

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

May 14, 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: (absent, Vice-President Jill Nickerson (attending Southern Tioga School Board Meeting)); Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jolene Hall, Paul Hosszu, Stephen Wagner, James Rakoski; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; (absent, Kelsey Rudinski NPHS Student Representative); Rebecca Hazen-Witucki Wellsboro Gazette; Charles Freeberg; Terry Kreger; Sharon Wilson; Bev Jones; Kenneth Hughes.

Minutes: The minutes of the April 16, 2012 meeting were accepted on motion of Jolene Hall; second, James Rakoski. All in favor.

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

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

Guests: Terry Kreger, representing Blossburg Ambulance Association and Sharon Wilson, representing Liberty Ambulance both requested Council to pass a Resolution to designate Blossburg Firemen's Ambulance Association as Primary Emergency Medical Services Provider within the Borough of Blossburg. An independent Emergency Responder is planning to start a business in the area. If proposed resolution is passed, the Tioga County 911 Emergency Dispatch would call Blossburg or Liberty Volunteer departments first. Similar Resolutions are being passed county wide. Councilmembers were in favor of Resolution, but would like to research and seek legal advice before passing. Subject matter was tabled until next Council meeting.

Charles Freeberg presented building information on establishing a Coal Museum at Island Park. Councilmembers reviewed pictures of building. An approved location needs to be agreed upon. Councilmembers and Recreation Board to meet on Wednesday, May 16, 2012, 5:00 P.M. at KCC Building Island Park to set building location.

Bev Jones inquired about the progress on name of Miss Daisy Lane, "No Parking" by Kwik Fill intersection, blighted properties in town, and reported the pot holes were getting larger on Granger Street. Mrs. Jones request to publish the agendas of the Blossburg Borough Council meetings on the Blossburg website was discussed after April Council meeting. An agenda will be provided before each monthly meeting with an updated Old Business portion.

Reports

(A) **NPHS Student:** Kelsey Rudinski was absent.

(B) **KCC:** Paul Hosszu reported the new siding was installed, last week, on the KCC Building. Work was done by Nickerson Home Improvements.

(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.

Reports

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.

No report.

(D) Mayor: Mayor Backman reported a tanker truck pulled in front of a car at the intersection by the Kwik Fill. Council discussed how the road service markings need to be painted. The Borough Manager is to contact PennDOT about having the lines painted. Councilmembers suggested a letter be sent to State Representative Matthew E Baker and State Senator Joseph B. Scarnati III asking for their help in having a traffic study done on this intersection. Possibly a traffic light could be installed or other safety devices used.

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

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

Nothing to report.

(F) Police Committee: Nothing further to report.

(G) Borough Manager:

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Jolene Hall; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

Spring Cleanup: 30 tons - \$1,600.00. Weight was down about 10 tons from previous years.

Blossburg Borough hydrants are scheduled to be flushed from May 16, 2012 to June 16, 2012.

(H) Planning Commission: Meeting of April 24, 2012.

Reviewed rezoning of two (2) lots on south side of Dandy Mini Mart, 312 North Williamson Road from R-1 to C-1. Request was approved.

Information is to be sent to Tioga County Planning Commission.

Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to have the Borough Solicitor advertise and draft an ordinance on the rezoning of the two (2) lots bought by the Dandy Mini Mart from R-1 to C-1; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(I) Recreation: Richard (Pete) Hall is trying to schedule lifeguard classes for Memorial Day weekend. Classes are to be held at the Island Park pool.

Southern Tioga School District newly appointed members are: Richard (Pete) Hall replacement – Ann Harman, Last Term Year 2015. William Swope replacement – Kenneth Johnson, Last Term Year 2014.

Reports

Williamson Road Foundation granted \$5,000.00 to the Island Park Walking Trail and \$1,000.00 to the Island Park Handicap Water Fountain.

Walking Trail: Borough crew is working on, as time allows. A few Councilmembers and Borough Manger George D. Lloyd met with Pete Guidi of Ward Mfg. to discuss the use of Ward Mfg. land, where the walking trail crosses over Ward Manufacturing property. A 99 year land use lease was proposed. A survey of properties will be done first.

A meeting was scheduled for May 16, 2012 at 4:30 P.M. to discuss possible sources of funding for Walking Trail.

Pool: Borough Engineer William S. Bray is evaluating Splash Pad products and prices.

(J) Fire: No Financial Report was received.

Councilmember Jolene Hall presented the March Minutes of the Blossburg Fire Department.

The grant for “Jaws of Life” was not approved. The new piece of equipment would cost approximately \$40,000.00.

(K) Library: The Library parking lot is in need of repair. Mr. Lloyd will have the borough crew fix.

The annual Library Garden Party fundraiser will be held July 22, 2012 from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Hamilton Club.

(L) Street Committee:

A list of 2012 proposed streets for tar & chipping was reviewed. Total miles and cost: 1.75 miles at ± \$25,715.00. (6,976 Gallons – E-Oil: \$17,440.00 331 Tons – 1B Stone: \$8,275.00). Motion to accept 2012 proposed streets for tar & chipping was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Application for County Aid:

In the March 13, 2012 Tioga County Commissioners Meeting, the Commissioners made the decision to allocate County Aid to each political subdivision in Tioga County. The total allocation for 2012 County Aid for Blossburg Borough is \$2,843.50. Councilmembers agreed to make application to the County for allocation of County Liquid Fuels Tax Funds. The county aid will be used for tar & chipping and paving of borough streets, if funds are granted.

(M) Shade Tree Commission: Nothing to report.

Japanese lilac trees need to be purchased and planted in front of the Borough Building.

(N) Budget: New diesel International garbage truck, compactor, and recycling unit were ordered. Delivery date will be in 5 – 6 months. The Borough Manager is acquiring loan rates.

Reports

Chief McCurdy reported information on the purchase of a new Police SUV. The SUV cost is \$33,992.00, with additional charges of lettering - \$400.00, new camera and equipment transfers from old police car - \$5,500.00, and optional breakaway bumper guard - \$425.00. There is a three (3) month delivery time. Motion to allow Chief McCurdy to order the Police SUV, with lettering, was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

(O) Project Committee: Nothing to report.

(P) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA): Two (2) sewer connections were made available from the Dandy Mini Mart parking lot extension, because two (2) building lots connected to the sewer line were eliminated. Connections are already spoken for.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Tonight is the Southern Tioga School District meeting. Vice-President Jill Nickerson is attending the meeting.

An answer was received from State Representative Matthew E. Baker in response to the letter that was composed by Vice-President Jill Nickerson asking his support in restoring funding in the state budget for school districts and school building projects. Representative Baker explained the process of the moratorium proposed by the Governor on the Planning and Construction Workbook (PlanCon) Process. Representative Baker assured he will carefully consider the legislation when the upcoming state budget comes before the House of Representatives with thoughts and preferences, and the needs of students, parents, teachers, and schools in mind.

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 is trying to get an answer on State's action.

3. Condemned Properties Update:

(1) Schuylkill Street property owner has a Demolition Permit. Property owner hasn't started work yet. Borough Solicitor contacted owner and there is an interested buyer for this property. (2) South Williamson Road properties were sold. New owner started to clean up properties.

Pictures were taken of resident's parcels that are accumulating junk on their properties. On April 24, 2012, letters were sent to these offenders requesting they clean up their properties within 20 days.

Ordinance No. 426 – Landlord / Tenant Registration Ordinance – Adopted February 14, 2011:
Amending the Code of Ordinances and mandating landlords within the borough to provide the Borough with a monthly registration form identifying its residential tenants. Form could also be used for taxing and emergency purposes. A sample letter is to be composed reminding landlords of existing ordinance.

OLD BUSINESS:

4. **Sidewalk Repair Letter:** Nothing to report.

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

V.I.B.E. submitted a request to Williamson Road Foundation for funding. Jerome Ogden stated more information is required before monies will be disbursed. Mr. Ogden suggested reapplying in the fall.

6. **Borough Building Upgrades:** Contractor installed the upstairs and the downstairs windows in the Borough Building.

Remove from agenda. Motion of Jolene Hall; second, Jerome Ogden.
All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution Blossburg Firemen's Ambulance Association:** Discussed earlier.

2. **Coal Festival Parade Permit:**

Blossburg State Coal Festival will be held May 23 – 26, 2012. PennDOT Parade Permit paperwork will need to be sent in by the Borough Secretary. Motion to apply for parade permit was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT AT 8:05 P.M.
RECONVENED 8:15 P.M. NO ACTION TAKEN.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2012 AT THE LANDING STRIP FAMILY RESTAURANT, ROUTE 414, LIBERTY, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY MONDAY, MAY 21, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT: President Thomas Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 8:16 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2012 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary