

## **BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

### **March 12, 2012**

**Attendance:** (absent, President Thomas Bogaczyk (in Florida)); (absent, Vice-President Jill Nickerson (attending Southern Tioga School Board Meeting)); (absent, Councilmembers Jolene Hall (attending Southern Tioga School Board Meeting), Stephen Wagner (taking care of his children), and James Rakoski (in Florida)); Jerome Ogden, Paul Hosszu; Mayor John Backman; (absent, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett); (absent, Chief Joshua McCurdy); Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Kelsey Rudinski NPHS Student Representative; Rebecca Hazen-Witucki Wellsboro Gazette; Bev Jones, and Kenneth Hughes.

No quorum to hold tonight's meeting.

Council Meeting will reconvene on March 14, 2012.

## **BLOSSBURG BOROUGH RECONVENED COUNCIL MEETING**

### **March 14, 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 (in Florida)); Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jolene Hall, Paul Hosszu, Stephen Wagner, (absent, James Rakoski (in Florida)); (absent, Mayor John Backman); Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Kelsey Rudinski NPHS Student Representative; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Bev Jones, April Hedrick Hydro Recovery Representative.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the February 13, 2012 meeting were accepted on motion of Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

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

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

**Guests:** Bev Jones asked if the "sandwich board" / message board that is located by the Main Street green bridge, could it be taken down, since it is not being used. Councilmember Jill Nickerson is to contact Julie Nowak to have the item removed.

Bev Jones stated the Kwik Fill intersection road service markings need to be painted. Councilmembers discussed the hazards of large trucks parking on both sides of old Route 15, while utilizing the Kwik Fill. The Borough Manager is to contact PennDOT for permission to install "No Parking" signs.

**Reports**

(A) **NPHS Student:** Kelsey Rudinski gave a Student Activity Report.

The school play “Dracula” will be performed on March 29, 30 and April 1, 2012.

A Percussion Show will be held on April 21, 2012.

(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.

Blossburg Community Yard Sale is planned for April 28, 2012 from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

V.I.B.E. is waiting on landscape plans for Town Square or Blossburg Veterans Memorial area.

**Skate Park:** Final payment of \$20,000.00 was received from DCNR on February 16, 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 Jolene Hall; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Police Patrol Bike was delivered to the Police Department.

On March 15 and 16, 2012 Chief McCurdy and the other Blossburg patrolmen will attend update classes at Mansfield University.

Councilmember Stephen Wagner is concerned with the school crossing section on North Williamson Road. The North bound traffic is going too fast and he is questioning, if necessary, a vehicle would be able to stop at this rate of speed. The Borough Manager is to contact PennDOT for recommended solutions on the speeding traffic.

Chief McCurdy is on duty tonight, so he left the meeting at 6:49 P.M.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Stephen Wagner; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

**Reports**

Talisman Energy is asking Borough's permission to perform seismic testing in Borough limits. Instead of running wires the new system is wireless. Mr. Lloyd's primary concern is any blasting close to water and sewer lines. Motion made by Jerome Ogden to grant permission to Talisman Energy to do seismic testing, as long as done properly; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

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

**Zoning Hearing Board:** A meeting was held on February 22, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. to review request to turn a Single Family home, located at 110 Lynd Street, into a two (2) Family Unit. ZHB members approved the request, with the condition that off street parking, behind the home, is made available to tenants.

**(I) Recreation:** Distributing United Fund money to local organizations.

Pool rates to increase \$15.00 for single and family tickets.

**Walking Trail:** Borough crew is working on, as time allows. Borough submitted statement for costs of labor, materials and equipment used to V.I.B.E. for reimbursement. Total Bill: \$13,651.99.

**Pool:** Final payment of \$275,000.00 was received from DCNR on February 23, 2012. After receiving Final Payment, the Pool Loan was PAID IN FULL.

**(J) Fire:** No Financial Report was received.

Councilmember Jolene Hall reported a grant was submitted. If approved, the funding will be used to purchase "Jaws of Life".

Blossburg Firemen's Ambulance 2012 Membership Drive was mailed.

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

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

**(M) Shade Tree Commission:** Nothing to report.

**(N) Budget:** Nothing to report.

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

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

Natural gas generator is operational at Belman Filter Plant.

Still working on trying to locate water infiltration into sewer system.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

Everything was on track until Governor Tom Corbett proposed to put a one year moratorium on all school building projects that use the Department of Education's Plancon reimbursement process. A Southern Tioga School Board meeting was held on April 12, 2012 to present five (5) scenarios. There are as follows: (1) To continue with the project as planned. Make no other changes to any of the other buildings in district. (2) Cease the project and give money back, keeping all buildings open. (3) Stop the project as planned. Make the necessary improvements to the Blossburg Elementary School and part of North Penn High School and make this a K-8 building and move students in grades 9 – 12 to Liberty and Mansfield. (4) Continue with the project and close Liberty Elementary School and convert Liberty High School to a K – 8 building. Liberty students in grades 9 – 12 would then go to North Penn High School. Some of the students from North Penn High School would go to Mansfield High School. (5) Wait one year and have a third party firm do a study to see what the districts best options would be in moving forward with curriculum, buildings, and budget.

The timeline for closing a school is about six months. A feasibility study would take approximately 8 to 11 months. If the feasibility study is done, the District would have to come up with \$900,000 to cover the projected shortfall. On or before April 21, 2012, School Board members need to decide whether to accept or reject the bids received for the North Penn High and Blossburg Elementary school building renovation and new construction project. Contracts have to be awarded within 60 days of the Feb. 21, 2012 bid opening. A big problem is paying for the project with any tax increases limited by the Act 1 index. Many residents are on low or fixed incomes.

Vice-President Jill Nickerson requested the Regular Council Meeting scheduled for April 9, 2012 be re-scheduled for Monday, April 16, 2012. Councilmembers interested in attending the Southern Tioga School Board meeting on April 9, 2012, could attend. Councilmember Jerome Ogden stated he would only agree to change the meeting once. Motion to re-schedule and advertise the Regular Council Meeting to April 16, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. was made by Stephen Wagner; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor. Borough Secretary is to pay all incoming bills when due.

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

Received eight copies of the Preliminary Draft along with editorial notes for the Borough Code of Ordinances. Preliminary Draft to be reviewed. Pennsylvania plans to change Borough Code of Ordinances. If State makes changes, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett suggested waiting before Preliminary Draft is reviewed.

Borough Solicitor suggested checking with State Representative Matt Baker's office on State's status.

**3. Condemned Properties Update:**

(1) Schuylkill Street property owner has a Demolition Permit. Property owner hasn't started work yet. Borough Solicitor to send a letter to property owner. There is an interested buyer for this property. Interested buyer to be contacted as well. (2) South Williamson Road properties were sold. New owner started to clean junk out of trailer.

Another property on Schuylkill Street is in bad condition. Property to be evaluated.

Vice-President Jill Nickerson suggested composing a list of properties with junk accumulating in their yards. List to be reviewed at the next Council Meeting.

**4. Sidewalk Repair Letter: George Lloyd is working on.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

V.I.B.E. is working on. Councilmember Jerome Ogden suggested V.I.B.E. apply through the Williamson Road Fund for funding to be applied to fix foundation of Monument.

**6. Borough Building Upgrades:** Mr. Lloyd is to contact contractor for starting date.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY VICE-PRESIDENT JILL NICKERSON AT 7:41 P.M.  
RECONVENED 8:09 P.M. PERSONNEL ISSUES DISCUSSED. NO ACTION TAKEN.**

**7. Laurel Health Services Building:**

Location: 520 Ruah Street. A potential buyer, The Flynn Company of Philadelphia, is interested in renovating the building into garden apartments. A feasibility packet was presented, earlier. A zoning change would be required from S1 to R2. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett has already drafted a proposed ordinance with the zoning change. Vice-President Jill Nickerson stated she would like to know what exactly The Flynn Company plans to do with building, because there are a lot of scenarios that could change our community. Mr. Barrett suggested adding conditional uses to the Borough Zoning Ordinance. A second ordinance of the Blossburg Borough Code (Zoning) adding certain new definitions will be drafted by Mr. Barrett. Councilmember Jerome Ogden made a motion to advertise a Public Hearing on April 16, 2012 at 6:00 P.M. on the Zoning Ordinance change; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor. Mr. Barrett stated with the zoning change, it does not indicate Blossburg will allow the Flynn Company Project to go forward, but it will limit future uses of the facility.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. PA Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) HOST MUNICIPALITY RESOLUTION:**

Tioga County Development Corporation (TCDC) received a Grant Offer dated January 6, 2011, from Pennsylvania office of the budget for a Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program in the amount of \$500,000.00 for the Hydraulic Stimulation Fluid Manufacturing Facilities Abatement Project. TCDC and Hydro Recovery are asking Blossburg Borough be the host municipality for grant support of Hydro Recovery LP's expansion plans. Only government units can apply for RACP grants. Resolution approved on motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

A resolution supporting Commonwealth Redevelopment Assistance Capital Grant to the TCDC for the Hydraulic Stimulation Fluid Manufacturing Facilities for the Hydro Recovery LLC Project in the Borough of Blossburg authorizing the Blossburg Borough to reimburse the Commonwealth for the Commonwealth's share of ineligible costs incurred. This proposed Resolution was put on hold until it is drafted accordingly.

Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to have the Borough Solicitor draft an ordinance on the rezoning of Bloss Mountain Road property of Hydro Recovery, former land of Preston Anderson, Chester Tokarz, and Bernard and Joseph Tokarz properties, from C1 to I1; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor. This proposed ordinance will be advertised and a Public Hearing will be held on April 16, 2012 at 6:00 P.M.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012 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 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TCDC LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST AT THE PENN WELLS HOTEL, 62 MAIN STREET, WELLSBORO, PA ON THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2012 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. (BUFFET OPENS AT 7:30 A.M.). R.S.V.P. & PAYMENT DUE BY MARCH 30, 2012.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Vice-President Jill Nickerson closed the meeting at 8:22 P.M.

**Next Council Meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2012 at 6:30 P.M.**

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Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary