

# BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## August 14, 2013

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council 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:** Vice-President Jill Nickerson; Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Paul Hosszu, Jolene Hall, (absent, Stephen Wagner (coaching football) and James Rakoski); Mayor John Backman; (absent, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett (sick)); Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the July 8, 2013 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 Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

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

**Guests:** None present.

### **Reports:**

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

(B) **KCC:** At July's Recreation Board Meeting, Cub Scout Pack #69 donated \$250.00 toward the KCC Building.

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

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) meetings are held on fourth Wednesday of the month at the Brick Tavern at 6:30 P.M.

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

Elections of officers for organization were held last month. V.I.B.E. Officers are:  
President – Heidi Jones, Vice President – Jill Nickerson, Secretary – Josh Jones and  
Treasurer – Kelly Rossell.

V.I.B.E. upcoming events: (1) October 20, 2013 Fall Festival.  
(2) November 30, 2013 Small Town Christmas.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman is concerned with Blossburg Police Department off duty officers responding to an incident in other Municipalities in county. Is Borough covered for any problems? Is a Regional Police Force Protection Resolution needed? Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett is to evaluate.

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

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Jill Nickerson second, Paul Hosszu.  
All in favor.

**Reports:** Chief McCurdy reported the Department had a new repeater system installed, in the Borough Building. The new equipment will correct portable radio response reception in the Borough. The device was purchased through 911 and the Tioga County Commissioners.

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

**(G) Borough Manager:**

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

2014 Financial Requirements & Minimum Municipal Obligation, permitted under Act 44, for Pension Plans (MMO's): Police - \$19,638.00 / Non-Uniform - \$34,972.00. Act 44 was signed into law which made available actuarial tools intended to provide short-term fiscal relief to local governments. The relief provisions are based upon the recent distress level as determined by the Public Employee Retirement Commission. Council President Thomas Bogaczyk recommended that the Borough add an additional \$2,500.00 to the Police Fund and \$7,500.00 to the Non-Uniform Fund. Mayor Backman asked if the pensions could be paid with the Marcellus Shale Impact Fee monies. Mr. Lloyd will make inquiries about using Impact monies for pension funding. Council will decide on their total contributions while setting up the 2014 Budget.

**(H) Planning Commission:** Meeting of July 29, 2013.

Reviewed Scott and Teresa Williams variance request to build a garage at 110 Granger Street, with the maximum height of 21'. Planning Commission recommended sending William's request to the Zoning Hearing Board.

**Zoning Hearing Board:** A meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. to review Scott and Teresa Williams variance.

**(I) Recreation:**

**Young Lungs at Play:** "Young Lungs at Play / This is a tobacco-free zone". Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett to rework sample ordinance.

**Island Park River Walk:** Pictures of new "rule" signs were presented. Council approved to order the signs. Signs will be placed at start of Walking Trail and by the Pedestrian Bridge

Council commended the many volunteers for the excellent job they are doing on maintaining and improving the River Walk.

**Pool (Splash Pad):** Pool will be opened until September 2, 2013.

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

**(K) Library:** New landscaping is being planned for the Library. Councilmembers received Ettinger's Landscaping proposal to replace landscaping and repair the concrete. Council would like to have more than one (1) estimate for comparing prices.

No update for Landscape Renovation received.

**(L) Street Committee:** Tar & Chipping of 1.98 miles of Borough Streets is done. Loose chips have been swept up.

**Reports:**

**(M) Shade Tree Commission:**

A very informative meeting was held with Pete Herres on July 9, 2013. Mr. Herres suggested ordering some landscape tree factsheets books. The tree books were received from State College and are being reviewed. V.I.B.E. was supposed to hold a Public Meeting on July 30, 2013 to discuss Main Street trees, but Jill Nickerson cancelled the meeting, after meeting with Mr. Herres. Mrs. Nickerson would like to redo her presentation on the Main Street trees. Another Public Meeting will be re-scheduled.

**(N) Budget:** Laurel Youth Services, Ruah Street is listed as Tax Exempt in Tax Book. Tioga County Tax Assessment Office was contacted to change from Non-Profit status. A hearing is scheduled for August 27, 2013 at 10:00 A.M. at the Tioga County Court House.

**(O) Project Committee:** Nothing to report.

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

USG completing sewer main spot patches this week. Another contractor to reline some mains between manholes at end of September.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

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

A “Final Draft” letter was received, with Keystate Publishers recommendations and changes. Comments on Keystate Publisher’s recommendations and changes were reviewed and comments / changes e-mailed to Keystate Publishers. Keystate Publishers are reviewing changes suggested by Council.

Nothing to report.

Mr. Lloyd is to contact Keystate Publishers on their progress.

3. **Condemned Properties Update:**

- (1) 219 South Williamson Road – Trailer was razed, but there still is some cleanup to be done. Jerome Ogden made a motion to remove Item (1) from agenda; second, Paul Hosszu.
- (2) 127 Schuylkill Street – Jeffrey McFall is trying to sell property on Craig’s List. County to be contacted to see if there were stipulations if Mr. McFall ever tried to re-sale property.
- (3) 101 Post Street – Condition of property to be evaluated and mortgage holder to be contacted. Lien is already on property. Borough to get grass cut. Labor and equipment costs to be added to lien.

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

Nothing to report. Stoudt’s Electric is working on 200 AMP design for Josh Jones. Cost to be approximately \$5,000.00.

**Reports:**

**5. Update Comprehensive Plan:**

An Agreement was signed with RETTEW.

Jill Nickerson read, but not contacted, a list of people, she thought would help in the planning on the updated Comprehensive Plan.

**6. Talisman Agreement to Use Borough Streets:**

Talisman would like permission to access surrounding areas by using Borough streets. A Road Maintenance Agreement with Talisman to be negotiated.

**NEW BUSINESS:** No new business.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** President Thomas Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 7:55 P.M.

**Next Council Meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2013 at 6:30 P.M.**

**AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS REQUESTED BY PRESIDENT THOMAS BOGACZYK, AT END OF MEETING. NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN. EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:35 P.M. TO 7:53 P.M.**

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Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary