

# BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## November 15, 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, Roger Bunn; Mayor John Backman (left at 7:30 P.M.); Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy (left at 7:10 P.M.); Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) Member Josh Jones; Corey Snyder NPHS Student Representative (left at 7:33 P.M.); Cheryl Clarke Sun Gazette; Rebecca Hazen Wellsboro Gazette; Chester Lutomski; Crystal and Kurt Hess; Bob Hamel; William and Beth Faughnan, Jr.; Sally Faughnan; Deb Donahue; Ada Young; Carol Tama; Wendy Shattuck.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the October 18, 2010 meeting were accepted on motion of Jill Nickerson; second, Mark Bowne. All in favor.

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

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

**Guests:**

Chester Lutomski, Crystal and Kurt Hess attended the meeting to report four wheelers and dirt bikes issues in their neighborhood. The riders are using "old" Parkhurst Street and other areas behind homes, to ride back and forth, spinning their wheels, causing a noise disturbance. Chief McCurdy stated "basically, there is no riding ATVs on the roadways, but the problem is to catch them in the act so you can prove who is riding the vehicles." Chief McCurdy has contacted Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), and is waiting for their reply, asking for their help in patrolling the area. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett is to review writing a possible four wheeler / dirt bike ordinance.

Bob Hamel, William and Beth Faughnan, Jr., Sally Faughnan, Deb Donahue and Ada Young attended the meeting for a right-of-way issue involving a potentially land-locked piece of property at the end of Spring Street. A 1.3 acre lot was purchased by William and Beth Faughnan, Jr. with the understanding that the borough was going to extend Spring Street so they would have access to their property. Council President James Bogaczyk suggested the two parties work the problem out themselves. A meeting between Mr. Hamel, William and Beth Faughnan, Patrick Barrett and George D. Lloyd was scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2010. Purpose of meeting is to review and discuss right-of-way and achieve an agreement between all parties.

Mrs. Carol Tama presented solutions to the concerns of downtown business owners pertaining to the trees on the east side of Main Street. Mrs. Tama had been in contact with Ettingers Landscaping. They recommended: (1) Raising the canopy to allow more visibility of signage. (2) Rooting of sidewalks could be corrected by cutting larger areas in the concrete. (3) Adding an additional street sweeper pass in early November could help the maintenance of fallen foliage. Mrs. Tama also presented articles on how trees provide value to Main Streets by increasing property value and even trees that are stripped of their leaves during the winter help slow down the cold wind and reduce heating costs. Mrs. Tama asked Borough Council to consider pruning the trees rather than removing them. All the valuable information Mrs. Tama presented supported her cause in saving the trees. Borough Manager George D. Lloyd is to contact the Shade Tree Commission to discuss.

Wendy Shattuck was attending tonight's meeting for observation.

**Reports:**

A) **NPHS Student:** Corey Snyder reported Donkey Basketball was being held tonight.

(B) **KCC:** The Kiwanis received \$2,000.00 donation from Williamson Road Foundation.

(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 September 22, 2010 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

V.I.B.E. member Josh Jones reported on V.I.B.E. topics:

- (1) The "Light Up the Holidays" in Blossburg will be held on Sunday, December 19, 2010.
- (2) V.I.B.E received \$5,000.00 donation from Williamson Road Foundation to be used for a walking trail around Island Park.
- (3) Blossburg T-shirts are being sold at Bloss Hardware for \$10.00 each.
- (4) Discussing additional downtown lighting, especially with the Victoria Theater operating.
- (5) A new edition for placemats is being made up. Jill Nickerson is to check on spacing for a Blossburg Borough advertisement.

**Skate Park:** Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Grant resources are requesting additional/required information in order to process another payment.

(D) **Mayor:**

Mayor Backman asked Council to support a VETO on House Bill HB 1231 (PN4393). In its current form, HB 1231 (PN4393) states that *any* cancer diagnosis in a firefighter is presumed to be work-related regardless of whether the individual ended his/her career years prior to the diagnosis. This standard is much narrower than that which already applies to any and all other occupational diseases. HB 1231 (PN4393) would place a financial burden on local governments and taxpayers in the current version. A motion to send a letter on behalf of the Blossburg Borough Council unanimously opposing HB 1231 (PN4393) in its present form was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

(E) **Police:** Chief McCurdy left the meeting at 7:10 P.M. He is scheduled for Weights and Measures Class in Harrisburg for two (2) days, starting tomorrow.

Everyone has received a copy of the Police Report.

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

Department is down one (1) part-time Officer.

**Use of Electronic Read Out Speed Signs:** No information received.

**Countywide DUI Task Force:** Nothing to report.

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

**Reports:**

**(G) Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Jill Nickerson; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Council liked the new "short" version of the Borough Mangers Report.

A PennDOT proposed project to mill and resurface the pavement on S.R. 2017 starting on Williamson Road and ending at the Tioga River (Gulick Street) is tentatively scheduled for spring 2011.

Energy source contacted Borough in regards to electric use price caps.

Steve Sumner from Gannon Associates is requesting a meeting to discuss insurance coverage packages. Two (2) tentative dates are November 22 or 23, 2010 at 9:00 A.M. Mr. Lloyd is to confirm which date.

Cost of Main Street curb cuts for crosswalk by Brick Tavern is \$2,425.00, plus \$500.00 for concrete removal and an additional \$300.00 for painting and signs. Motion to pursue crosswalk was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

**(I) Recreation:** Members mailed United Fund envelopes with donation request letters.

Pool: Contractor will complete Punch List next spring.

No more payments until Punch List is completed.

**(J) Fire:** A Financial Report was received.

Department is doing fundraisers for building and paving of parking lot.

**(K) Library:** Library meeting is tonight, which is the same night as Council.

**Council Meeting Date Changed:**

December 2010 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, December 20; January 2011 – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, January 3, 2011; February 2011 until further notice will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of month. Motion to change date of Council Meetings and advertise was made by Mark Bowne; second, Thomas Bogaczyk.

Roll Call: Yes – James Bogaczyk, Thomas Bogaczyk, Jeffrey Everett, Jerome Ogden,  
Jill Nickerson, Mark Bowne  
No – Roger Bunn

Motion carried.

Fundraiser Raffle: 8 GB Apple iPod Touch (4<sup>th</sup> Generation). Drawing will be held on December 11, 2010.

**Reports:**

**(L) Street Committee:**

Borough Solicitor is still reviewing Hamilton Township Ordinance limiting truck traffic on streets.

**(M) Budget:**

Proposed 2011 Budget: \$687,625.00 Revenues/Expenses.

Borough: 5.807 Mills – Fire: .568 Mills – Library: .250 Mills. Effective rate: 6.625 mills.

No tax increase.

Motion to accept the 2011 Budget, as presented, was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Mark Bowne. All in favor.

**(N) Project Committee:**

Committee worked on reorganizing committees and tried to consolidate areas. Information sheets were distributed to Councilmembers.

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

Approve purchase of \$90,000.00 pipe and materials to replace 3500' of waterline in town. Work to be spread out over next few years.

Councilmembers suggested George D. Lloyd contact Tioga County Commissions on available grant funding.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

Architect meeting to be held on November 26, 2010.

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:**

Keystate Publishers submitted a Preliminary Editorial Report on October 5, 2010 and was reviewed by Councilmembers on November 7, 2010. George D. Lloyd to scheduled an appointment with Keystate Publishers to review changes. Two (2) tentative dates are November 29 or 30, 2010 at 9:00 A.M. Mr. Lloyd is to confirm which date.

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

**4. Condemned Properties Update:**

(1) Davis Street property owner to secure home. His plans are to either gut home and remodel or tear down by end of year, if property not sold. (2) Schuylkill Street property owner was notified by Borough Solicitor to apply for Demolition Permit. No response was received. Borough Solicitor filed papers. (3) Other property owners needing to be notified on the conditions of their homes are: A home on Nevins Street and a home located on Main Street, which had a fire inside it.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**5. Sidewalk Repair Letter:**

Borough Solicitor and Code Officer are to review letter and give final approval. Property owners requiring sidewalk repairs will be notified in the spring.

**6. Engine Brake Ordinance (Jake Brake Ordinance):**

No official letter from PennDOT received yet.

**7. New Flood Plain Ordinance:**

New Flood Plain Ordinance was reviewed by Councilmembers. Changes were made and “draft” needs to be sent back to Tioga County Conservation by December 10, 2010. Motion to approve “draft” Flood Plain Ordinance and send to Tioga County Conservation was made by Jill Nickerson; second, Roger Bunn. All in favor.

**8. Landlord / Tenant Registration Ordinance:**

Amending the Code of Ordinances and mandating landlords within the borough to provide the Borough with a monthly registration form identifying its residential tenants. Councilmembers reviewed and have a few changes. Motion to accept to advertise with changes was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Advertise for Vehicle Fuel Bids:**

Motion to advertise for vehicle fuel bids was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

**2. Permission to Purchase Turkeys for Borough Employees for Thanksgiving:**

A motion to purchase turkeys for Borough employees for Thanksgiving, the cost to be split with the Blossburg Municipal Authority, was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

**3. Re-Appointments to Committees and Boards (Last Term Year 200):**

Re-Appointment to Planning Commission: Ralph Mundis, 111 McIntyre Street (agreed to re-appointment); 4yrs. – Term ending 2014. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Re-Appointment to Planning Commission: Patrick Marriner, 136 North Williamson Road (agreed to re-appointment); 4yrs. – Term ending 2014. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Re-Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board: Daniel Harman, 165 Joseph Street (agreed to re-appointment); 5yrs. – Term ending 2015. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Re-Appointment to Shade Tree Commission: Jeffrey Everett, 331 South Williamson Road (agreed to re-appointment); 5yrs. – Term ending 2015. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Re-Appointment to Blossburg Municipal Authority: David Jones, 386 Granger Street (agreed to re-appointment); 5 yrs. – Term ending 2015. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Re-Appointment to Recreation Board: James Bogaczyk, 338 North Williamson Road (agreed to re-appointment); 5yrs. – Term ending 2015. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT AT 8:17 P.M.  
RECONVENED 9:24 P.M. PERSONNEL ISSUES DISCUSSED.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL BE HELD  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2010 AT THE PENN WELLS HOTEL, MAIN STREET, WELLSBORO, PA.  
SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** President James J. Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 9:26 P.M.

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

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Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary