

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

November 13, 2013

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council Vice-President Jill Nickerson 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: (absent, President Thomas Bogaczyk (out of town)); Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Paul Hosszu, Jolene Hall, Stephen Wagner, (absent, James Rakoski); Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; (absent, Tylia Porter NPHS Student Representative); Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) Member Josh Jones; William Meyers President Riverside Homeowners Association; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Shane Nickerson.

Minutes: The minutes of the October 9, 2013 meeting were accepted on motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Stephen Wagner; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

Guests: Shane Nickerson was attending for observation. Mr. Nickerson was elected in the November election and will be sworn in, as Mayor, January 2014.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** Tylia Porter was absent. If Ms. Porter is committed to be the NPHS Student Representative, she will be sworn in, January 2014.

(B) **KCC:** The Kiwanis Club closed in November, due to declining membership. Recreation Building is vacant, except for rental uses. A few options for use of the building are: (1) V.I.B.E. hold their meetings there. (2) Council hold their meetings there? Councilmembers to discuss at the December Council Meeting and decided if they would like to move from the Borough Building. This topic will be added to the December Agenda.

(C) **Committee Business Development:**

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) meetings are held on fourth Wednesday of the month at the Brick Tavern at 6:30 P.M.

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

V.I.B.E. upcoming events: (1) November 30, 2013 Small Town Christmas. Time: 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. (2) Josh Jones presented information on the Island Park Wi-Fi Project. Installation should occur soon in the KCC Building. Additional locations will be installed in March and April of 2014, as weather permits. (3) Josh Jones explained the Rental Booking Program – www.bookingbug.com – an online scheduling, booking, reservation and appointment system for all the public rentals in the Blossburg area. The charge would be approximately \$34.00/month. No definite decisions were made on the purchasing of this program.

Reports:

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY MAYOR JOHN BACKMAN AT 6:57 P.M. RECONVENED 7:38 P.M. PERSONNEL ISSUES DISCUSSED.

(D) **Mayor:** Five (5) candidates were interviewed for the position of part-time police officer. Councilmembers agreed to hire Frank Levindoski at the pay rate of \$12.00 / hr. Ryan Brague and David Crape were hired at the pay rate of \$10.00 / hr., but each must complete the required Act 120 Certification testing before being scheduled to work.

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

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall.
All in favor.

Nothing to report.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Mr. Lloyd and Mary Signor met with Denny Colegrove Emergency Management Coordinator, Tioga County Department of Emergency Services on 911 emergency call out system. 911 has a program already in use that can call Blossburg land line residents in a matter of minutes, if there is another emergency. Cell phone numbers are not included. Mary Signor will contact Freedom Systems on pulling Blossburg billing customer's phone numbers from the utility program where cell numbers are listed. An agreeable format will be submitted to 911 for downloading.

North Central Sewage Agency (NCSA) contacted the Borough asking for a support letter to receive some funding from the County Act 13 monies. Motion to send a support letter was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

PVR Partners requested a Temporary Road Right-of-Way Option Agreement, in the amount of \$6,310.00, to use the old landfill access road. The road will be maintained by PVR Partners. Motion to sign Agreement, subject to Borough Solicitor's approval, was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: A meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. to hear Bruce Toothaker's special exemption request to repair and sell small equipment at 114 South Williamson Road.

(I) **Recreation:**

Working on Blossburg Area United Fund mailers.

Reports:

Jerome Ogden reported three checks were issued from the Williamson Road Foundation: Check #1: \$1,900.00 to Lynne Thompson for Blossburg Area Hometown Heroes Banner Project – Banners into CD's. Check #2: \$400.00 to Ed McNett for eight (8) benches he built and placed on the Walking Trail at Island Park. Check #3: \$1,900.00 for new electric service at the Blossburg Monument.

Island Park River Walk: A letter was received from Sarah (Hodder) Haddow stating the Walking Trail is one of the nicest things Blossburg has done for its people and commended the people involved in the construction of the Walking Trail.

(J) Fire: No Financial Report or Minutes were received.

Department gave out free smoke detectors at the Fall Festival.

Department to take over the Annual Halloween Parade. Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to send a letter of appreciation to the Blossburg Fire Ambulance Departments for their kindness in keeping the parade tradition; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

(K) Library: Next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2013.

(L) Street Committee: Nothing to report.

(M) Shade Tree Commission: Jill Nickerson is working on the Main Street trees presentation and plans to have a meeting in January. After the January meeting a Public Meeting will be scheduled.

(N) Budget:

Proposed 2014 Budget: \$895,101.00 Revenues/Expenses. (No tax increase.)
Borough: 5.807 Mills – Fire: .568 Mills – Library: .250 Mills. Effective rate: 6.625 mills.

A motion to advertise the proposed 2014 Budget was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

Borough Occupation / Per Capita Tax to remain the same.

Motion to increase the Emergency & Municipal Services Tax (EMS/LST Tax) from \$36.00 to \$52.00 per working person was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor. New amended Ordinance will be advertised and adopted at the December 11, 2013 Council Meeting.

An additional employee (Office Assistant) was included in the proposed budget. Motion was made by Paul Hosszu to advertise for an office assistant; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Act 13 Budget - \$133,000.00: Motion was made by Paul Hosszu to purchase a new 2014 Ford F-350 and build a new Borough Garage on Island Park; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor. Also included is the cost of new 10 year Comprehensive Plan.

(O) Project Committee: Nothing to report.

Remove from agenda. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Reports:

(P) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):

A company was in town relining bad sewer laterals. Another contractor is scheduled to reline sections of sewer mains from December 16 to December 18, 2013.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Southern Tioga School District (STSD) Plans:** Nothing to report.

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

A “Final Draft” letter was received, with Keystate Publishers recommendations and changes. Comments were reviewed and changes e-mailed to Keystate Publishers. Keystate Publishers are reviewing changes suggested by Council.

Chief McCurdy and Borough Manager George Lloyd are reviewing stop signs throughout town. After the revised list is completed, it will be submitted to Keystate Publishers for the updated Borough Code of Ordinances.

3. **Condemned Properties Update:**

- (1) 127 Schuylkill Street – Property was sold to local contractor.
- (2) 101 Post Street – Condition of property to be evaluated by an independent contractor and mortgage holder to be contacted on sale of property. Lien is already on property.
- (3) 134 Taber Street – Property owner plans to raze house in next few months.

4. **New Electrical Service Behind the Downtown Monument:**

Nothing to report. Stoudt’s Electric is working on 200 AMP design for Josh Jones. Cost to be approximately \$5,000.00. V.I.B.E. applied and received \$1,900.00 funding through the Williamson Road Foundation.

5. **Update Comprehensive Plan:**

Three (3) Steering Committee Meetings and two (2) Public Meetings have been held with RETTEW. The next scheduled meeting is scheduled on November 20, 2013.

6. **Talisman Agreement to Use Borough Streets:**

Talisman would like permission to access surrounding areas by using Borough streets. A Road Maintenance Agreement with Talisman to be negotiated.

Talisman drill rigs are moved out and will contact Borough office when they return.

Remove from agenda. Motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:**1. Mansfield Regional Valley Group – Water Supply Planning Report:**

Mansfield Regional Valley Group recommends forming a Regional Authority. They would like Blossburg Borough Council's approval and two (2) Blossburg area people to be on the Board. After a discussion and before making a decision, Councilmembers would like more information on this proposal. A meeting is to be scheduled with RETTEW, Attorney Chris Lantz, Blossburg Municipal Authority, and Blossburg Borough Council.

2. Bid Opening for 1989 GMC Truck Chassis:

Received one (1) bid as advertised. James E. Smith, 254 Blake Road, Blossburg, PA 16912 bid \$525.00 for the 1989 GMC Truck Chassis. Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to accept James E. Smith bid; second Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

3. Resolution No. 5 – Plan Revision for New Land Development (Hydro Recovery – Tokarz Expansion):

Construction for the Hydro Recovery LP – Tokarz Expansion was split into three (3) phases. Phase 1 would include the construction of additional storage tanks. Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the expansion needs DEP approval. Hydro Recovery must submit Component 3 paperwork to DEP, which requires the Borough to sign a Resolution stating sewer service can be provided for the expansion. Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to submit to DEP a Resolution for their approval as a revision to the "Official Sewage Facilities Plan" for the Borough of Blossburg; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

4. Resolution No. 6 – Blossburg Police Pension Plan Act 600:

Annual requirement for record: Resolution for Police Pension Fund stating if necessary for officers to pay into the Pension or not. No payment required for 2014.

5. Advertise for Vehicle Fuel Bids: Motion to advertise for vehicle fuel bids was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.**6. Permission to Purchase Thanksgiving Turkeys for Borough Employees:**

A motion to purchase Thanksgiving turkeys for Borough employees was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

7. Re-Appointments to Committees and Boards (Last Term Year 2013):

Re-Appointment to Planning Commission: Robert Kelly, 127 Main Street (agreed to re-appointment); 4yrs. – Term ending 2017. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Re-Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board: Kathryn Wesneski, 263 South Williamson Road (replacement needed); 5yrs. – Term ending 2018. Borough Manager to review list of names for replacement.

Re-Appointment to Shade Tree Commission: William Novitske, Jr., 230 South Williamson Road (agreed to re-appointment); 5yrs. – Term ending 2018. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Re-Appointment to Blossburg Municipal Authority: Michael Stoudt, 356 Ogdensburg Road (agreed to re-appointment); 5yrs. – Term ending 2018. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Re-Appointment to Blossburg Recreation Board: Thomas Dickinson, 126 Davis Street (agreed to re-appointment); 5yrs. – Term ending 2018. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Re-Appointment to Blossburg Recreation Board: Thomas McNamara, 113 South Williamson Road (agreed to re-appointment); 5yrs. – Term ending 2018. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

8. Resolution No. 7: Tax Collection Committee (TCC) Representatives for 2014:

Annual Resolution Tax Collection Committee (TCC) Representatives.

At the present time, the following individuals are appointed as TCC delegates for the Borough of Blossburg:

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Primary Voting Delegate: | Mayor John E. Backman |
| 2. First Alternate Voting Delegate: | Councilmember Jill Nickerson |
| 3. Second Alternate Voting Delegate: | Councilmember Jerome Ogden |

Motion for Representatives to remain the same was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Steve Wagner. All in favor.

9. Resolution No. 8 Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) Group Life Insurance:

PSAB is offering a Group Term Life Insurance Program to elected officials serving boroughs. The Individual Rate is \$8.60 per month. Borough will pay for Councilmembers. If a Councilmember would like coverage for their spouse or family, they will be responsible for the monthly cost. Jerome Ogden made a motion to enroll into PSAB insurance package; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BLOSSBURG MEMORIAL LIBRARY WILL BE HOLDING AN OPEN HOUSE ON DECEMBER 8, 2013. HOURS ARE 2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: Vice-President Jill Nickerson closed the meeting at 8:58 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2013 at 6:30 P.M. in the Blossburg Borough Building Council Room.