

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

January 7, 2013

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, (absent, James Rakoski); Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Lynne Thompson; Bev Jones.

Minutes: The minutes of the December 10, 2012 meeting were accepted on motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

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

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

Guests: Lynne Thompson, Blossburg Area Hometown Heroes Banner Project coordinator, updated Borough Council on the banner project. Mrs. Thompson talked about the following: (1) Len Chapman of First Energy / Penelec was contacted by e-mail, but no response was received yet. (2) Blossburg Area Hometown Heroes Banner Project has received a Federal EIN, State Number, and is an official entity registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State. (3) Applied for grant through the Tioga County Visitor's Bureau. Monies to be used for printing public relations materials, as well as, obtaining a trolley for tours of the banners on Memorial Day, in conjunction with the dedication ceremony that is being planned for the Blossburg Monument. (4) Applications for sponsorships are now available at all the area Legions, VFW's, various locations throughout Blossburg, Arnot, Covington, and Morris Run.

For more information contact Lynne Thompson at (570) 367-3929 or e-mail lmct55@ptd.net.

Reports:

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

(B) **KCC:** The Christmas Basketball Tournament was a success.

(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.

No report.

Reports:

(D) **Mayor:** Nothing to report.

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

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

Nothing to report.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

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

Nothing to report.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

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

Walking Trail: Work is on hold until the weather becomes warmer.

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

(J) **Fire:** Elections were held for new officers.

Organization is still asking and receiving donations for "Jaws of Life". Donations can be mailed to PO Box 4, Blossburg, PA 16912.

(K) **Library:** A meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2013.

(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):**

Motion was made by Stephen Wagner to accept Joseph Bubacz, 236 South Williamson Road, as replacement for David Jones; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Four candidates, for the Southern Tioga School Board, were interviewed to fill an open seat created by the resignation of Bob McConnell.

2. Borough Code of Ordinances – Update:

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

Borough Solicitor is to contact Keystate Publishers, again, 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 is to contact Attorney Larry Mansfield for consultation on property.
- (3) 101 Post Street – condition of property to be evaluated.

4. Sidewalk Repair Letter: Tabled until spring.

5. New Electrical Service Behind the Downtown Monument:

Nothing to report. Borough Manager, Stoudt's Electric, and Josh Jones are to get together to review; i.e. location of panel, what is needed, etc.

6. Update Comprehensive Plan:

Council decided to amend existing Comprehensive Plan. 80% can be kept from old Comprehensive Plan. Kevin Abrams of Northern Tier Regional Planning is to be contacted for more information.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance No. 435: 2013 Tax Ordinance:

Motion that the proposed 2013 Tax Ordinance be adopted as advertised: Borough 5.807 mills / Fire 0.568 mills / Library 0.250 mills, totaling 6.625 mills was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

2. Mansfield Area Water Task Force:

The Blossburg Borough received a letter from the Mansfield Area Water Task Force asking financial assistance for a professional assessment of the water supply, sewage treatment and infrastructure needs in the I-99 corridor. Mansfield Area Water Task Force's request is being made to potential partners within the I-99 designated area. Rettew Group has submitted an assessment proposal at the cost of approximately \$30,000.00. Mansfield Area Water Task Force is suggesting a commitment of \$5,000.00 from each municipality AND its associated municipal authority to pay for this project. A January 16, 2013 response is requested. Rettew Group is to begin work in February and the completion date is late June or early July.

Act 13 monies are permitted to be used for planning purposes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmembers would like to have a meeting with the Mansfield Area Water Task Force before committing to the \$5,000.00 request. David Flesch is to be contacted to ask if January 14, 2013 at 4:30 P.M. would be a good time for all to meet.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT AT 8:20 P.M. RECONVENED 8:29 P.M. PERSONNEL ISSUES DISCUSSED. NO ACTION TAKEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2013 AT THE WREN'S NEST RESTAURANT, 102 WEST WELLSBORO STREET, MANSFIELD, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 6:30 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY JANUARY 11, 2013.

Meeting will not adjourn as there are some items to be discussed concerning the Mansfield Area Water Task Force money request. The meeting was dismissed at 8:30 P.M. by President Thomas Bogaczyk, to reconvene January 14, 2013 at 4:30 P.M. in the Council Room of the Borough Building, 245 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary

**Borough Council Meeting continued from January 7, 2013 –
Reconvened January 14, 2013 at 4:30 P.M. in the Council Room of the Borough Building, 245 Main
Street, Blossburg, PA.**

Attendance: Vice-President Jill Nickerson; Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jolene Hall, Stephen Wagner, Paul Hosszu, James Rakoski; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Joseph Bubacz; Ed Trask; David Flesch; Heidi Jones (left at 5:00 P.M.).

Mansfield Area Water Task Force:

David Flesch, Mansfield Area Water Task Force Representative and Ed Trask were attending the meeting to answer concerns and questions Councilmembers have on their intentions.

I-99 economic development is at a standstill, because of the water supply and sewage treatment.

Rettew Group, Planning and Consulting Services, has proposed a Tioga County – Regional Needs Assessment for the region's economic development future. Rettew Group assessment cost is approximately \$30,000.00.

The Blossburg Borough was contacted by the Mansfield Area Water Task Force asking for financial assistance in paying for the professional assessment. Mansfield Area Water Task Force is suggesting a commitment of \$5,000.00 from each municipality AND its associated municipal authority to pay for this project.

After discussing the needs for the assessment funds, Stephen Wagner made a motion to commit \$5,000.00, from Act 13 Money Market, to Mansfield Area Water Task Force towards the Rettew Group Tioga County – Regional Needs Assessment; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: Vice-President Jill Nickerson closed the meeting at 5:20 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2013 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary