

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

May 16, 2011

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk 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: Second Vice-President Jill Nickerson; Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jeffrey Everett, Cheryl Bubacz, (absent, Roger Bunn); Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) Member Josh Jones; (absent, Corey Snyder NPHS Student Representative); Cheryl Clarke Williamsport Sun Gazette; Rebecca Hazen Wellsboro Gazette; Dave Jones; Bev Jones; Jolene Hall.

With deepest sympathy, Council Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk made known the passing of Council President James J. Bogaczyk on April 27, 2011.

Council Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk asked for a moment of silence in honor of James J. Bogaczyk.

The family of James J. Bogaczyk are asking, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the James J. Bogaczyk Memorial Scholarship Fund. In memory of Mr. Bogaczyk, a motion was made by Jerome Ogden to donate \$500.00 to the Memorial Scholarship Fund and \$50.00 to the Blossburg Memorial Library; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

Oath: Mayor John Backman administered the Oaths of Office to newly appointed President Thomas Bogaczyk and Vice-President Jill Nickerson. The two seats will hold until the Reorganization Meeting in January 2012.

The recent death of James J. Bogaczyk had created a vacancy on Council. Mr. Bogaczyk's term would have ended December 2013. An ad was published in the Wellsboro Gazette requesting any Borough resident wishing to fill this vacancy should submit a letter of interest. Two (2) residents submitted a letter stating their interest to be Mr. Bogaczyk's replacement:

James J. Rakoski, 133 North Williamson Road
Jolene Hall, 111 Main Street

Ballots were cast: Jim Rakoski – 2 Votes Jolene Hall – 3 Votes.

Motion to appoint Jolene Hall as a member of Blossburg Borough Council until December 2011 was made by Jill Nickerson; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor. Mrs. Hall will need to contact the Tioga County Election Board to have her name placed on the Fall 2011 Ballot to serve the additional two (2) year term, which will end December 2013.

Mayor Backman administered the Oath of Office to Jolene Hall.

Minutes: The minutes of the April 11, 2011 meeting were accepted on motion of Jeffrey Everett; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

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

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

Guests: None present.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** Corey Snyder was absent.

(B) **KCC:** Nothing new to report.

Bev Jones stated the wood on the outside of building needs to be repaired and painted. Mrs. Jones suggested the building be painted in a natural color to match the Island Park environment.

(C) **Committee Business Development:**

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) meetings are usually held on fourth Wednesday of the month in the KCC Building on Island Park at 7:00 P.M.

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

V.I.B.E. member Josh Jones had no updates to report. Only a few members attended last month's meeting. The Community Yard Sale will be held on May 21, 2011.

Skate Park: Construction of pavilion is almost completed. Landscaping needs to be done. Two (2) "Skate Park" informational signs are on order. Then area needs to be inspected.

Walking Trail: \$10,000.00 is in account. Donation Revenues were: \$500.00 from the United Fund and \$9,500.00 from Williamson Road Foundation. A grant will be applied for after the Skate Park Grant if closed. Councilmember Cheryl Bubacz suggested an application for funding be sent to the Parker Foundation.

Councilmembers would like this item to be added to the agenda.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman reported he and the Police Department are receiving more dirt bike complaints.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT AT 7:07 P.M.
RECONVENED 7:35 P.M. PERSONNEL ISSUES DISCUSSED. NO ACTION TAKEN.**

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

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

Countywide DUI Task Force: Chief McCurdy asked Council if Blossburg Police Department would be able to take over the Countywide DUI Task Force. Term is from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012. Harrisburg staff and others are willing to help set the program up. Previously, the program was being operated through Nelson Township Police Department. The Task Force is funded by the state under a \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 grant. An equipment trailer is supplied. Reimbursement is yearly, at time and a half earnings, to active departments. Liability insurance is covered under the municipality participating. A discussion was held. Council President Thomas Bogaczyk suggested this item be taken to the Police Committee and not take action tonight. A Police Committee was scheduled for May 18, 2011 at 5:00 P.M.

Use of Electronic Read Out Speed Signs: PennDOT officials are to forward prices and options of signs to Chief McCurdy. Chief is to check if the Borough could borrow a sign from state.

Reports:

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

Spring Cleanup: + 32 tons - \$1,696.00 (\$53 / ton). 5 - 10 tons was metal at no charge.

George Lloyd reported the donated gazebo was set by the pedestrian bridge on Island Park. Juveniles are kicking out the lattice work already.

(H) **Planning Commission:** Meeting of April 26, 2011.

Reviewed and approved Granger Street extension. Extension to be named Miss Daisy Lane.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(I) **Recreation:**

Eleven lifeguards were hired and to be scheduled this summer.

Next meeting: May 23, 2011 at 6:00 P.M. at Island Park.

Roger Bunn was appointed to the Recreation Board.

(J) **Fire:** A Financial Report was received.

Councilmembers Jeffrey Everett attended the meeting.

Department is looking into tar and chipping the fire and ambulance parking lot.

(K) **Library:** Super Bingo was held May 15, 2011.

(L) **Street Committee:**

Motion was made by Cheryl Bubacz to remove from agenda the following two (2) items under Street Committee: Hamilton Township Ordinance, limiting truck traffic on street (instead, Only Local Delivery signs are to be purchased and installed) and street tar & chipping; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

(M) **Shade Tree Commission:**

Trees in front of Borough Office to be removed in the near future and be replace with Japanese lilac trees.

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

(O) **Project Committee:** Committee needs to meet and work on newsletter.

Reports:

(P) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):

Inflow and Infiltration (I &I) very high. Top priority to locate problem areas this summer. BMA is planning to send letter to residents about sump pumps, roof / cellar drains.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Southern Tioga School District Plans for New North Penn High School:

Nothing at this time.

The Community is still being encouraged to support and keep updated on the decisions regarding repairs or new construction at the Blossburg schools.

2. Borough Code of Ordinances – Update:

Nothing at this time.

Preliminary Editorial Report was reviewed with Keystate Publishers on November 30, 2010. Process is taking longer than originally thought. New report with changes should be sent soon.

3. Condemned Properties Update:

(1) Schuylkill Street property owner has a Demolition Permit. An extension was granted due to the terrible weather conditions the past few months. (2) A property on South Williamson Road was discussed.

4. Sidewalk Repair Letter:

Borough Solicitor and Code Officer are to review letter and give final approval. Property owners requiring sidewalk repairs will be notified in the spring. Also, Borough owned sidewalks will be included on list needing repairs.

5. Reduce Speed Limit on Old Rt. 15:

A letter was sent to PennDOT, requesting a lower speed limit on Bloss Mountain Road (old Rt. 15), starting from B & D Transfer and ending at North Williamson Road, just before Main Street green bridge.

6. New Flood Plain Ordinance:

New Flood Plain Ordinance was reviewed and approved by Councilmembers. The “draft” Flood Plain Ordinance was sent to Tioga County Conservation. FEMA was to review by April 1, 2011.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Replacement for James J. Bogaczyk: Discussed earlier.

Remove from agenda. Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Granger Street Extension – Miss Daisy Lane:

“An ordinance opening and accepting Miss Daisy Lane and cul-de-sac providing for an amendment of the Blossburg Borough Street Plan and providing an effective date thereof and providing for the severability of the positions thereof and establishing a no parking restriction on Miss Daisy Lane and cul-de-sac.”

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett to work on deeds of dedication.

Motion that this proposed ordinance be adopted as advertised was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

3. STSD Requesting Permission to Hold Annual Memorial Day Observance at the Town Memorial:

STSD would like to hold event on May 27, 2011 between the hours of 8:30 A.M. to 9:30 A.M.

Motion to allow STSD to hold event was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2011 AT THE LANDING STRIP FAMILY RESTAURANT, ROUTE 414, LIBERTY, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY MONDAY, MAY 23, 2010.

ANNOUNCEMENT: THERE WILL BE A STSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING TO DISCUSS NEW SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT ON MAY 24, 2011, 10:00 AM, AT THE STSD OFFICE, 241 MAIN STREET, BLOSSBURG, PA. COUNCILMEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

19th ANNUAL BLOSSBURG STATE COAL FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD MAY 25 – 28, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT: President Thomas Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.