

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

February 12, 2014

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 (in Florida)), Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jolene Hall, Paul Hosszu, (Stephen Wagner (left at 6:59 P.M.) (absent, James Rakoski (in Florida))); Mayor Shane Nickerson; (Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett (left at 6:42 P.M.)); Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; (absent, Tylia Porter NPHS Student Representative); Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; William Meyers President Riverside Homeowners Association; John E. Backman; Chris Knarr and Steve Gabriel – RETTEW Representatives; Stephen Guillaume President Southern Tioga School District Board; Gloria Swaub and Jannifer Copley – United Country Realty Pioneers Representatives.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 6, 2014 meeting were accepted on motion of Jolene Hall; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

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

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

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett requested to move agenda items needing his counsel forward so he can leave the meeting early. Discussed: OLD BUSINESS #3 – condemned property update for 101 Post Street, #7 – PVR Agreement.

Guests: Chris Knarr and Steve Gabriel – RETTEW Representatives briefly did an overview of new 10 year Comprehensive Plan, which their group completed in three (3) months. Mr. Knarr requested authorization to release final Comprehensive Plan for 45-day public review. Motion to release the final Comprehensive Plan for the 45-day public review was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

One of the top five priorities in the comprehensive plan was a Master Plan for Island Park. Steve Gabriel discussed improvements to Island Park and the importance of prioritizing and organizing projects on paper for future administrators. Jolene Hall made a motion to have RETTEW prepare cost proposals for an Island Park Master Plan; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor. RETTEW to have proposals ready for the March Council Meeting.

Stephen Guillaume President Southern Tioga School District Board asked Council to help the School District make the challenging transition, as North Penn High School closes and students are placed either in Mansfield or Liberty schools.

William Meyers President Riverside Homeowners Association thanked Council for the purchase of the pedestrian sign that was placed at the south side intersection of Carpenter Street and Main Street. Mr. Meyers has received good reviews on the pedestrian sign.

Councilmember Jerome Ogden asked Mr. Meyers to take a poll of the residents living at the Riverside Park, as to what their opinions are to the Council Meeting being held at Island Park in the Blossburg Community Building. Mr. Ogden stated residents have told him they would like the Council Meeting to remain in the Borough Building Council Room.

Gloria Swaub and Jannifer Copley – United Country Realty Pioneers Representatives were attending for observation.

Reports:

(A) **NPBS Student:** Tylia Porter was absent, because of her work schedule. Councilmembers suggested looking into a new NPBS representative.

(B) **Committee Business Development:**

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

V.I.B.E. topics: (1) Wi-Fi was installed at the Blossburg Community Building (BCB). (2) Members working on a list of improvements needed at BCB. (3) Group to have a work bee in March to clean up BCB.

(C) **Mayor:** Mayor Nickerson has been attending many area meetings trying to get acquainted with groups / organizations.

Mayor Nickerson thanked Borough Manager George D. Lloyd and his public works crew for the excellent job on snow removal in town.

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

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

Chief reported that \$169.09 in fines was received from District Court. Monies were received after the Police Report was distributed.

Police Department presented an inventory list of all items / equipment in department that the Borough bought. The list does not include personal purchases.

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

(F) **Borough Manager:**

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

The borough has been stockpiling salt and cinders, so Blossburg should not run out this winter.

Talisman Energy extended a subsurface gas lease for Island Park, old landfill property, and Union Cemetery. A check was received in the amount of \$100,020.00. Monies were deposited into a Certificate of Deposit.

Lewis and Clark Circus to perform on Island Park June 30, 2014. This event will be fundraiser for Recreation Board.

Bureau of Mining to fill old mining cut on South Mountain this spring. Reclaimed area will be covered with proceed biosolids and reseeded.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

Reports:

(H) Recreation:

Volunteers completed Blossburg Area United Fund mailers on January 28, 2014 and were mailed the next day.

Island Park River Walk: George D. Lloyd thanked Bob Metarko for clearing snow off the walking trail and borough walks across from his home.

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

Annual Firemen's Appreciation Banquet will be held on January 22, 2014.

(J) Library: The next meeting will be held on March 17, 2014.

(K) Street Committee: Members to meet in May or June to create a plan for replacing sections of sidewalks in town.

(L) Shade Tree Commission:

Over 120 streetscape survey participants voted on ivory silk Japanese lilac trees to replace the trees on Main Street. Borough workers will remove the current Bradford pear trees when weather allows. Additional planned improvements are; stamped concrete accents around new trees, benches, coal car shaped planters, and LED lights in the shape of miners helmet lamps. Total cost is less than \$32,000.00. Motion was made by Paul Hosszu for Borough to contribute \$5,000.00 toward the downtown improvements, \$1,200.00 for replacement of trees, leaving a balance of \$3,800.00 to be used on other items; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor. Trees will be ordered with a delivery date in April.

(M) Budget: Nothing to report.

(N) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA): Information was mailed to DEP on relining sewer mains along and under the Tioga River. Lateral lining information was also sent.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Southern Tioga School District (STSD) Plans:

The School Board voted to close North Penn High School before the 2014 – 2015 school year.

New STSD Board members are Sandra Olson and Michelle McDermott – Region 1.
Julie Miller – Region III.

2. Borough Code of Ordinances – Update:

All requested information and changes have been submitted to Keystate Publishers. Keystate Publishers to complete a "Final Draft" and send to Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett. Keystate was contacted as to why the Borough hasn't received the Final Draft. Their reply back was they are backlogged, because of snow, and are expecting to have the Final Draft to Borough within 7 to 10 days. After Mr. Barrett's review, the updated Borough Code of Ordinances will be advertised.

OLD BUSINESS:

3. Condemned Properties Update:

- (1) 127 Schuylkill Street – Property was sold to local contractor.
- (2) 101 Post Street – Condition of property was checked by independent contractor on December 10, 2013. Borough Solicitor did a Title search, sent a registered letter to the property owner / mortgage holder, and filed through the court. A hearing is to be scheduled in March.
- (3) 134 Taber Street – Property owner plans to raze house in next few months.

4. New Electrical Service Behind the Downtown Monument:

Stoudt's Electric completed design. Drawing was included in the Council Packets. Service will have a main panel with spider box extenders, which will have 24 electrical connections. Cost to be approximately \$5,000.00.

5. Update Comprehensive Plan: Discussed earlier.

6. Update on Hiring Office Assistant: Interviews to be scheduled.

7. Resolution No. 1 Road Right-of-Way Agreement / Resolution with PVR:

PVR Partners requested a Temporary Road Right-of-Way Option Agreement, to use the old landfill access road. The road will be maintained by PVR Partners. Borough Solicitor made changes to Agreement and Resolution. Motion to sign PVR Resolution was made Jerome Ogden; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

8. Add V.I.B.E. Committee of Council: Motion was made by Paul Hosszu to add V.I.B.E. as a Committee of Council and Councilmember Jill Nickerson to be the Council Representative; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Emergency Number Notification:

Mr. Lloyd contacted Denny Colegrove Emergency Management Coordinator, Tioga County Department of Emergency Services on 911 emergency call out system. Mr. Colegrove reported the system is tested regularly.

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

2. TCAB Dinner – Blossburg Borough Host Meeting for March:

Thursday, March 20, 2014 was decided as the date. Location is to be the Blossburg Fire and Ambulance Building. The Blossburg Fire Department Auxiliary to provide the meal. RETTEW to be the speaker.

NEW BUSINESS:

3. Spring Cleanup:

Spring Cleanup is scheduled for April 28 – May 2, 2014. All spring cleanup items will be picked up by Friday, May 2, 2014.

Island Park cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2014, with the rain date set for May 10, 2014.

4. PSAB Conference:

PSAB Conference is being held April 6 – 9, 2014 at State College. Councilmembers are encouraged to attend. Cost is included in the 2014 budget.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014 AT THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CHURCH STREET, TIOGA, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M.

BLOSSBURG FIRE AND AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL BANQUET WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2014 AT 6:00 P.M. RSVP BY FEBRUARY 1, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-President Jill Nickerson closed the meeting at 8:41 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. in the Blossburg Borough Building Council Room.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary