

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2024**

The Council Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice-President Josh Jones. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attendance: President Jolene Hall (Absent), Vice-President Joshua Jones, Pro-Temp Kenneth Johnson, Council Members: Jill Nickerson, James Rakoski, Robert Bowens(Absent), Kallie Wickman, Mayor, Timothy Martin, Borough Solicitor, Patrick Barrett, Police Chief, Josh McCurdy, Borough Manager, George D. Lloyd, Borough Secretary, Cheryl Bubacz and School Representative, Kail Thompson.

Guests: Tom Yankowy, Joseph Stitz, Tonya McNamara (VIBE), Joyce and Charlie Andrews (TCCCC), Liz Miranda (Blossburg Library), Shawn Rice, (Fire Dept.) and Kristie Bowles (Tioga Publishing).

Joyce & Charlie Andrews: TCCC had previously submitted a request to the Rec Board to install a sign on Island Park which would have the history of Island Park, the TCCC & AMD projects and this coal history. This was approved by the Rec Board. Motion by Kenneth Johnson, Second by Jill Nickerson to approve the installation of a sign for this purpose in a style and location mutually agreed upon.

Liz Miranda: Blossburg Memorial Library will discuss during the Library section of the Agenda.

Shawn Rice: Blossburg Fire Department will discuss during the Fire Dept. section of the Agenda.

Tonya McNamara: VIBE will discuss during VIBE section of the Agenda.

Tom Yankowy & Joseph Stitz - Nothing

Minutes, Treasurer's Report, Bills, Police Report & Borough Manager's Report:

Minutes and monthly Reports were accepted as presented by Motion of Jill Nickerson, Second Kallie Wickman. All in favor.

Mayor:

The Mayor attended the township meetings for both Hamilton and Putnam Townships to discuss the current police contracts. The Mayor and Chief were well received and both Townships are happy with the services that the Police Department is providing to their communities.

Police:

Nothing at this time.

Police Committee:

A meeting was on September 2, 2024 at 3:30 pm to discuss the Police Contracts with Putnam and Hamilton Townships.

Borough Manager:

Nothing at this time.

Junior Council Person:

Homecoming will be Friday, September 27th with a parade followed by the football game. The Homecoming dance will be on Saturday, September 28th and the theme is Old Hollywood.

VIBE:

Tonya McNamara presented the Council with a mockup of the new sign by the Green Bridge. The company that prepared the design is Wild Sign from Owego, NY. The design is based on a “gateway” style of sign. Tonya has been in contact with PennDot regarding this and since it is not in their right of way, changing the sign doesn’t affect them. A question was raised regarding the sign being lit since there is electricity available at the location. Tonya will look into this.

The second sign is in a proposal stage and would be at the interchange near the Kwik Fill. It would be a simple sign with an arrow directing people to town. We would need to be sure that the property owner, Highland Field Services, is in agreement and that they sign any and all necessary documents. She asked that the Borough perform some of the work, for instance, digging the necessary post holes, and similar items.

Motion by Kenneth Johnson, Second by Jill Nickerson to proceed with the sign by the Green Bridge and to continue discussions regarding the second sign. All in Favor.

Planning Commission Report:

No Meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board:

No Meeting

Recreation:

Holly Berguson informed the Rec Board that Wellsboro Swim Team is trying to decide what to do in 2025. They may use the Blossburg pool, and pay for the use depending on what needs to be done to the Wellsboro pool.

The Concession Stand/Electric Building is under construction.

Rip/Rap has been installed along Johnson Creek replacing the material that was washed away during Tropical Storm Debby on August 9, 2024.

Fire and Ambulance:

Minutes were received. Shawn Rice, Fire Chief wanted to discuss the Rescue Training and Response program. This is a program similar to mutual aid and various Departments in the County would be dispatched for training, responses for emergencies and rescue incidents. Our Insurance Company requires that the Borough approve these activities for Workers’ Comp purposes. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Kenneth Johnson to authorize the Blossburg Fire Department to be a part of the Rescue Training and Response Program. All in Favor.

The Solicitor asked if he could review a copy of the Tioga County Fire Association Mutual Aid Agreement. Shaw said that he would get a copy for him.

Library:

Liz came to first Thank the Council and Borough for their continued support of the Library. All support, big or small is greatly appreciated. The Library continues to be crazy busy. For the Community Night on September 10th, there were over 74 people in attendance. The program presented was Deaf Awareness as the Borough has a small population of deaf residents. A Sign Language presentation will start in October and as always, it is free.

The Library will be adding an extra hour to the schedule on Thursdays and possibly adding an additional hour after the first of the year. The Library has one of the largest book clubs in the County; the Yoga classes are well attended.

Street Committee:

The tar and chipping has been completed. By doing this we add about 5 years to the life span over paving. The “paving” that the community was talking about was a leveling course which was only ¼” to 1” thick.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing.

Budget:

A meeting was held on August 29, 2024 and a second Meeting has been scheduled for October 3, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

The sewer plant construction has largely been completed. There will be a walk through on September 26th to see what items remain to be completed.

The Hillside well media change hit a bit of a snag when the air scour piping had to be replaced. Looking at the end of September for this to be completed.

Bellman Creek needs work as a result of Tropical Storm Debby. That work should start the first week of October.

OLD BUSINESS:

LED Streetlights (April 2021): Waiting for Penelec

Project Goals for 2022: Project Goal Updates:

- a. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** Nothing.
- b. **Plaza Refurbishment:** Nothing at this time.

Concepcion – Maple Hill: The Solicitor is working with Mr. Concepcion to be out of his travel trailer by the end of October.

NEW BUSINESS:

Storm August 9, 2024: A Disaster Declaration needs to be declared due to the damage of the storm on August 9, 2024. Motion by Kenneth Johnson, Second by Jill Nickerson to declare an emergency for August 9, 2024.

2024 County Response Plan: The County Response Plan was adopted by motion of Jill Nickerson, Second James Rakoski, All in Favor. The Borough will add specific items to the Plan that are pertinent to Blossburg.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Revize Website Revisions: This was an unsolicited proposal sent to the Borough for the redesign of the Borough Website. This item failed to be voted to the Agenda.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Kenneth Johnson, Second by Jill Nickerson to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm. All in Favor.

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary