

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

December 20, 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 Council Room of the Borough Building, 245 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

Attendance: (absent, President James J. Bogaczyk); (absent, Second Vice-President Jill Nickerson); Councilmembers (absent, Jerome Ogden (sick)), Jeffrey Everett (left at 7:40 P.M.), Mark Bowne, Roger Bunn; 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 (late 7:00 P.M.); Corey Snyder NPHS Student Representative; Cheryl Clarke Sun Gazette; Rebecca Hazen Wellsboro Gazette; Chester Lutomski; Crystal and Kurt Hess.

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

Guests:

Chester Lutomski, Crystal and Kurt Hess attended the meeting to report the four wheelers and dirt bike issues in their neighborhood are still continuing. Kurt Hess presented documentation of recorded times, dates and names of the individuals causing the problems. Chester Lutomski reported how the four wheelers and dirt bikes are rutting the ground causing damage from storm water off the hill. Chief McCurdy stated he thought the four wheelers and dirt bike problems had been resolved, because he never heard anything else from anyone. Chief McCurdy said he had spoken to the two families causing the problems. One individual moved away and the other family had agreed to warm up the vehicles in their yard and then head up over the hill. Chief McCurdy has been in contact with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) asking for their help in patrolling the area. Chester Lutomski turned over a copy of Putman Township's Ordinance on four wheelers, dirt bikes, etc. and suggested the Council consider adopting a similar ordinance. Chief McCurdy said he didn't know if it was fair to penalize all four wheelers and dirt bikes owners, because only a few are causing the problems. Council Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk said the borough would consider writing an ordinance.

Reports:

A) NPHS Student: Corey Snyder reported, for Christmas, Student Council is holding a toy drive and Key Club is collecting items for Adopt-A-Tot.

A Basketball Tournament is scheduled for December 27, 28 and 29, 2010.

(B) KCC: The Kiwanis Club is still improving the building. Restrooms are next on the list for repairing.

(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 October 27, 2010 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

Reports:

V.I.B.E. member Josh Jones announced the winners of "Light Up the Holidays" contest:

Best Overall/Whimsical:	Mike & Jill Chopolosky & Brenda Overpeck, 227 Davis Street
Most Christmas Spirit:	Amy & Rob Bowens, 170 Johnson Street
Best Business Display:	Momma's Restaurant, 104 Gulick Street
Victorian:	Rita & Lawrence Larson, 154 Davis Street
Modern:	Peggy & Tom Watkins, 104 McIntyre Street

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 that the Shade Tree Commission be contacted, for their input, on solutions to the concerns of downtown business owners pertaining to the trees on the east side of Main Street.

(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.

New uniforms and search gloves to be purchased for department.

Brianna Bubacz is working with Chief McCurdy as an intern, a requirement for her schooling,

A 2008 Police Grant, in the amount of \$5,000.00, was approved to purchase needed equipment.

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

Countywide DUI Task Force: No longer in service. Councilmembers asked this item be removed from the agenda.

(F) Police Committee: Nothing further to report.

(G) Borough Manager:

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Roger Bunn; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

A letter was received from Darlene M. Harris, President of Council, City of Pittsburgh asking Council to consider adopting an Ordinance or resolutions that will ban hydro-fracturing natural gas drilling. Councilmembers agreed not to participate in the request.

Councilmembers up for re-election in the spring are: Jill Nickerson, Jeffrey Everett and Mark Bowne.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(I) Recreation: No meeting.

The Recreation Board received Jones Foundation Funding of \$8,500.00 and \$1,500.00 from Ward Manufacturing.

Reports:

An informational article in the December 2010 Pennsylvania State Association Borough (PSAB) Magazine on The Pennsylvania Conservation Corps (PCC) offering grants to political subdivisions wishing to carry out recreation preservation projects. Grantees receive the services of a PCC crew for one year, and up to \$15,000.00 for materials and contracted services. Borough Manager will research Grant information.

(J) Fire: Councilmember Roger Bunn attended the meeting and reported on the following items:

French Fry booth profit was \$3,737.00 ± , using 4,100 lbs. of potatoes.

\$725.00 was cleared on the Family Portrait fundraiser.

Annual banquet is scheduled for January 15, 2011.

River Road is being changed to Fallbrook Road and Fallbrook Road is being changed to Welsh Mountain Road.

(K) Library: Fundraiser Raffle: 8 GB Apple iPod Touch (4th Generation). Drawing was held on December 11, 2010. Winner was from Canton, PA.

Blossburg Memorial Library was granted \$4,000.00 for new carpeting from a 2010 Public Library Facilities Mini-Grant through Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund.

(L) Street Committee:

Borough Solicitor had an ordinance typed, limiting truck traffic on streets, and will bring back to Council next month.

(M) Budget: Nothing at this time.

(N) Project Committee: Nothing new to report.

(O) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):

Water pipe and fitting for 2011 Waterline Project should be delivered from L/B Water Service, soon.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Preliminary design is on school website.

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

2. Borough Code of Ordinances – Update:

Preliminary Editorial Report was reviewed with Keystate Publishers on November 30, 2010. New revised report will be sent to Borough.

OLD BUSINESS:

3. **Gas Leases (Borough's & Residents):** Nothing to report. Councilmembers asked this item to removed from the agenda.

4. **Condemned Properties Update:**

(1) Davis Street property owner has secured home. His plans are to either gut home and remodel or tear down by end of year, if property not sold. (2) Borough Solicitor filed papers on Schuylkill Street property owner. Property owner is suppose to come in for demolition permit. (3) Nevins Street property owner was contacted. Home is in process of being sold. Buyer is to remodel house. (4) Borough Manager is waiting for reply from the property owner of home located on Main Street, which had a fire inside it.

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. Three roads are eligible for engine (Jake) brakes signs. Road requirements are speed limit < 55 mph, downhill grade < 4%, no history of runaway truck crashes or rear-end crashes involving a truck.

Referred to committee for review and bring back suggestions at February Council Meeting. Committee Members: Jeffrey Everett, Roger Bunn, Mark Bowne and Chief McCurdy.

7. **New Flood Plain Ordinance:**

New Flood Plain Ordinance was reviewed and approved by Councilmembers. The "draft" Flood Plain Ordinance was sent to Tioga County Conservation. FEMA to review by April 1, 2011.

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 accepted to advertise with changes. Borough Solicitor needs to make changes and advertise.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Bid Opening for Vehicle Fuel Bids:** Received as advertised:

<u>Williams Oil & Propane:</u>	Diesel Winter Mix -	\$2.827 per gallon
	Diesel Summer Mix -	\$2.827 per gallon
	Unleaded Medium Grade -	\$2.657 per gallon
<u>Superior Plus:</u>	Diesel Winter Mix -	\$2.90 per gallon
	Diesel Summer Mix -	\$2.84 per gallon
	Unleaded Medium Grade -	\$2.6365 per gallon

Motion was made by Roger Bunn to accept Williams Oil & Propane bid; second, Mark Bowne. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. **2011 Tax Ordinance:**

Motion that the proposed 2011 Tax Ordinance to be adopted as advertised: Borough 5.807 mills / Fire 0.568 mills / Library 0.250 mills, totaling 6.625 mills was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Roger Bunn. All in favor.

4. **Resolution 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 2011.

RESOLUTION NO. 1 – Motion to adopt Police Pension Fund Resolution was made by Mark Bowne; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT AT 7:45 P.M.
RECONVENED 8:14 P.M. PERSONNEL ISSUES DISCUSSED.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 8:15 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary