

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

December 10, 2012

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: (late, Vice-President Jill Nickerson (attended Southern Tioga School Board Meeting)); Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jolene Hall, Paul Hosszu, Stephen Wagner, James Rakoski; (absent, Mayor John Backman (sick)); (absent, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett (deaths in family)); 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; Kelly Stermcosky Wellsboro Gazette; Lynn Thompson; Dawn Hull; David Hedrick; Heidi Jones; Casey Cannon; Terry Mickelson; Bev Jones; Kenneth Hughes.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 12, 2012 meeting were accepted on motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Stephen Wagner; second, James Rakoski. All in favor.

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

Guests: Lynn Thompson and Dawn Hull, Hometown Heroes Banner Project coordinators, presented a detailed proposal on the plan. The project is non-political and non-partisan. Banners would be a tribute to living or deceased service men and women from the Blossburg, Morris Run, Arnot, and Covington area that have served or are serving our country. Banners would be placed on Penelec poles along Main Street, North Williamson Road, and South Williamson Road. Pole identification / approval are expected to occur in conjunction with Len Chapman of First Energy / Penelec and Blossburg Borough Manager George D. Lloyd. Proposed Hometown Heroes Banners will not interfere with the current seasonal banners / decorations on Main Street poles. The Blossburg Borough would not be responsible for any of the cost. Banners will be hung and maintained by volunteer groups. A dedication ceremony is being planned for Memorial Day 2013 in conjunction with the regular Memorial Day services at the Blossburg Monument. Now what the group needs is Blossburg Borough Council approval and enter into a Joint Use Agreement with First Energy. Motion was made by Stephen Wagner to allow the Hometown Banner Project to move forward, using one size banners only; second Paul Hosszu. All in favor. Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Hull thanked Council and said they would keep all informed on progress of project.

Resolution No. 10 – Plan Revision for New Land Development (Hydro Recovery – Tokarz Expansion):

David Hedrick, Hydro Recovery LP Expansion was at Council Meeting to address Council's concerns with Bonding needed to guarantee grant funds and the sewer approval request by Hydro Recovery, so they can submit Component 3 paperwork to DEP.

Construction for the Hydro Recovery LP – Tokarz Expansion has been split into three (3) phases. Phase 1 would include the construction of additional storage tanks and no sewer connection would be needed. However, any grant funding that may be needed, would be used during this phase. Presently, Hydro Recovery is not sure any grant money will be used, but if it is, there will be sufficient bonding purchased so there is no liability for the Borough.

Guests: Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the expansion will not be started right away, because Hydro Recovery needs DEP approval. Hydro Recovery must submit Component 3 paperwork to DEP, which requires the Borough to sign a Resolution stating sewer service can be provided for the expansion.

Motion was made by Stephen Wagner to submit to DEP a Resolution for their approval as a revision to the "Official Sewage Facilities Plan" for the Borough of Blossburg, with Borough Solicitor consulting; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Heidi Jones, Casey Cannon, and Terry Mickelson representatives of Allen Street Small Business and Nonprofit Consulting submitted a draft proposal to develop a new Comprehensive Plan for the Borough of Blossburg for the period 2014 – 2023. The previous Comprehensive Plan expired in 2010. Ms. Jones estimated the cost at \$17,000.00 to \$20,000.00. Councilmembers decided to review proposal and would get back to Allen Street Consulting.

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.

An estimated 600 people attended Small Town Christmas.

"Light Up the Holidays" judging will be held on December 22, 2012.

(D) **Mayor:** No report. Mayor Backman was absent.

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

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

Chief McCurdy reported the police car was rear ended in a four vehicle accident in Richmond Township on December 6, 2012.

Chief presented a proposed spending budget for a 2013 Ford Interceptor Utility at an estimated cost of \$39,567.00. Vehicle purchase is under the Costars Program. Delivery date is 1 – 2 months. Motion was made by Paul Hosszu to order the 2013 Ford Interceptor Utility; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

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

Reports:

(G) Borough Manager:

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Gannon Associates representative will be here on January 3, 2013 to review insurance coverage packages.

Borough Manager George D. Lloyd requested permission to order / purchase a new backhoe, with sweeper attachment, before December 31, 2012, to bypass \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 price increase after January 1, 2013. Blossburg Municipal Authority agreed to pay for half of the cost. Borough cost is \$62,179.80. Backhoe - \$54,901.50 / Sweeper - \$7,278.30. Vehicle purchase is under the Costars Program. Motion to order / purchase the backhoe was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

(H) Planning Commission: No meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board: Meeting of November 28, 2012.

Approved Brendyn Stager's request to operate firearm manufacturing / importing business in his commercial building located at 206 Main Street.

Re-Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board: Jeffrey Kriner, 225 North Williamson Road (letter of resignation received, replacement needed); 5yrs. – Term ending 2017. Replacement to be Nathan Barnes, 202 Ruah Street. Motion of James Rakoski; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

(I) Recreation: Receiving donations for the Blossburg Area United Fund.

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

A meeting was scheduled for December 14, 2012 at 10:00 A.M. to discuss rules for the Walking Trail. Signs are needed; i.e. vehicle restrictions, No Dog Feces, etc.

Pool (Splash Pad): Not working on now, due to the weather.

(J) Fire: Fundraisers and donations for "Jaws of Life" are at \$25,000.00 ±. Total amount needed is \$40,000.00. Organization is still asking and receiving donations for this equipment. Mailing address for donations is PO Box 4, Blossburg, PA 16912.

(K) Library: No meeting.

(L) Street Committee: Nothing to report.

(M) Shade Tree Commission:

Re-Appointment to Shade Tree Commission: Bev Jones, 72 Miss Daisy Lane (verbally resigned, replacement needed); 5yrs. – Term ending 2017. Replacement to be Robert Kelly, 127 Main Street. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Reports:

(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.

Motion to accept the 2013 Budget, as presented, was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

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

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

Two wells were drilled at Taylor Run. One well estimated at \pm 200 Gallons per Minute (GPM). Water quality is being tested and pump test to be done soon. Estimate \pm 30 GPM at the second well, so will only use this site as a monitoring well.

Accepted David Jones resignation, replacement name will be submitted by the Authority to Council at January's Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has relaxed rules for funding. New construction bids were rejected. New plans to be drafted.

Liberty High School is closing. Blossburg Elementary (Option 7) to close next year.

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

Recently 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) 219 South Williamson Road – Nothing. Property owner does have a demolition permit.
- (2) 127 Schuylkill Street – A contractor wants to purchase and fix up property, but Federal Liens are a problem. Mr. Lloyd to contact Attorney Larry Mansfield for consultation on property.

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

5. **New Electrical Service Behind the Downtown Monument:** Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2013 Fuel Bids (Coverage Period: January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013):

Received as advertised:

<u>Williams Oil & Propane:</u>	Diesel Winter Mix -	\$3.5598 per gallon
	Diesel Summer Mix -	\$3.5598 per gallon
	Unleaded Medium Grade -	\$3.17 per gallon
<u>Superior Plus Energy Services:</u>	Diesel Winter Mix -	\$3.4650 per gallon
	Diesel Summer Mix -	\$3.4307 per gallon
	Unleaded Medium Grade -	\$3.1623 per gallon

Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to accept Superior Plus Energy Services bids; second, James Rakoski. All in favor.

2. Advertise 2013 Tax Ordinance:

A motion to advertise the proposed 2013 Tax Ordinance was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

3. Ward Manufacturing Request a Letter of Approval:

As part of the permitting process with DEP, Ward Manufacturing is requesting a letter of approval from the Borough, stating that it is acceptable to install pipe through Island Park along the Walk Trail to the Tioga River. Ward Manufacturing is trying to bypass Johnson Creek with their discharged cooling water from Plant #1.

A motion to allow Ward Manufacturing to install a pipe through Island Park, along the Walk Trail, to the Tioga River, was made by Stephen Wagner; second, James Rakoski. All in favor.

4. Resolution No. 11: Tax Collection Committee (TCC) Representatives for 2013:

Annual Resolution Tax Collection Committee (TCC) Representatives.

At the present time, the following individuals are appointed as TCC delegates for the Borough of Blossburg:

- 1. Primary Voting Delegate: Mayor John E. Backman
- 2. First Alternate Voting Delegate: Councilmember Jill Nickerson
- 3. Second Alternate Voting Delegate: Councilmember Jerome Ogden

Motion for Representatives to remain the same was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT: President Thomas Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 8:19 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2013 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary