

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

August 16, 2010

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk called the Blossburg Borough Council regular meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Blossburg Memorial Library Community Room, 307 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

Attendance: (absent, President James J. Bogaczyk (vacation)); Second Vice-President Jill Nickerson; Councilmembers (absent, Jerome Ogden), Jeffrey Everett, Mark Bowne, Roger Bunn; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; (absent, Chief Joshua McCurdy (sick)); Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) Member Josh Jones; Southern Tioga School District Superintendent Joseph Kalata and North Penn High School Principal William David; Cheryl Clarke Sun Gazette; Rebecca Hazen Wellsboro Gazette.

Minutes: Correction on July 19, 2010 minutes:

Page 3. OLD BUSINESS:

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

Councilmember Jeffrey Everett suggested the title above be changed to

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

The minutes of the July 19, 2010 meeting were accepted on motion of Jeffrey Everett; second, Roger Bunn. All in favor.

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

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Roger Bunn; second, Mark Bowne. All in favor.

Guests: Southern Tioga School District Superintendent Joseph Kalata and North Penn High School Principal William David attended the meeting to discuss Morris Street transfer with Council. The transfer of Morris Street is not necessary for the district to do their school project. Different options are being discussed with the architect, i.e. the renovation of the elementary school and reconstruction of the high school or the less expensive option of renovation to both the elementary and the high schools. Decisions may be decided at the next month's board meeting. Construction will not begin until April or May of 2011.

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 7:00 P.M.

V.I.B.E. Minutes for June 23, 2010 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

Reports:

V.I.B.E. topics:

(1) Researching different available grants. (2) Waiting for delivery of new directional signage. (3) Fall Festival is scheduled for October 17, 2010. A database of vendor contact information is being created. Vendor applications may be accessed through the Internet. (4) A gaming shop will be opening next to Nationwide Insurance. The Blossburg location will serve as a warehouse/satellite location for the main store which will be located in Mansfield. (5) Organization is looking for more community involvement.

Skate Park: No correspondence from Grant resource.

Pavilion work will start when Shane Nickerson has some free time. Jill Nickerson has contacted Dane's Landscaping to do landscaping work around Skate Park.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman stated his concerns on the flood level at the Blossburg First United Methodist Church location with all of the gas/oil exploration upstream.

Blossburg Comprehensive Plan will end 2010. A new 20 year Comprehensive Plan expense to be included in 2011 Budget.

(E) **Police:** Chief McCurdy was absent, because he had a cold.

Everyone has received a copy of the Police Report.

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

Councilmember Thomas Bogaczyk questioned the number of nonpayment drive off complaints from the Kwik-Fill. Mayor Backman is to visit the Kwik-Fill to discuss preventative methods.

Since the "old" police car is used in patrolling, Councilmember Jeffrey Everett suggested the "old" police car mileage be added to the Monthly Police Report. With the additional information Council will know exactly the total miles that was patrolled and in addition may be an asset i.e. when applying for grants.

Police Car Grant/Loan: Tabled at last meeting. A new police car will not be purchased at this time. Remove item from the agenda until a purchase is ready to be made.

Countywide DUI Task Force: No information received.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Jill Nickerson; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

The Carpenter Street Waterline Project is almost completed.

2011 Financial Requirements & Minimum Municipal Obligation for Pension Plans (MMO's):
Police - \$7,888.00 / Non-Uniform - \$30,413.00.

A request was received from *Wiggle* FM for Blossburg Borough to pay for one (1) day radio ad supporting a Drug Free message. Council tabled requesting further research.

Reports:

A Northern Tier Regional Road Safety Review Questionnaire was received. They are conducting a study to determine where the most significant safety concerns are located within their five-county region. The completed survey is requested no later than August 31, 2010. Several concerns will be added to survey, they are as follows: (1) Kwik-Fill and future Frack Filter Plant intersection will have more traffic. Suggest lowering the speed limit and increasing the No Passing distances. (2) Increased truck traffic from gas well activities at SR2016 and SR2017 intersection – causing backups. (3) Potential problem with Northbound tractor trailers on North Williamson Road turning right onto Main Street. Trucks have to make wide turns and go into lane used by opposing traffic. (4) Deteriorating road surface causing potholes, because of increased truck traffic from gas well activities.

Grabowski Trailer Park, Gulick Street: Reviewed expansion plans for eight (8) double-wide homes. Motion made by Jeffrey Everett to approve expansion of Grabowski Trailer Park contingent on favorable review by Tioga County Planning Commission; second, Jill Nickerson.

After a brief discussion, Councilmember Roger Bunn suggested the Blossburg Planning Commission review the trailer park expansion plans.

"Amend Motion": Blossburg Planning Commission to review Grabowski Trailer Park expansion plans. Expansion approved on contingent both the Blossburg Planning Commission and the Tioga County Planning Commission approvals. All in favor.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(I) Recreation:

Paving, which is being paid for by Mansfield sources, is completed for tennis courts. Today the lines were painted. Also, the fence and nets were put up.

Island Park Storm Drain Grant, through Tioga County Conservation, was approved. Materials were purchased and are on Island.

Pool: Opened August 6, 2010. Baby pool closed for this season, but will be opened next season.

2010 season tickets are being sold now. 2010 tickets may also be used in 2011.

Punch list made of items that need work. Work to be done after pool closes for the season.

Main Line submitted Invoice #6 for work completed at the pool. The invoice amount is \$159,750.00. Motion to pay Main Line Invoice #6 was made by Jill Nickerson; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

Cost ± \$4,100.00 to install gas line to pool heater. Motion to have gas line installed for pool heater was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Roger Bunn. All in favor.

(J) Fire: No Financial Report was received. No meeting.

(K) Library: Flamingo fundraiser was successful.

Reports:

(L) Street Committee:

(1) Proposed Ordinance for No Parking along west side of Ruah Street from Hannibal Street to Lynd Street. Council agreed to allow signs to be posted pending approval of ordinance. (2) Hamilton Township Ordinance limiting truck traffic on streets is to be reviewed by Borough Solicitor and Borough Manager to see if it can be modified for Borough.

(M) Budget: 2011 budget preparation to start in September.

(N) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):

Payment was received for Subsurface Gas Lease. Properties under lease are the sewer plant and Parkhurst Street properties.

Blacktop Carpenter Street waterline trench.

Councilmembers requested BMA minutes.

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:

August 5, 2010 Keystate Publishers were on site to scan ordinances and conduct research.

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

4. Condemned Properties Update:

Davis Street property was sold. New owner is to be contacted about his plans for the home/property.

Schuylkill Street property owner was notified by Borough Solicitor to apply for Demolition Permit. Property owner had 10 days to respond. No response was received. Borough Solicitor to file papers.

5. Sidewalk Repair Letter: Borough Solicitor is to review letter and give final approval.

6. Bid Old Dresser Loader and Bid 1994 Chevy One Ton Truck with Plow:

Advertisements were not completed. Bids to be advertised for September meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Noise Abatement:

Borough Solicitor is to review an ordinance prohibiting the use of "jake brakes" by truckers. Roads/streets to be included are North Williamson Road, South Williamson Road, and Gulick Street. Canton and Mansfield boroughs have similar ordinances in place.

Councilmember Roger Bunn suggested the use of electronic Read Out Speed Signs. Councilmembers were in favor of Mr. Bunn's suggestion.

2. New Flood Plain Ordinance:

Councilmembers discussed new flood plain ordinance to be in effect the end of year. These ordinances are being mandated by the Federal Government in order for borough residents to remain eligible to purchase flood insurance. Borough Engineer William S. Bray is reviewing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT THOMAS BOGACZYK AT 7:48 P.M. RECONVENED 8:05 P.M. PROPOSED LITIGATION DISCUSSED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

8th ANNUAL LOBSTER BAKE WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT: Vice -President Thomas Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 8:10 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2010 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary