

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

February 11, 2008

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: (absent, Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk (in Florida)); Councilmembers Jill Nickerson, James Holleman, Cheryl Bubacz, James Bogaczyk, Jeffrey Everett; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Ronald Steffen; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) Members Tonya McNamara and Bev Jones; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Kenneth Hughes; Leighton Hill.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 7, 2008 meeting were accepted on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

Guests: Mr. Leighton Hill, 101 Hannibal Street is a resident of Blossburg Borough. He was attending tonight's meeting for observation. Borough Manager George Lloyd introduced Mr. Hill to Council. Mr. Hill is the new Crossing Guard for the intersection at North Main Street and North Williamson Road. Mr. Andrew Benson gave up his duty as Crossing Guard.

Reports:

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

(B) **KCC:** Charles Freeberg did not attend tonight's meeting. Last week Mr. Freeberg fell and broke both of his ankles.

(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.

V.I.B.E. Minutes for January 2008 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

Tonya McNamara reported on V.I.B.E. topics:

The Wood/Anthony building façade is looking good.

The reusable grocery bags are in and will be distributed free of charge. Jill Nickerson brought some of the reusable grocery bags and water bottles for Councilmembers use.

The new "Welcome Sign" is installed. Mrs. McNamara thanked George Lloyd for removing the old sign and flower box.

V.I.B.E. was granted \$3,000.00 from Tioga County Visitors Bureau and the County Commissioners to be used for marketing the Endless Mountain Music Festival (EMMF) to be

Reports: held in Blossburg on August 1, 2008, as “Music Meets Memories: A Weekend in Blossburg” and the Blossburg-North Penn Alumni Reunion Banquet on August 2, 2008.

Previous to tonight’s meeting, Mrs. McNamara sent a letter to Borough Councilmembers explaining “The Farmers’ Market Development Grant”. This grant needed to be submitted to United States Department of Agriculture by February 6, 2008. The grant was submitted on February 5, 2008. “The Farmers’ Market Development Grant”, in the amount of \$10,000.00, would be used to promote the current Farmers’ Market, develop a community garden, provide vendor shelter, and used to educate the community. The proposed garden site is to be located on the empty lots at North Main Street that is owned by the Blossburg Borough. Due to the fact these properties are in the flood plain, V.I.B.E. realizes the building restrictions on these properties. No structures will be built, other than raised garden beds. The farmers market would move from Riverside Plaza to the community garden location. If the grant is awarded and permission is given by Council to use the above properties, insurance will be purchased by V.I.B.E. Councilmember James Bogaczyk made a motion to support V.I.B.E. on the proposed Farmers’ Market Development Grant and the use of the vacant North Main Street properties; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman attended the Tioga County Association of Boroughs dinner in Mansfield on Thursday, January 24, 2008. The guest speaker was Tioga County Development Corporation on Tax Abatement.

Tioga County Tax Preferential Program will be discussed under “Old Business” Item No. 5.

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

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

(H) **Planning Commission:**

No applications were submitted. No meeting.

Organization meeting to be scheduled.

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

(I) **Recreation:** Re-elections of officers were held.

Allocation of United Fund Donations: \$500.00 Partners in Progress, \$1,500.00 Blossburg Memorial Library, \$1,000.00 Salvation Army, \$1,500.00 Little League, \$3,000.00 Recreation Board, \$1,500.00 Blossburg Fire Department, \$1,500.00 Blossburg Ambulance Association – leaving a balance of ± \$600.00 for 2009 mailing.

Blossburg Borough, under the recommendation of the Bloss Area Swimming Association signed a pool agreement in the amount of \$40,535.00 with architect, Aquatic Facility Design, Inc., which is located in Millersburg, PA.

Reports:

(J) **Fire:** No report received. Councilmember Jeffrey Everett attended the meeting. Mr. Everett reported the new fire truck is nice. Also, some fire personnel were attending a training seminar.

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

(L) **Library:** Councilmember Jill Nickerson reported the Library budget was discussed.
A wine and cheese gathering will be held tomorrow night.

(M) **Street Committee:** Nothing to report.

(N) **Budget:** Nothing to report.

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

The East Creek Well is good water, but is capable of delivering only 36,000 gallons / day. BMA was hoping for 100,000 gallons / day.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Minor Sub-Division/Cul-D-Sac:**

The Borough Manager gave information to the Borough Solicitor.

2. **Cell Tower Ordinance:** Borough Solicitor is working on.

3. **Outside Wood Burning Stoves:**

The proposed ordinance was reviewed. One suggestion was to add "EXHIBIT A" on top of drawing "Outdoor Wood Furnace Best Burn Practices". The "Outdoor Wood Furnace Ordinance" is being advertised and is expected to be adopted at the Blossburg Borough Council regular meeting on March 10, 2008.

4. **Streetlights for the Blossburg Exit / Interchange:**

A letter was drafted requesting streetlights for the Blossburg exit / interchange. The correspondence to Blossburg Borough's local PennDOT District Office in Montoursville, PA will be mailed after all the letters of support from the surrounding townships and local businesses are received.

5. **Tioqa County Tax Preferential Program:**

Councilmember Cheryl Bubacz made a motion to advertise a Public Hearing on the Tax Abatement Program; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett to schedule date of Public Hearing.

Councilmembers suggested a Tax Abatement Program meeting be scheduled with Arthur (Pete) Guidi, CEO of Ward Manufacturing.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. TCAB Dinner – Blossburg Borough Host for March:

Thursday, March 27, 2008 was decided as the date. The Blossburg Fire Department Auxiliary is to be contacted about doing the meal. Councilmembers would like the same menu as last year. Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) will give a presentation on the improvements to Blossburg's Main Street utilizing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development New Communities Main Street Program.

2. Spring Cleanups:

Spring Cleanup is scheduled for May 5 – May 9, 2008. Items for pickup should be put out on Saturday or Sunday night, May 3 – 4, 2008. **All items must be out by Tuesday Night.** All spring cleanup items will be picked up by Friday, May 9, 2008.

Island Park cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2008, with the rain date set for May 10, 2008. Borough Manager to contact Tioga County Probation Department for their help.

A request from Misty-Jo Osborn (leader of two (2) Girl Scout Troops in Blossburg) both troops are interested in helping with Island Park cleanup. Mrs. Osborn to be contacted granting her request to help in the Island Park cleanup.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BLOSSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL APPRECIATION BANQUET WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2008 AT THE FIRE & AMBULANCE SOCIAL HALL, 324 MAIN STREET, BLOSSBURG, PA. SOCIAL HOUR – 6:00 P.M. DINNER – 7:00 P.M. MUSIC & DANCING 9:00 P.M. – 1:00 A.M.

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2008 AT ROTSELL'S RESTAURANT, Rt. 287, TIOGA, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 7:33 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.