

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 9, 2024**

The Council Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jolene Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

**Guests:** Tom Yankowy, Joseph Stitz, Bob Hamel, Renee Carey, PA Conservancy and Kristie Bowles (Tioga Publishing).

Renee provided an update on the AMD project. DEP is in the process of finalizing one more right of way. She recently looked over the work done on Island Park by Trout Unlimited and it looks like everything is getting back in order. They are preparing a few events in connection with the Library for children in different age groups to learn about rivers, coal mining, the effects of mining on the water. She is finalizing a Grant for these events and will need the Borough to issue a letter of support. A discussion was held regarding the 232 acres that will be turned over to the Department of Forestry once the AMD project is completed and the ability to have ATV trails on the property. Renee said to contact Benn Carlson, the District Forester to discuss further.

Bob Hamel – Mr. Hamel lives on Spring Street and recently a neighbor (the Mayor) had a tree cut down, but it fell the wrong way and it landed on Hamel’s property. The Mayor and Mr. Hamel discussed this matter during the meeting and all was resolved.

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 Josh Jones. All in favor.

**Mayor:**

The asked for an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. The Executive Session started at 6:46 pm.

The Meeting was reconvened at 7:12 pm. No action was taken during the Executive Session.

**Police:**

Nothing at this time.

**Police Committee:**

No Meeting

**Borough Manager:**

Nothing at this time.

**Junior Council Person:**

Nothing.

**VIBE:**

Preparing for Fall Festival on October 13 from 11 to 4 on Main Street. Currently have over 80 vendors coming to participate.

**Planning Commission Report:**

No Meeting.

**Zoning Hearing Board:**

No Meeting

**Recreation:**

There will be a meeting regarding the signage that TCCC would like to construct on October 22, 2024 at the Library.

We are preparing for laying blocks for the new building next week.

**Fire and Ambulance:**

Minutes were received.

**Library:**

The Library remains very busy. A Board meeting will be held the week of October 14, 2024

**Street Committee:**

Nothing.

**Shade Tree Commission:**

Nothing.

**Budget:**

A meeting was scheduled for October 29, 2024 at 6:00 pm. Motion by James Rakoski, Second by Kenneth Johnson to advertise the 2025 budget for review.

**Blossburg Municipal Report:**

The contractors are working on this final punch lists to complete the construction. Final walk through is scheduled for November 4, 2024.

The repairs at Bellman Creek have gone very well. The engineer was thrilled with the work that the Borough crew performed. He thought it would take 5 to 10 days to complete the work, however, it only took 3. Currently, the crew is concentrating on getting the stream bed raised.

The Rod & Gun wells have had the media changed out and the generator installed.

**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 has prepared a complaint to be filed in the Tioga County Courthouse as Mr. Concepcion has not left the property.

**2024 County Response Plan:** The plan was adopted at the September meeting. Motion by Josh Jones, Second by James Rakoski to remove this item from the agenda. All in Favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2025 Police Pension Resolution:** This is an annual resolution to direct that the Police Officers do not have to contribute to the Pension Program. This will be added to the November Agenda.

**Fire Department 2025 Tax Millage:** This will be added to the November Agenda for signing.

**Garbage Fees:** We have received the 2025 NTSWA Trash Removal Agreement. There will be a 4.5% increase in their fees for 2025. This increase will be passed along to residents. The proposed increase will be from \$40.65 per quarter to \$42.48 per quarter with extra bags increasing from \$1.30 per bag to \$1.35. This will be added to the Agenda for November for approval.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

A Personnel Committee Meeting was scheduled for October 15, 2024 at 4:30 pm.

There will be hot cocoa and pumpkin carving in front of the Borough Hall on October 31, 2024 from 6 to 8 pm for Halloween. This will be hosted by Shane & Jill Nickerson.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Kenneth Johnson, Second by James Rakoski to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 pm. All in Favor.

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Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary