

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

June 10, 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: (absent, Vice-President Jill Nickerson (attending Southern Tioga School Board Meeting)); Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jolene Hall, Stephen Wagner (absent, Paul Hosszu and James Rakoski); Mayor John Backman; (absent, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett); Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Kelly Stemcosky Wellsboro Gazette; Lynne Thompson; Shawn Carey, Charles Irwin, Kenneth Hughes.

Minutes: The minutes of the May 6, 2013 meeting were accepted on motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Stephen Wagner. 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 Jolene Hall; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Guests: Shawn Carey attended meeting to discuss his property located at 219 South Williamson Road. Mr. Carey would like to have a 30' x 40' steel structure built and use the building as a repair garage business. In October 2012 the Blossburg Borough Planning Commission denied Mr. Carey's request, because of zoning issues (spot zoning) and no towed vehicles at the premise. The property is zoned R – Residential. Councilmembers suggested Mr. Carey request a Zoning Board meeting, since a zoning change would be required for this location. Zoning Fees are \$250.00.

Lynne Thompson told Council all went well at the banner dedication, which was held on May 27, 2013 and 300 people ± attended. More banners are being printed and more applications are coming in.

Mrs. Thompson made comments on possible decisions to be made by the Southern Tioga School Board. The closing of North Penn High School is a serious situation. Mrs. Thompson stressed the importance of local residents and Councilmembers attendance at the School Board meetings in support of our Blossburg schools. Mrs. Thompson recognizes Southern Tioga School Board Meetings are held the same date and times as Blossburg Borough Council Meetings, but suggested with changing the Council meeting date Councilmembers would be able to attend the School Board meetings. Councilmembers decided to wait until next month's meeting and evaluate if the Council meeting date will be changed.

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.

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.

V.I.B.E. upcoming events: (1) August 10, 2013 Slezzy BBQ for V.I.B.E. (2) October 20, 2013 Fall Festival. (3) November 30, 2013 Small Town Christmas.

(D) Mayor: Mr. Backman requested the following list be entered in the minutes:

As Mayor, I would like to identify groups of citizens who have contributed and continue to contribute greatly to the welfare of this community.

A non-inclusive list is:

1. The Fire Department, whose members serve in an on-call volunteer status, spend endless hours in training and risk their lives at every call.
2. The ambulance crews, whose members also serve in an on-call volunteer status, spend endless hours in training and risk their lives at many calls.
3. The Borough Council-Elected voluntary status with responsibility for oversight of the operations within the Borough.
4. The Water and Sewer Authority-Appointed voluntary status with responsibility for operating the Borough water and sewer systems.
5. The Planning Commission-Appointed voluntary status with responsibility for recommending to Council actions in reference to long and short planning.
6. The Zoning Board-Appointed voluntary status with “judicial” authority in reference to zoning.
7. The Mayor-Elected voluntary status with primary responsibility for managing the police department.
8. The person who voluntarily made the benches for the Island Park River Walk.
9. The group – Laura Patterson et all which voluntarily planted hundred of flowering plants and shrubs along the Island Park River Walk.
10. The crew that voluntarily raised funds and did the work to making it possible for Blossburg to have a regulation Little League baseball field, as well as, a fine softball / baseball field.
11. The Recreation Board-Appointed volunteer group which handles the administration / operation of the Island Park, including life guards at the swimming pool.
12. The Shade Tree Commission-Appointed group with responsibility for recommendation in reference to maintaining trees within the Borough.
13. The Committee of volunteers that organizes and “puts in” the Pennsylvania State Coal Festival.
14. The group of volunteers that organize the Fall Festival.
15. The volunteers that made up the Blossburg website and keep the site updated.

I am sure that there are others who also contribute to the betterment of the Borough.

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

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Stephen Wagner second, Jolene Hall.
All in favor.

Nothing to report.

Reports

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

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

Nothing to report.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

(I) **Recreation:**

A six (6) week Adult Water Aerobics Class is to start June 19 at the Island Park Pool. Cost is \$40.00 without a Pool Ticket, \$30.00 with a Pool Ticket, and \$7.00 walk-in.

Pool may be reserved and used for two (2) hour pool parties, at the cost of \$100.00.

Pool slide walkway and steps are being replaced.

Young Lungs at Play: “Young Lungs at Play / This is a tobacco-free zone”. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett is writing an ordinance to enforce Island Park as a tobacco-free area.

Walking Trail: A meeting scheduled for June 11, 2013 at 2:30 P.M. to discuss Rule Signs and Maintenance.

Pool (Splash Pad): Operational and open when pool is opened.

(J) **Fire:** No Financial Report or Minutes were received.

(K) **Library:** July 28, 2013 Garden Party to be held at the Hamilton Club.

New landscaping is being planned for the Library. Councilmembers received Ettinger's Landscaping proposal to replace landscaping and repair the concrete that is too low. Council would like to have more than one (1) estimate for comparing prices.

(L) **Street Committee:** Total miles and cost: 1.98 miles at ± \$29,500.00. Borough crew is working on leveling streets before work begins.

(M) **Shade Tree Commission:** Met with Ettinger's on May 10, 2013 to discuss Main Street trees. More estimates and ideas needed, before any decisions are made.

(N) **Budget:** Nothing at this time.

2013 Second Quarter Budget Revenues / Expenses report to be included in next month's packets.

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

Reports:

(P) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):

A hired Company located sewer main leak under the Tioga River. Repair is scheduled for July.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Southern Tioga School District (STSD) Plans:** Discussed earlier.

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

A “Final Draft” letter was received, with Keystate Publishers recommendations and changes. Borough Manager is to setup a meeting between dates of June 17 – 20, 2013 for Councilmembers to review Keystate Publishers suggestions.

3. **Condemned Properties Update:**

- (1) 219 South Williamson Road – Trailer was razed, but there still is some cleanup to be done.
- (2) 127 Schuylkill Street – Jeffrey McFall is trying to sell property on Craig’s List. County to be contacted to see if there were stipulations if Mr. McFall ever tried to re-sale property.
- (3) 101 Post Street – Condition of property to be evaluated and mortgage holder to be contacted. Lien is already on property. Borough to get grass cut. Labor and equipment costs to be added to lien.

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

Nothing to report. Stoudt’s Electric is working on design for Josh Jones. Councilmembers would like to have design done by July 2013.

5. **Update Comprehensive Plan:**

Council decided to amend existing Comprehensive Plan. Four (4) companies made presentations. How detailed updated Comprehensive Plan is will affect the cost. Council to discuss scope of work wanted at the Code of Ordinances Updates meeting.

6. **Talisman Agreement to Use Borough Streets:**

Talisman would like permission to access surrounding areas by using Borough streets. A Road Maintenance Agreement with Talisman is being negotiated.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Sale of Surplus Equipment – Bid Opening for 2003 Ford Victoria Car:**

Received one (1) bid as advertised:

Asia Motors Inc., 1659 W. Grand Avenue, Chicago, IL 60622:

Vehicle 1. 2003 Ford Crown Victoria Car with 125,000 miles - \$500.00

Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to accept Asia Motors Inc. bid for the 2003 Ford Crown Victoria Car in the amount listed above; second Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Application for County Aid:

During the April 9, 2013 Tioga County Commissioners Meeting, the Commissioners made the decision to allocate County Aid to each political subdivision in Tioga County. The total allocation for 2013 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2013 AT THE CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HALL, 6 FRANKLIN STREET, LAWRENCEVILLE, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 6:30 P.M. R.S.V.P. BEFORE FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT: President Thomas Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 8:27 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2013 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary