

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**June 11, 2014**

**Attendance:** President Thomas Bogaczyk; Vice-President Jill Nickerson; Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jolene Hall, Paul Hosszu, James Rakoski; Mayor Shane Nickerson; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Chris Knarr RETTEW Representative.

AS ADVERTISED A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD ON JUNE 11, 2013 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL ROOM OF THE BOROUGH BUILDING, 245 MAIN STREET, BLOSSBURG, PA. THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING IS TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE MUNICIPAL PLANNING CODE GIVING THE PUBLIC AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS REGARDING UPDATED 10 YEAR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

No objections were noted.

Hearing closed at 6:29 P.M.

# BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## June 11, 2014

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Thomas Bogaczyk (left at 7:10 P.M.) 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 Jill Nickerson; Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jolene Hall, Paul Hosszu, (absent, Stephen Wagner), James Rakoski; Mayor Shane Nickerson; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Chris Knarr RETTEW Representative; John Eckman; Randy Sokoly.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the May 14, 2014 meeting were accepted on motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:** Report accepted subject to audit on motion of James Rakoski; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

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

**Guests:** John Eckman was attending to reciprocate the Councilmembers action for attending the Blossburg Municipal Authority Meeting last month.

Randy Sokoly, 138 South Williamson Road had a complaint on smoke from neighbor's wood burning fire pit. It was recommended that Mr. Sokoly file a nuisance complaint / civil action with District Magistrate Carlson. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett is to review the Burning Ordinance (i.e. distance from neighbors, attending fire while burning, and etc.). Mr. Sokoly thanked Council and then left the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

### **Reports:**

(A) **NPHS Student:** Dr. Al Lindner, principal of North Penn High School, is trying to recruit a new NPHS representative. The student replacement will take with time, because of the school closing.

### (B) **Committee Business Development:**

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) meetings are held on fourth Wednesday of the month in the Blossburg Recreation Building at Island Park at 6:00 P.M.

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

V.I.B.E. is working with The Anderson Group on a three (3) phase community branding project. Next scheduled meeting is July 20, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. in the Blossburg Memorial Library basement.

(C) **Mayor:** A Community Alcohol and Drug Awareness will be held on June 22, 2014 at the Blossburg Fire Hall. Program agenda is to learn about the Heroin epidemic in this area. North Penn Area Concerned Citizens will be the sponsor for this activity.

The Blossburg United Methodist Church sermon on Sunday, June 8, 2014 was Pentecost Celebration "The Church Has Left The Building". The congregation "left the church" and did community projects for 2.5 hours. A letter of thank you is to be sent to the Rev. A. Michele Someville for the volunteer work the church members did.

**Reports:**

Motion to hire Officer David Krape **full-time, 40 hours/week, with benefits**, was made by Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

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

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

Addition to Police Report: District Magistrate Fines Total - \$420.90.

Unmarked police car will be used on patrols, again, after the decals are installed.

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

**(F) Borough Manager:**

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

A request was made by First Baptist Church, to block off Carpenter Street from Main Street to the entrance of Borough Hall parking lot from Sunday, July 27, 2014 – Thursday, July 31, 2014. They would like the street blocked off for the safety of the children. The church will be responsible for putting up and taking down the barricades. Motion to approve the First Baptist Church request for closing the street was made by Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to be reviewed on June 24, 2014 at 5:00 P.M. in the Borough Building Council Room. St. Mary's Bridge to be added to plan. Projects in CIP to be prioritized.

Mr. Lloyd reported the 1997 single axle truck needs to be replaced, because of too many maintenance problems. This truck was bought through a PennDOT auction 6 years ago, at the cost of \$13,000.00. Another PennDOT auction is scheduled the end of August 2014.

The sludge hauling on South Mountain is finished.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

**(H) Recreation:**

Island Park Master Plan first meeting was held on May 26, 2014. Next meeting will be held on June 18, 2014. at 6:00 P.M. in the Blossburg Memorial Library basement.

Pool opened on June 2.

Island Park River Walk: Nothing to report.

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

Department received a grant to purchase new gear for 10 volunteer fire fighters. Each set of gear cost approximately \$2,500.00.

**Reports:**

(J) **Library:** Board is interviewing for a new librarian.

The Super Bingo fundraiser made \$3,000.00.

Upcoming fundraisers: July 27, 2014 – Garden Party

(K) **Street Committee:** Members to schedule a meeting to make a plan for replacing sections of sidewalks in town. Councilmember Jill Nickerson is working on details.

Tar & Chipping to be done 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week in July.

(L) **Shade Tree Commission:** Nothing to report.

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

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

Control box with electric actuators and valves was installed at Rod & Gun Sportsman Well.

The flushing of hydrants will begin this June 21, 2014 to July 31, 2014.

Selective tree cutting is planned for Taylor Run property.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Southern Tioga School District (STSD) Plans:** Nothing to report.

2. **Borough Code of Ordinances – Update:**

Keystate Publishers sent completed “Final Draft”. Councilmembers reviewing information for changes.

3. **Condemned Properties Update:** 101 Post Street – Borough Solicitor reported no response from owners and he is working on next steps to take case to the Commonwealth Court.

4. **New Electrical Service Behind the Downtown Monument:**

Stoudt’s Electric completed design. Service will have a main panel with spider box extenders, which will have 24 electrical connections. Cost to be approximately \$5,000.00. Borough crew to install conduit to control box. Mr. Lloyd met with Penelec for their recommendation on size of conduit for project.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**5. Update Comprehensive Plan:**

**Resolution No. 6 Envision 2024:**

A Public Hearing was held tonight, June 11, 2014.

Chris Knarr RETTEW Representative discussed the updated 10 year Comprehensive Plan and stated a few changes are necessary. Motion to adopt Envision 2024, the Updated Comprehensive Plan, per recommended changes outlined by Blossburg Planning Commission and County, then recirculate to municipalities and county, was made by Jill Nickerson; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

**6. Engine / Jake Brake:**

Chief McCurdy explained the state provisions on engine / jake brake postings. No postings can be put in 55 mph or more zones. PennDOT already approved the placement of signs North of Taber Street to the Rt. 15 / I99 overpass on North Williamson Road. James Rakoski made a motion to allow Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett to draft and advertise an Engine Brake Ordinance; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

**7. Social Media Policy:**

Borough Solicitor reviewed the Facebook Policy that Jill Nickerson presented at the May 14, 2014 Council Meeting. A few changes or additions discussed. Motion to accept the Facebook Policy, with changes or additions after they are reviewed by Borough Solicitor, was made by James Rakoski; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. CFA Greenways, Rails, and Recreation Program Grant:**

Grant is due July 21, 2014 to Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR). RETTEW to make out Grant Application at the cost of \$6,700.00 maximum. If Grant is approved, the Borough will be responsible for a 15% match. Motion to approve RETTEW to write Grant Application for a maximum cost of \$6,700.00 was made by James Rakoski; second, Paul Hosszu.

Vice-President Jill Nickerson requested a roll call:

Roll Call: Yes – Paul Hosszu, Jolene Hall, James Rakoski, Jill Nickerson.  
No – Jerome Ogden

Motion carried.

**2. Upper Tioga Valley Flood Protection:**

Mayor Shane Nickerson and Borough Manager George Lloyd attended meeting. Mr. Lloyd remarked that a lot of flood protection changes have been done in Blossburg since the 1972 flood.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH'S DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2014 AT THE CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HALL, 6 FRANKLIN STREET, LAWRENCEVILLE, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 6:30 P.M. R.S.V.P. BEFORE FRIDAY JUNE 13, 2014.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Vice-President Jill Nickerson closed the meeting at 8:07 P.M.

**Next Council Meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. in the Blossburg Borough Building Council Room.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY VICE-PRESIDENT JILL NICKERSON, AT END OF MEETING. NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN.**

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Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary