

# BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## June 8, 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:** Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk; Councilmembers (absent, James Holleman, Cheryl Bubacz and Jill Nickerson), James Bogaczyk, Jeffrey Everett; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; (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; Myra Kreger and Richard Williams, Sr. Blossburg Fire and Ambulance; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; David Mahonski, Kenneth Hughes, Lawrence and Rita Larson, Kenneth Johnson.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the May 11, 2009 were accepted on motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

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

**Bills:** Bills to be paid on motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

### **Guests:**

David Thompson Chairman of the Coal Festival thanked Council for paying the liability insurance package to cover the Coal Festival activities, and the Blossburg Police Department for their help.

Dave Mahonski provided Council with a list of labor services he is willing to do, for free, if Council would allow the naming of the junior baseball diamond on Island Park after his father, Gary. At the last Council meeting, Council appointed a committee to review the proposal and bring back the specifics. Committee: Cheryl Bubacz, Jill Nickerson and George Lloyd. Committee will use additional information in their review.

Myra Kreger and Richard Williams attended meeting requesting permission to install a permanent 4' x 8' lighted identification / event sign in front of the Blossburg Fire & Ambulance property. The sign would be located on Borough property. Part or ½ of the cost would be covered under the Main Street Grant Project, which is ending on June 30, 2009. The existing sign is 3' x 6'. The Borough Ordinance maximum sign size is 10 square feet. If you want a larger sign you must apply through the Planning Commission and then Zoning Hearing Board. Councilmember James Bogaczyk asked if temporary permission could be granted. Councilmember Thomas Bogaczyk remarked it would be a great improvement to the existing sign. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett suggested Council pass a resolution allowing a sign be posted on Borough property, adjacent the Fire Hall, for the benefit of the community. Sign design as presented to Council. The Fire Hall is a public building, under the definition of public safety and the condition of the former sign, Council should pass the resolution. Motion to pass the Blossburg Fire & Ambulance sign request resolution was made by Jeffery Everett; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Lawrence and Rita Larson, 154 Davis Street and Kenneth Johnson, 201 Davis Street were attending meeting requesting Council to have something done with properties located on Davis Street and Granger Street. The grass has not been cut and garbage and junk needs to be removed. Mr. Johnson questioned the condition of property located on Main Street with the stone fence and junk in the back. Mrs. Larson stated a property owner that does not maintain their property, lowers his neighbor's property value. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett acknowledged the Borough did have one such property demolished and had owners clean up another. Mr. Barrett plans to continue legal action on other properties. The Blossburg Police Department will issue grass / weed removal letters to property owners.

**Guests:**

Kenneth Hughes was attending the meeting for observation.

**Reports:**

(A) **NPHS Student:** Miranda Kline had nothing to report. School was out on June 5.

President Jerome Ogden thanked Ms. Kline for attending the meeting even though there was nothing to report.

(B) **KCC:** David Thompson, Sr. reported the organization's regular checking account balance is \$400.00.

The door at the KCC building was broke during the Coal Festival. Mr. Thompson stated he feels it must have been done by someone local, because all vendors and carnival workers were monitored. The door should be repaired by the next Kiwanis meeting.

(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 April 22, 2009 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

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

V.I.B.E. is planning to construct a walking path on abandoned railroad bed along Ruah Street, between the Blossburg Fire Department and the Bloss Gulf. Mrs. McNamara presented a draft letter to Ruah Street property owners. V.I.B.E. is asking Council's permission to use borough property. A motion to allow the walking path on borough property was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Jeffrey Everett. Mrs. McNamara to contact Ruah Street residents.

Basketball court paving is done.

Brick Tavern, Blossburg Fire Company and First Citizens National Bank to receive money under the Main Street Program.

Skate Park: Grant money of \$20,000.00 was received from Conservation & Natural Resources.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman reported downtown monument has stones loose and needs repaired.

Councilmember Thomas Bogaczyk commended the Mayor for the fine job on having the Island Park cannon repaired.

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

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

Corporal McCurdy reported the department is busy.

Councilmember James Bogaczyk thanked Corporal McCurdy for attending the School Board meeting in support of the "Star Program".

**Reports:** Councilmembers questioned the control of stray dogs. The dog warden is to be contacted. If owners are known, they will be given a citation.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

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

Mr. Lloyd had nothing to report.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT AT 7:27 P.M. RECONVENED 7:58 P.M. PERSONNEL ISSUES DISCUSSED. NO ACTION TAKEN.**

(H) **Planning Commission:** Meeting of May 26, 2009.

Reviewed and approved special exemption for a sewing business at 158 St. Mary's Street. Business has to meet the sign, and off street parking ordinance requirements.

**Zoning Hearing Board:** Meeting of June 1, 2009.

Reviewed and approved a home occupation at North Williamson Road residence for clock repair.

(I) **Recreation:** The pool opened on Saturday, June 6, 2009.

The Recreation Board is looking into purchasing a new 60" Kubota zero turn lawn mower for approximately \$7,000.00. Councilmember James Bogaczyk made a motion to purchase the new mower, but motion died for lack of a second motion. A committee of Thomas Bogaczyk, Jeffrey Everett and Thomas Augustine to check new mower options.

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

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

(L) **Library:** The annual Library Garden Party fundraiser will be held July 26, 2009.

Next scheduled Library meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2009 at the library.

(M) **Street Committee:** Borough crew are patching streets before tar and chipping.

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

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

New sludge pump installed at STP.

Subdivision of 10 lots on Parkhurst Street was approved by the Tioga County Planner. Scheduled for Council approval. Councilmember James Bogaczyk made the motion to approve the BMA subdivision; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Minor Sub-Division/Cul-D-Sac:** The Borough Solicitor put this on hold until the Blue Ridge T.V. Franchise is completed.
  
2. **Blue Ridge Request for Television Franchise:**  

Borough Solicitor counseled to advertise proposed franchise ordinance. Motion to advertise the proposed franchise ordinance was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.
  
3. **Quite Title:** Dorothy Lutomski has filed for Quite Title for a lot behind her home on Davis Street. No one showed interest.
  
4. **Resolution: Tax Collection Committee (TCC) Representatives:**  

To be discussed at next month's Council meeting. Copies of information were given to Mayor Backman.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Freda Weller:**  

Freda Weller passed away. For many years, she held the office of Blossburg Borough Tax Collector. A letter of sympathy is to be sent to Councilmember Cheryl Bubacz. Motion to make a donation to the Blossburg Memorial Library in memory of Ms. Weller was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.
  
2. **Pool Bids:**  

Borough Manager George Lloyd asked permission to advertise for pool bids after DCNR approval. Motion to advertise pool bids after DCNR approval was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2009 AT THE CHILSON CLASSIC CAR RELATED MEMORABILIA BUILDING, 6 COWANESQUE STREET, ROUTE 49, LAWRENCEVILLE, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2009.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 8:27 P.M.

**Next Council Meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2009 at 6:30 P.M.**