

# BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## April 19, 2010

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President James J. 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:** Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk; (absent, Second Vice-President Jill Nickerson (had baby)); Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jeffrey Everett, Mark Bowne, Roger Bunn; Mayor John Backman; (absent, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett); Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) Member Tonya McNamara; Cheryl Clarke Sun Gazette; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Steffen; Meda Hilfiger.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the March 15, 2010 meeting were accepted on motion of Jeffrey Everett; second, Mark Bowne. All in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:** Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Jeffrey Everett; second, Roger Bunn. All in favor.

**Bills:** Bills to be paid on motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

**Guests:** Retired Chief Ronald Steffen was presented a plaque "IN RECOGNITION FOR THE MANY YEARS OF SERVING AND PROTECTING THE BOROUGH OF BLOSSBURG FROM JULY 6, 1981 TO JANUARY 19, 2010". Also, Mayor John Backman read a letter, he wrote, in regards to Mr. Steffen's accomplishments while he worked as a police officer.

Meda Hilfiger asked about replacing the existing First United Methodist Church event sign. The new sign would be 4' x 8' and would resemble the new Blossburg Fire Department sign. Ms. Hilfiger is to acquire a permit application. After the application is completed, it will be presented at the next Planning Commission meeting. If approved by the Planning Commission, it will then be presented to the Zoning Hearing Board for their approval.

### **Reports:**

(A) **NPHS Student:** No student 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 in the KCC Building on Island Park at 6:00 P.M.

V.I.B.E. Minutes were not available from the Internet.

V.I.B.E. member Tonya McNamara reported on V.I.B.E. topics:

(1) The Farmer's Market is to start Memorial Day Weekend to October 17, 2010. Mansfield, Wellsboro and Blossburg boroughs are all working together this year. (2) Work has started on Community Garden. (3) Nothing new to report on Walking Trail. (4) Riverside Plaza design proposals are still being worked on. (5) The Fall Festival date has been set for October 17, 2010. (6) The Community Yard Sale has been set for May 22, 2010. (7) Costs for Theater renovations are in the development stages.

**Reports:**

**Skate Park:** Jill Nickerson is looking into having a Pavilion built by Skate Park and finish area with landscaping.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman reported Raymond (Keith) Lindie and Robert Metarko replaced the plexiglass on the mural at Island Park.

Mayor Backman commended the North Penn High School students for the excellent cleanup job they did on Island Park.

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

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Jeffrey Everett; second, Mark Bowne. All in favor.

A discussion was held on the increase of gas trucks using Taber Street, which is a borough street. Councilmembers would rather not spend money on an engineering study for the purpose of installing weight limit signs, if local truck delivery signs would take care of problem. A motion was made, by Jeffrey Everett, to check with the Borough Solicitor in regards to having an ordinance done so proposed signs are enforceable; second Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

State roads 2016 (South Williamson Road) and 2017 (North Williamson Road) are bonded by the gas trucks.

Blossburg will host a non-emergency strike team training program for Lycoming, Sullivan and Tioga counties. It will stage a mass casualty training exercise. The drill will help local services learn how to respond to an accident of this type in our area. Multiple emergency personnel, vehicles and Guthrie Air medical helicopter will all be participating.

May 6, 2010 a mock car crash will be held on Island Park for NPHS students grades 9 – 12, rain date is May 7, 2010.

Chief McCurdy is to participate in a sting with Pennsylvania State Police targeting overweight truck violators.

The survey on sidewalks needing repaired was presented to Council for review.

**United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Grant/Loan Assistance:**

"Grant Funding limitations are based on population and income, economic feasibility, and availability of funds. Projects which receive grant assistance have a high priority and are highly leveraged with other loan and grant awards. Grant assistance may be available for up to 55% of eligible costs." The Grant application is valid until September 2010. The present police car is three (3) years old and has 60,000 miles on the odometer. A motion was made by Jeffrey Everett to pursue the Grant Application; second, Mark Bowne. All in favor.

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

**Reports:**

**(G) Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Roger Bunn. All in favor.

Mr. Lloyd reported that new Memorial benches are being donated by the Blossburg VFW.

Council gave permission for Mr. Lloyd to start an ordinance to keep people from throwing snow back into the street after borough crews have plowed.

**(H) Planning Commission:** No meeting.

A meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2010 to discuss conversion of single family dwelling to two (2) apartments located on North Williamson Road.

Meda Hilfiger's request for a new sign replacing the existing First United Methodist Church event sign will also be on the agenda.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

**(I) Recreation:**

Southern Tioga School District "User Agreement" for Island Park expires July 1, 2010. A meeting to be set up with STDS.

Bloss Little League request to put up removal plastic or vinyl business murals on the outfield fence of the Pete Hall Field. Murals are for both a fundraiser and to improve the aesthetics of the field.

United Fund distributions were modified because there was less money available this year. Blossburg Fire Department - \$2,000.00 to \$1,800.00, Blossburg Recreation - \$2,500.00 to \$2,400.00, V.I.B.E. - \$500.00 to \$400.00.

The bench by baseball field will be donated by Francis Vroman family.

A 72" rear discharge mower deck was purchased for cutting the grass at Island Park.

Pool: Western Surety Company (Bond) meeting on project deficiencies is scheduled on April 26, 2010 at 11:00 A.M.

With the possibility of the pool not opening for this year, the Borough of Mansfield is offering Blossburg area residents to use the Mansfield pool. A family season ticket is \$175.00, early bird price of \$150.00 between now and June 1<sup>st</sup>. After June 1<sup>st</sup> Mansfield has a pool subsidy program for low income families. Eligible applicants would receive \$100.00 off the regular family season price. Applicants must meet the low income criteria.

**(J) Fire:** A Financial Report and copy of minutes were received.

Councilmembers Jeffrey Everett and Roger Bunn attended the monthly meeting.

North Penn High School students cleaned up the Fire Department grounds. They did a wonderful job and their hard work was greatly appreciated.

**Reports:**

(K) **Library:** Quarterly meeting is tonight.

A summer reading program is planned.

Due to the decrease in funding, the library will be closed on Saturdays.

(L) **Street Committee:** A meeting was scheduled for April 27, 2010 at 8:30 A.M. to look at abandoning the east end of Lynd Street, prioritize the list of sidewalks needing repaired, and the condition of pine trees by Memorial.

A list of 2010 proposed streets for tar & chipping was reviewed. Total miles and cost: 0.70 miles at \$10,000.00 - \$12,000.00. Motion made by Jeffrey Everett to accept the presented list of streets for tar & chipping; second, Mark Bowne. All in favor.

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

(N) **Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):**

BMA is reviewing agreement to sell 100,000 gallons water / day to Hydro-Recovery for Frac Filter Plant.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

Council meetings will remain the same and be held the third Monday of each month.

At the Southern Tioga School Board Meeting held on April 12, 2010 approval was given to start paper work on renovation or new construction. The start date is spring 2011.

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

Motion to accept / purchase, when funds are available, Keystate Publishers "Option 2" proposal in the amount of \$5,250.00 was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

*Option 2: Codify existing ordinances, including necessary research to identify all enactments, and legal review. It will also provide the code in an electronic format, usable on a stand alone CD, loadable to any LAN or WAN, and posted to the world wide web for as long as Keystate supplements the Code. Unlimited consulting conferences.*

**3. Gas Leases (Borough's & Residents):**

Borough Manager George Lloyd is waiting for information from Fortuna to possibly have all Blossburg residents join together in a community gas lease agreement.

**4. Mansfield Request on YMCA for Blossburg to be a Participant:** Nothing to report.

**5. Condemned Properties Update:**

The Borough Solicitor to be contacted on property located on Maple Hill Road.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. \$20.00 to Blossburg Municipal Authority:**

To increase change in Cash Box from \$40.00 to \$100.00. Authority will put in \$20.00 Water and \$20.00 Sewer. Motion to disburse \$20.00 to Blossburg Municipal Authority, to increase cash in Cash Box, was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

**2. Request to Use Shopping Center Parking Lot for a Festival Celebrating Christmas in July:**

A request was received from local clergy to use the Riverside Shopping Center parking lot for a Festival celebrating Christmas in July on the evening of Sunday, July 11, 2010, with a rain date of July 25, 2010. The festival is entitled "A Night in Bethlehem". Motion to allow request was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Roger Bunn. All in favor.

**3. United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Grant/Loan Assistance:**

Discussed earlier under Reports – Police.

**4. Coal Festival Parade Permit:**

Blossburg State Coal Festival will be held May 26 – 29, 2010. PennDOT Parade Permit paperwork will need to be sent in by the Borough Secretary. Motion to apply for parade permit was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Mark Bowen. All in favor.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- 1. NORTHERN TIER REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NTRPDC) ANNUAL MEETING INVITATION – MAY 7, 2010, ST. BASIL'S PARISH HALL CHURCHILL STREET, DUSHORE, PA. REGISTRATION 11:30 A.M. BUSINESS MEETING 12:00 PM. RSVP BY APRIL 27, 2010.**
- 2. TIOGA COUNTY AND THE NORTHERN TIER REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ARE PARTNERING TO HOST AN INFORMATIONAL SESSION REGARDING COUNTY ROADS AND THE MARCELLUS SHALE ACTIVITY ON MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2010 AT THE TOKISHI BUILDING IN WELLSBORO.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT JAMES J. BOGACZYK AT 8:19 P.M. RECONVENED 8:40 P.M. PERSONNEL ISSUES DISCUSSED AND WILL BE TURNED OVER TO BOROUGH SOLICITOR.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** President James J. Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 8:41 P.M.

**Next Council Meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2010 at 6:30 P.M.**