

# BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## February 9, 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:** (absent, Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk (in Florida)); Councilmembers Jill Nickerson, (absent, James Holleman), Cheryl Bubacz, (absent, James Bogaczyk (attending basketball game)), Jeffrey Everett; Mayor John Backman; (absent, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett (ill)); (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; David Thompson, Sr. KCC Committee and Chairman of the Coal Festival; Miranda Kline NPHS Student Representative; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Blossburg Borough Tax Collector Dorothy Rakoski; Roger Bunn and Paul Hosszu.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the January 12, 2009 were accepted on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

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

**Bills:** Bills to be paid on motion of Jill Nickerson; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

**Guests:** Roger Bunn and Paul Hosszu, Blossburg residents, both were attending the meeting for observation.

Blossburg Borough Tax Collector Dorothy Rakoski attended the meeting to request Council's support of two (2) approvals:

The first request, asking Council to approve the appointment of her daughter, Gina VanGorden, as her deputy, because Ms. Rakoski feels it is important for someone else to have knowledge and understanding of how things are handled in her tax office, if something were to happen which would prevent her from fulfilling her duties. Ms. Rakoski stated that she would still be held responsible for all taxes collected by the deputy appointed. According to the Tax Collector's Manual, Ms. Rakoski needs the approval of the taxing district and the surety. If approved, a letter stating the approval is required for Gannon Associates and the Bonding Company. Motion to approve appointing Gina VanGorden Deputy Blossburg Tax Collector, subject to Borough Solicitor's approval, was made by Jill Nickerson; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

The second request, was asking Council to consider an increase of 1% in compensation beginning with the next 2010 term. Councilmembers would like Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett to review this request. Item to be added to March agenda.

David Thompson, Sr., Chairman of the Coal Festival, asked Council to pay for the liability insurance package to cover the Coal Festival activities on May 20 – 23, 2009. The cost is ± \$750.00. Councilmembers are to make a decision next month. Item to be added to March agenda.

**Reports:**

- (A) **NPHS Student:** Miranda Kline gave a Student Council Activity Report.

Student Council is advertising for the new school store and working on a way to thank teachers for their hard work. Officers are planning to attend a leadership conference at the Lewisburg Area High School in April.

North Penn High School girl's basketball team qualified for Districts.

- (B) **KCC:** David Thompson, Sr. reported the organization's regular checking account balance is \$1,422.00, with all bills paid.

Mr. Thompson reported the chimney and roof are repaired. He hopes to have new ceiling tiles installed in the spring.

- (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 21, 2009 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

Tonya McNamara gave a short presentation from the last V.I.B.E. meeting:

At the last meeting new people and committee members were divided into groups to develop new ideas for the community. The three top ideas were to have a Community Recreation Building, hiking/biking trails, and free/low cost community activities (recreation programs) for all ages. Groups are to work on these ideas and bring their suggestions to the next meeting. Put forward was to use the KCC Building located on Island Park for the Community Recreation Building. Mrs. McNamara asked if Internet access could be installed in the KCC Building so people could use their laptops, if needed. Councilmembers agreed to having the Internet installed. V.I.B.E. to check if Internet accessibility is possible.

Jill Nickerson reported that Liberty, PA area wants to start a V.I.B.E.

- (D) **Mayor:** No report.

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

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

Corporal McCurdy combined four (4) different Taser Policies and would like Council to approve Blossburg Police Department Taser Policy. Motion to approve Blossburg Borough Police Department Taser Policy, subject to Borough Solicitor's approval, was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

Corporal McCurdy reported that Taser training is a six (6) hour "hands on" course, including testing. He will start the course as soon as the class manual is completed, acquires permission to use the North Penn High School Mat Room and receives permission to use an overhead projector from the school. Officers must pass the class and review procedures yearly.

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

**Reports:**

**(G) Borough Manager:**

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

The Borough Manager George Lloyd had nothing to report.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

**(I) Recreation:** No meeting.

**(J) Fire:** No report received.

New Officers:	Blossburg Fire Department –	Shawn Carey, Chief Thomas Medycki, President
	Blossburg Ambulance –	Myra Kreger, Chief Steve Hall, President

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

Williamson Road Television Co. will be changing from analog to digital soon.

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

**(M) Street Committee:** Meeting needs to be scheduled for South Mountain Sludge Project. Trucks will be accessing Borough streets.

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

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

The well on Old Rt. 15, Arnot Road will not be permitted for non-potable water use, because it would cost too much to put in use.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

2. **South Mountain Sludge Project – Kyler Environmental / Greg Barcher:**

Meeting to be scheduled.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **TCAB Dinner – Blossburg Borough Host for March:**

Thursday, March 26, 2009 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. Frederick La Vancher to speak on Mill Cove Project.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2. Spring Cleanups:**

Spring Cleanup is scheduled for April 27 – May 1, 2009. Items for pickup should be put out on Saturday or Sunday night, April 25 – 26, 2009. **All items must be out by Tuesday Night.** All spring cleanup items will be picked up by Friday, May 1, 2009. **Local trash only!**

Island Park cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2009, with the rain date set for May 9, 2009. Borough Manager to contact Tioga County Probation Department for their help.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**BLOSSBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL APPRECIATION BANQUET WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2009 AT THE FIRE & AMBULANCE SOCIAL HALL, 324 MAIN STREET, BLOSSBURG, PA. SOCIAL HOUR – 5:00 P.M. DINNER – 6:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2009.**

**TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2009 AT TIOGA GRANGE, 17 WELLSBORO STREET, TIOGA, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2009.**

**TIOGA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TCDC LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST AT THE PENN WELLS HOTEL, 62 MAIN STREET, WELLSBORO, PA ON THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2009 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. (BUFFET OPENS AT 7:30 A.M.). R.S.V.P. & PAYMENT DUE BY APRIL 2, 2009.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 7:26 P.M.

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

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Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary