

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

March 10, 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 (late); (absent, Chief Ronald Steffen); 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. Coal Festival Chairman; Alaina McNeal and Matt Doyle North Penn High School Students; Susan Youngworth and Lorraine Thompson Boy Scout Troop Pack 69 Leaders; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Dave and Bev Jones; Kenneth Hughes; Leighton Hill.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 11, 2008 meeting were accepted on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

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

Councilmember James Bogaczyk questioned a Cash Disbursement issued to David Bogaczyk on March 6, 2008 in the amount of \$2,141.78. Borough Secretary Mary Signor explained it was for a reimbursement due to Mr. Bogaczyk under the Main Street Program.

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

Guests: David Thompson, Sr., Chairman of the Coal Festival, attended the meeting to ask Council to pay for the liability insurance package to cover the Coal Festival activities on May 21 – 24, 2008. The cost is ± \$765.00. Councilmember James Bogaczyk made a motion to have the Blossburg Borough fund the liability insurance package for the Coal Festival; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

David Thompson, Sr. asked Borough Manager George Lloyd about the drainage of water from Davis Street. The runoff is rutting his driveway. Mr. Lloyd stated he would look into the problem.

David Thompson, Sr. asked if any progress / decisions have been made concerning the bad condition of the property located at 129 Davis Street. Mr. Lloyd and the Borough Solicitor are working on.

Susan Youngworth and Lorraine Thompson Boy Scout Troop Pack 69 Leaders were attending tonight's meeting to ask Council's permission in allowing the Boy Scouts to sponsor this year's Octoberfest as a fundraiser – "Kids Helping Kids". Mr. Thompson stated the Coal Festival usually sponsors the Octoberfest as a "thank you" to the community for their support during the Coal Festival. The Coal Festival didn't hold the Octoberfest last year, because they couldn't afford the cost of the liability insurance. The insurance rate for Octoberfest's one-day activities is about the same as the four-day activities for the Coal Festival. Also, V.I.B.E. is interested in sponsoring the Octoberfest. V.I.B.E. member Tonya McNamara requested a decision is made soon, so plans can be made. The liability insurance is the big concern. The Boy Scout and V.I.B.E. insurances only cover themselves, not the public attending the gathering. To have the liability insurance covered under the Borough's insurance policy the event is to be a Borough

Guests: function with all monies deposited through the Borough's accounts. After much discussion, a decision was made that Mr. Thompson, Susan Youngworth, Lorraine Thompson and V.I.B.E. all get together and see what can be worked out. Councilmembers would like someone to report back to Council on what was decided.

Alaina McNeal and Matt Doyle North Penn High School Students were here tonight observing as an assignment for youth leader.

Mr. Leighton Hill was attending tonight's meeting for observation.

Reports:

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

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

(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 February 2008 were not available.

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

Attorney David Bogaczyk, 220 Main Street and Brendyn Stager, 206 Main Street received their façade monies. Heidi Jones has applied for an additional \$23,000.00 from the Main Street Program Grant.

Projects V.I.B.E. is working on: (1) Community Garden. (2) Wireless network. More sponsors are needed in the downtown business district. (3) V.I.B.E. is to participate in the Coal Festival. They plan to have informational booths set up. (4) Sponsor the Farmer's Market, which will be located in the Riverside Plaza parking lot. The Farmer's Market will start the end of May and end in October and are held on Saturdays, 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

(D) **Mayor:** The Borough had a question about transient retail business license from a person who sells hotdogs, sausages, etc. out of a mobile vehicle. Where is it permissible for the vehicle to park or stop to sell these items? The present "Transient Retail Business Ordinance" needs more clarification added. Council President Jerome Ogden suggested a committee be set up to review this ordinance. After a brief discussion, Councilmember Cheryl Bubacz is to check for a sample ordinance from Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs (PSAB) and bring any information to the next council meeting for review.

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

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

Two (2) new part-time officers were hired in January, Kent Warner and Richard Kotch. Councilmembers invited Officer Richard Kotch into the meeting and introduced themselves.

Reports:

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

The Borough Manager had nothing to report.

(H) **Planning Commission:**

No applications were submitted. No meeting.

Organization meeting to be scheduled.

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

(I) **Recreation:** The United Fund proceeds to Recreation Board were lowered by \$500.00 so a balance stays in checking account for next year's mailing.

A dinner is planned on April 6, 2008 for the North Penn High School Basketball Team. The team won the District IV A Championship for the first time in 32 years. Councilmember James Bogaczyk suggested to Mayor Backman to do a proclamation for the team. Mayor Backman proclaims Sunday, April 6, 2008 "North Penn Basketball Day" in recognition of the player's teamwork.

(J) **Fire:** No report received. Councilmember Jeffrey Everett attended the meeting. Mr. Everett reported all is fine in the department.

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

Jerome Ogden explained analog vs. digital broadcasting. In February 2009 companies will be broadcasting in digital.

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

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

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

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

Bellman Filter Plant is one of the top 15 out of 254 filter plants in 22 states that will receive the prestigious Area-Wide Optimization Program (AWOP) Award. The award will be presented on April 2 at the PRWA Annual Conference in State College. Blossburg Municipal Authority Chairman Frank Wasowicz to accept the award on behalf of the Authority.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY JEROME OGDEN AT 7:38 P.M. RECONVENED 8:11 P.M. PERSONNEL ISSUES DISCUSSED. NO ACTION TAKEN.

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:**

Ordinance No. 417 Outdoor Furnace:

Ordinance was reviewed and advertised for tonight's meeting. Motion to adopt an ordinance regulating burning, refuse burning and certain heating devices, establishing the requirements of obtaining a permit before installing an outdoor furnace, regulations for outdoor furnaces and emissions, appeal and variance procedures, and criminal and civil penalties. Motion to adopt the outdoor furnace ordinance was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

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

A letter was sent requesting streetlights for the Blossburg exit / interchange. No reply received yet.

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

The Public Hearing on the Tax Abatement Program was not advertised. The Public Hearing to be advertised for April 14, 2008 at 6:00 P.M.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Transient Retail Business:**

Discussed earlier.

2. **PA Borough Councils Association:**

PA Borough Councils Association "(PBCA) is to assist council members of the Boroughs of Pennsylvania in networking and building leadership skills in which to better perform their duties as borough council members. " Annual dues are \$25.00. Presently, Blossburg Borough doesn't belong to this association. Motion to join the PBCA was made by Jeffery Everett; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2008 AT THE BLOSSBURG FIRE & AMBULANCE BUILDING, 324 MAIN STREET, BLOSSBURG, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008.

TIOGA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 12th ANNUAL TCDC LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST AT THE PENN WELLS HOTEL, 62 MAIN STREET, WELLSBORO, PA ON THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2008 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. (BUFFET OPENS AT 7:30 A.M.). R.S.V.P. & PAYMENT DUE BY MARCH 14, 2008.

NORTHERN TIER REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ANNUAL FULL COMMISSION MEETING AT THE BEST WESTERN GRAND VICTORIAN INN, 255 SPRING STREET, SAYRE, PA ON THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2008. CASH BAR AT 5:00 P.M. DINNER MEETING AT 6:00 P.M. 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AWARDS, DOOR PRIZES AT 7:30 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY APRIL 4, 2008 – TELEPHONE 888-868-8800 OR 570-265-9103.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 8:18 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary