boards (Last Term Year 2012):**

Re-Appointment to Planning Commission: Nathan McNamara, 150 North Williamson Road (agreed to re-appointment); 4yrs. – Term ending 2016. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Re-Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board: Jeffrey Kriner, 225 North Williamson Road (letter of resignation received, replacement needed); 5yrs. – Term ending 2017. Borough Manager to review list of names for replacement.

Re-Appointment to Shade Tree Commission: Bev Jones, 72 Miss Daisy Lane (verbally resigned, replacement needed); 5yrs. – Term ending 2017. Borough Manager to review list of names for replacement.

Re-Appointment to Blossburg Municipal Authority: Frank Wasowicz, 158 St. Mary's Street (agreed to re-appointment); 5yrs. – Term ending 2017. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Re-Appointment to Blossburg Recreation Board: Thomas Augustine, 525 Granger Street (agreed to re-appointment); 5yrs. – Term ending 2017. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

5. **Covington Township Comprehensive Plan:**

A letter and a "draft" of Covington Township Amendment to the Multi-Municipal Plan of Mansfield Borough, Richard Township and Covington Township was received from Cox, Stokes & Lantz, P.C. The Blossburg Borough was provided with this information, if warranted, to provide written comments to the Township.

6. **Act – 13 Impact Fee:**

New Act – 13 Impact Fee will be in the amount of \$139,708.20, \$900.61 less than the proposed original amount. The disbursement check to be received before December 1, 2012.

7. **Sale of Railroad Property:**

Florence McNeal would like to buy a small portion of Borough railroad property that joins her property at 142 Main Street. Motion was made by Paul Hosszu to permit Ms. McNeal to purchase railroad land, connected to her property, in the amount of \$750.00; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2012 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, NOVEMBER 30, 2012.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Vice-President Jill Nickerson closed the meeting at 8:25 P.M.

**Next Council Meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2012 at 6:30 P.M.**

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Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary