

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

May 17, 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; Second Vice-President Jill Nickerson; Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jeffrey Everett, Mark Bowne, (absent, Roger Bunn (trip to Europe)); Mayor John Backman; 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 Josh Jones; Cheryl Clarke Sun Gazette; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Linda Cloos; David Hedrick and Hawbaker Engineering of State College representatives Eric Kann and Chris Force.

Minutes: The minutes of the April 19, 2010 meeting were accepted on motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

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

Council President James J. Bogaczyk explained to Councilmembers the April Treasurer's Report "Transaction Register by Ledger" (summary, one page), which was handed out in the Council packets, instead of the "Transaction Register by Date" (detailed, 16 pages). The "Transaction Register by Date" is still available, but since it is so lengthy Borough Secretary Mary Signor thought the Ledger version would be acceptable. Council President Bogaczyk asked members their opinion. Members opt to continue receiving the Ledger report. President Bogaczyk will still receive both Register versions.

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Jill Nickerson; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

Guests: Linda Cloos, a Ruah Street resident, spoke on behalf of the residents of that street to request "No Parking" signs erected to eliminated parking on the west side of the street (from Hannibal Street to Lynd Street). Mrs. Cloos stated driveways are often blocked by parked cars, making unsafe situations for residents and pedestrians. The Street Committee will meet on May 19, 2010 at 6:00 P.M. to review.

David Hedrick and Hawbaker Engineering of State College representatives Eric Kann and Chris Force did a presentation on the proposed Hydro Recovery Frac Wastewater Plant, which is to be located next to the Kwik Fill on Old Route 15. This parcel of land was changed by Ordinance No. 421 – to Heavy Industrial on September 14, 2009. The plant will be fenced and gated, will employ approximately 12 employees, with 24 hours of operation. 100 trucks will use the facility per day. The process per truck will be 15 – 20 minutes. If all permits are approved, construction is to start in June, with operations starting in November or December 2010. Borough Engineer William S. Bray and County are also reviewing the Hydro Recovery Frac Wastewater Plant plans.

Due to the additional traffic coming in and out of the Hydro Recovery Frac Wastewater Plant, Councilmembers reiterated the importance of a traffic signal at the intersection next to the Kwik Fill on Old Route 15.

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 usually held on fourth Wednesday of the month in the KCC Building on Island Park at 6:00 P.M.

Next V.I.B.E. meeting to be held at the Brick Tavern on Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at 6:00 P.M.

V.I.B.E. Minutes for March 24, 2010 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

V.I.B.E. topics:

(1) The Farmer's Market is to start May 29, 2010. (2) The Community Yard Sale will be held on May 22, 2010. (3) Jill Nickerson is working on three (3) Grant closeouts. (4) Purchased new Wi-Fi equipment – old equipment to be sold.

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

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman did a survey with Blossburg business owners on the removal of trees along the east side of Main Street. The business owners would like to see the trees removed.

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

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

On the April Police Report there were a number of Kwik Fill drive offs. A discussion was held stating there are far too many drive offs and the Kwik Fill should try another course of action, rather than using the Police Department for enforcement. Chief McCurdy reported he talked to the Manager and this problem has been resolved.

A new V-Spec speeding device has replaced the old Vascar equipment.

James J. Bogaczyk requested traffic control for the Memorial Day services. Main Street is to be shut down at 10:45 A.M. for approximately 20 minutes.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Jeffrey Everett; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Eric Weber of PennDOT telephoned about newspaper article on Taber Street. Their understanding is "Local Delivery" signs are not enforceable, plus if Borough tries to limit traffic on a Borough street, it could jeopardize the Liquid Fuels for that section of road, because vehicles pay tax on fuel that goes into Liquid Fuels Account. PennDOT recommends a traffic study.

Reports:

An offer was received from a gentleman residing in Liberty, PA to work on downtown monument at no charge. He has hours of community service to work off. The guy would like to sandblast the stone (appreciate if Borough purchased sand) and repoint top flagstone to keep out water. Also, would like to use kids needing community service, if available. Mr. Lloyd to set up date to meet with man.

An e-mail on 2010 Census was received from the Tioga County Board of Commissioners. They have concerns regarding how accurate the count for Tioga county will be due to the gas well activity. The Commissioners have contacted the local, state and federal representatives.

The Borough will be receiving twenty-two (22) new street signs from a grant under the Upper Pine Creek Council of Governments.

(H) Planning Commission: Meeting of April 27, 2010.

Reviewed and approved:

Conversion of single family dwelling to two (2) apartments on North Williamson Road.

Dr. Stephen Ollock request a change in use for the St. Andrews Hall located at 116 Seymour Street into dental offices.

Meda Hilfiger's request for a new sign replacing the existing First United Methodist Church event sign was withdrawn.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

A meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2010 at 6:30 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. to discuss conversion of single family dwelling to two (2) apartments on North Williamson Road and Dr. Stephen Ollock request for change in use at the St. Andrews Hall located at 116 Seymour Street into dental offices.

(I) Recreation:

Southern Tioga School District plans to sign a new "User Agreement" for Island Park for a period of three (3) years, from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2012. The amounts each year are: 2010 – \$13,000.00, 2011 – \$14,000.00, and 2012 – \$15,000.00.

During the May 10 Southern Tioga School Board meeting, board members tabled action to eliminate the tennis programs in Mansfield and Liberty. The Island Park tennis courts are in need of repair. An estimated cost to restore the courts is \$28,000.00 to \$40,000.00. Fundraisers will be created to cover expenses.

Island Park Storm Drain Project: Island Park Infiltration Basin Grant was approved.

Recreation Board approved Bloss Little League request to put up removable 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.

North Penn students are to be commended on the outstanding job they did in cleaning Island Park.

Reports:

Pool: Western Surety Company (Bond) meeting on project deficiencies was held on April 26, 2010 at 11:00 A.M. President of Main Line Commercial Pools, Inc. to take over project. On May 4, 2010 crew was back at work.

Discussed Option #3 – Modified Pool Wall with Existing Pool Wall. Total cost of Option #3 is \$45,154.13. Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to approve Option #3, contingent on approval from pool consultant; second. Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

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

Councilmembers Jeffrey Everett and Roger Bunn attended the monthly meeting.

(K) Library: No report. Councilmember Roger Bunn was absent tonight and Councilmember Jill Nickerson didn't attend meeting.

(L) Street Committee: Reviewed properties needing sidewalk repairs and Sidewalk Ordinance. Letters will be sent to homeowners with sidewalks needing repairs.

Committee looked at abandoning the east end of Lynd Street.

(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.

Looking into more Grant Funds to do work at Taylor Run.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Discussed earlier.

The Community is still being encouraged to support and keep updated in the decisions regarding repairs or new construction on the Blossburg schools.

2. Borough Code of Ordinances – Update: Update will be purchased when funds are available.

3. Gas Leases (Borough's & Residents): Nothing to report.

4. Mansfield Request on YMCA for Blossburg to be a Participant:

Councilmember Jill Nickerson has left several messages with Mansfield Borough, but hasn't received a response back.

5. Condemned Properties Update: Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Letter to Homes with Water Wells:

Some area residents have concerns about the impact of natural gas exploration and extraction on drinking water wells. Jill Nickerson researched and presented information and resources in letter form. On behalf of the Blossburg Borough Council this letter will be sent to nearby residents owning drinking water wells.

2. Williamson Road Television Co., Inc.:

On August 1, 2009 Williamson Television Co. was sold to Blue Ridge Communications. The money received for the assets of Williamson Television Co. was put in a trust fund. Monies are to be used for beautification of Blossburg. Board members remain the same, each serving three (3) year terms.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1. TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2010 AT THE HARVEST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP, SHAFFER HILL, LIBERTY, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY MONDAY, MAY 17, 2010.**
- 2. 18TH ANNUAL COAL FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD FROM MAY 26 – 29, 2010 AT ISLAND PARK.**

ADJOURNMENT: President James J. Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 8:32 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2010 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary