

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

January 12, 2009

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Jerome Ogden 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; Councilmembers Jill Nickerson, James Holleman, (absent, Cheryl Bubacz and James Bogaczyk (attending basketball games)), Jeffrey Everett; (absent, Mayor John Backman (ill)); Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; (absent, Chief Ronald Steffen); Corporal Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) Member Tonya McNamara; Kelly Rossell.

Minutes: The minutes of the December 8, 2008 were accepted on motion of Jill Nickerson; second James Holleman. 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 Jill Nickerson; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

Guests: Kelly Rossell, 161 Davis Street, Blossburg, PA, attended the meeting for observation.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** No student present.

(B) **KCC:** David Thompson, Sr. reported the organization's regular checking account balance is \$822.00, with the Central Penn Gas utility paid.

Mr. Thompson reported that he had bought some items for the KCC Building using his own money. Councilmembers requested Mr. Thompson not to use his own funds for supplies. He is to turn bills into the Borough Secretary or use accounts that are already set up with local businesses.

(C) **Committee Business Development:**

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) V.I.B.E. meetings are held on third Wednesday of the month in the community room of the Blossburg Memorial Library at 6:00 P.M.

No meeting was held in December. The next V.I.B.E. will be held on January 21, 2009. At this meeting V.I.B.E. members will be proposing new ideas for the community. Also, they will be working with details on the community garden and skate park.

(D) **Mayor:** No report. Mayor Backman was absent.

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

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

Corporal McCurdy reported he will be ordering the Taser equipment tomorrow.

Reports:

(F) Police Committee: Nothing further to report.

(G) Borough Manager:

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

Pine Creek COG possibly has another grant for updating more street signs.

A letter was sent to PennDOT requesting their workers that are plowing snow to SLOW DOWN. When snow is plowed off the highway at a high rate of speed, the snow is pushed back on to adjacent sidewalks, resulting in residents having to shovel off their walks more than once.

A request was received from *Wiggle* FM for Blossburg Borough to pay for one (1) day radio ad supporting a Drug Free message. All Councilmembers declined to contribute Borough funding for the ad.

A letter was received from John Eckman; owner of property bordering the former McNamara property located 316 Main Street. Mr. Eckman is requesting Borough Council to abandon a borough alley on the north side of his property and deed land over to him. "The alley is a strip of land about 10 feet wide bounded on the north by property of the Blossburg Borough, pinned on the N.W. corner, bounded on the south by lands of Mr. Eckman, in the east by lands of the Erie Railroad, and on the west by Williamson Road (currently Main Street)." After a discussion between Councilmembers and Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett – Mr. Barrett is to contact Attorney James Carlson and Councilmembers are to look at properties involved, before a decision is made. A meeting was scheduled for January 15, 2009 at 1:00 P.M.

A letter was received from Anthony Lupkowski, 209 Ruah Street, requesting the snow to be plowed all to the east side. Councilmembers discussed this section of Ruah Street. They decided to evaluate the snow plowing suggestion by Mr. Lupkowski, as well as, snow plowing/parking on Schuylkill Street at the same time they meet for the abandon borough alley meeting on January 15, 2009 at 1:00 P.M.

(H) Planning Commission:

No applications were submitted. No meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board: A meeting was held on December 10, 2008 for the following:
1) To review a religious group using part of commercial building on Main Street.
2) Review conversion of single family home in a R-1 District into a duplex.
ZHB members passed both requests.

(I) Recreation: A \$10,000.00 Parker Foundation Grant was received for a new basketball court. The court is to be made regulation size with new lines, hoops, etc. Recreation is applying for other additional funding.

(J) Fire: No report received.

Due to the holidays, the regular meeting was held on a different night. Councilmember Jeffrey Everett didn't get to attend meeting. At the last meeting, elections were held and new officers were elected.

Reports:

(K) **Television:** Board meetings are second Tuesday of month.

(L) **Library:** No meeting.

President Jerome Ogden presented a letter to Council from Board of Directors President Joann Ogden stating the Blossburg Memorial Library Board of Trustees are approaching all local township leaders to request financial support for the Library.

There are free services offered by the Library that are available online at www.blossburgmemoriallibrary.com or if you have questions telephone (570) 638-2197.

(M) **Street Committee:** Meeting scheduled for January 15, 2009 at 1:00 P.M.

(N) **Budget:** Nothing at this time.

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

Board members passed the Water Budget and are starting the Sewer Budget.

April or May 2009 are probable months water will start being pumped to Hamilton Township.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT AT 7:25 P.M.
RECONVENED 8:00 P.M. PERSONNEL ISSUES DISCUSSED. NO ACTION TAKEN.**

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Minor Sub-Division/Cul-D-Sac:** The Borough Solicitor is working on.

2. **Island Park Oil & Gas Lease:**

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett suggested removing this item from the agenda.

Remove from agenda. Motion of Jill Nickerson; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Accept Gannon Insurance Package 2009:**

Motion to accept 2009 Gannon Associates insurance quote was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

2. **Adopt Borough of Blossburg Public Records Policy:**

Motion to adopt Borough of Blossburg Public Records Policy and Borough of Blossburg Right-To-Know Law Administrations Regulations was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

3. Hydrant Rental Fees Agreement:

At the Blossburg Municipal Authority meeting, which was held Tuesday, January 6, 2009, the members agreed to suspend hydrant rental fees from the Blossburg Borough General Fund for the 2009 and 2010 calendar years. The Authority will review continuance of these hydrant rental fees in the summer of 2010, which would affect the 2011 Borough Budget. Motion was made by Thomas Bogaczyk to sign the Hydrant Rental Fees Agreement; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor. Councilmembers suggested a letter of appreciation be sent to the Blossburg Municipal Authority for their consideration in deferring the hydrant rental fees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2009 AT LAMBS CREEK RESTAURANT, 200 GATEWAY DRIVE, MANSFIELD, PA. CASH BAR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2009.

6TH ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW PUBLIC OFFICIALS DAY LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009, IN THE FARM SHOW COMPLEX CAFETERIA, BEGINNING AT NOON (12:00 P.M.). ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SHEET IN COUNCIL PACKET.

PROGRAM ON NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT & MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS: WHAT ROLE CAN THEY PLAY? SPONSORED BY PENN STATE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION. DATE: JANUARY 29, 2009 MEETING TIME: 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SHEET IN COUNCIL PACKET.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 8:07 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2009 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary