

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

March 12, 2014

Council Vice-President Jill Nickerson 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, President Thomas Bogaczyk (in Florida)), Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jolene Hall, Paul Hosszu, Stephen Wagner, James Rakoski; Mayor Shane Nickerson; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Jarrod Davis, Lakota Cummings, Alan Weed Troop 69; Jacqueline Smith.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 12, 2014 meeting were accepted on motion of Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

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

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Paul Hosszu; second, James Rakoski. All in favor.

Guests: Jacqueline Smith attended the meeting to discuss / explain a Mansfield University and Organizations Class Project. Social Work students are required to complete a project that benefits a community or organization. Mrs. Smith's group would like to create and donate Comfort Kits (i.e. coloring book and pencils, small stuffed animal, and an age appropriate reading book) for children in the Blossburg Community that may be effected by an emergency situation. The kits are designed to be given to a child by an officer or someone who the officer designates. The project will be completed and presented to the Blossburg Police Department in April 2014. The group would like approval to proceed with this project and would like to publish a news release in the local media. Chief McCurdy has no issues with the project. Motion to approve Comfort Kits Project was made by Stephen Wagner; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** Councilmember Paul Hosszu is to contact Principal Al Lindner for assistance in recruiting a new NPHS representative.

(B) Committee Business Development:

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) V.I.B.E. 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. topics:

- (1) March 27 at 6:00 P.M. – Branding Project with Anderson Group.
- (2) April 5 at 10:00 A.M. – Community Garden work bee.
- (3) April 26 from 8:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. – Community Yard Sale
- (4) April 29 – Electronic Waste Collection.

(C) **Mayor:** A recommendation was made by Mayor Nickerson regarding Officer Robert Scott to be awarded the rank of Corporal, with no pay increase. Motion to approve Officer Scott to Corporal, with no pay increase, was made by Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Councilmember Jerome Ogden suggested holding more Police Committee meetings.

Reports:

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

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

Officer Krape is still training with the Department, but soon to be on his own patrols.

(E) **Police Committee:** A Police Committee meeting was scheduled for March 19, 2014 at 5:30 P.M.

(F) **Borough Manager:**

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

The Tioga County Commissioners meeting will be held in Blossburg on May 27, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.
in the Blossburg Recreation Building at Island Park.

Ward Manufacturing would like permission to install a canopy on the Johnson Creek pedestrian
bridge, at no cost to the Borough. Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to approve Ward Manufacturing
request; second, Jolene Hall; All in favor.

Blossburg Municipal Authority would like to have a joint meeting with Council, in April, after
Thomas Bogaczyk returns from Florida. Meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

(G) **Planning Commission:** A meeting was held on February 25, 2014 with RETTEW.
Board Members recommended approval to Council to accept the
updated 10 year Comprehensive Plan, with changes given by the
Planning Commission.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(H) **Recreation:**

Recreation Board discussed Island Park Master Plan with Lauren Zumbrun from RETTEW.

The playground fixture by the big pavilion needs to be fixed / updated. Mr. Lloyd is trying to find parts.
Jerome Ogden suggested possibly Williamson Road Foundation may be able to help with the funding.
Mr. Lloyd is to check on cost of repairs or replacing.

Island Park River Walk: Nothing to report.

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

Upcoming fundraiser: Fish Fry, April 11 – 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Fire Department would like the entrance driveway to building paved, at the Borough's expense.
Mr. Lloyd is to check cost of paving vs. tar and chip and report back to Council next month.

(J) **Library:** Nothing to report.

Reports:

(K) **Street Committee:** Members to meet in May or June to plan for replacing sections of sidewalks in town.

(L) **Shade Tree Commission:**

Main Street replacement trees, ivory silk Japanese lilac, are ordered and to be delivered in April. On March 30, 2014 at 7:00 A.M. the current Bradford pear trees are to be removed from Main Street. Donations, to date, toward the \$32,000.00 project: \$5,000.00 Blossburg Borough, \$2,500.00 Blossburg VFW, \$500 Arnot Sportsman's Club. Jill Nickerson is hoping to get the planters, benches, and lighting fixtures costs covered by sponsors.

Jerome Ogden stated that the white pine trees on Island Park need attention and a replacement plan should be discussed.

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

(N) **Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):** BMA received a letter from DEP. They removed Blossburg's restrictions on sewer connections.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Southern Tioga School District (STSD) Plans:**

The School Board voted to choose Bus Route 2.

A meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. to discuss students attending which school and branding.

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

Keystate Publishers sent completed "Final Draft". Councilmembers to review information for changes.

3. **Condemned Properties Update:**

- (1) 127 Schuylkill Street – Property was sold to local contractor. Contractor picked up Building Permit and wants to start working on home as soon as weather breaks.
- (2) 101 Post Street – A hearing is scheduled for March 26, 2014 at 4:30 P.M.
- (3) 134 Taber Street – Property owner plans to raze house in next few months.

AT END OF MEETING, AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT. NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN.

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. Jill Nickerson reported all monies are available for project to be started and completed.

OLD BUSINESS:

5. Update Comprehensive Plan:

Final Comprehensive Plan is in review for 45 days. A Public Hearing will be held after April Council meeting and to be passed in May 2014.

Proposals for:

ON CALL BOROUGH PLANNER OF RECORD SERVICES – RETTEW propose to be “on-call” for Blossburg Borough, providing Borough Planner of Record services as needed. There is no cost to the Borough until work is performed at the Borough’s request. Jerome Ogden made a motion to accept this proposal; second Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

V.I.B.E. to do Blossburg’s branding.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN – \$11,000.00 Fee – Borough Manager George D. Lloyd and Blossburg Borough Engineer William S. Bray to generate plan for next 5 years. Paul Hosszu made a motion to move forward with Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Bray doing the Capital Improvements Plan; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

ISLAND PARK MASTER SITE PLAN – \$22,000.00 Fee – If use Borough’s engineer price reduced to \$13,000.00. Master Site Plan helps to set the stage for future grant applications when include components that are consistent with and enhance the goals and objectives of various state finding agencies. Motion was made by Paul Hosszu to accept RETTEW’s Island Park Plan Master Plan, using Borough’s engineer; second, Stephen Wagner.

Vice-President Jill Nickerson requested a roll call:

Roll Call: Yes – Paul Hosszu, Jolene Hall, Jerome Ogden, James Rakoski, Stephen Wagner, Jill Nickerson.

Unanimous. Motion carried.

6. Update on Hiring Office Assistant: Interviews to be scheduled in 2 – 3 weeks.

7. Resolution No. 1 Road Right-of-Way Agreement / Resolution with PVR:

PVR Partners requested a Temporary Road Right-of-Way Option Agreement, to use the old landfill access road. The road will be maintained by PVR Partners. Borough Solicitor made changes to Agreement and Resolution.

Additional minor changes need to be included in the Road Right-of-Way Agreement with PVR, because Bureau of Mines may want to use road to fill in old mining cut that is located on Arbon Cemetery property.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution No. 2 2014 PSAB MRT Pension Advisory:**

Resolution for Municipal Pension appointing title or position (i.e. Manager, Secretary, President of Council) to act as the chief administrating officer, rather than using a name. This suggestion came from PSAB (the company that manages the Pensions). Motion to appoint the Borough Manager to act as the chief administrating officer was made by Jerome Ogden; second, James Rakoski. All in favor.

2. **Tioga County 2013 Emergency Operation Plan:**

Resolution No. 3 2014: Motion to approve Tioga County 2013 Emergency Operations Plan was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

3. **Agility Agreement with PennDOT:**

The PennDOT Agility Agreement is required to be renewed every five (5) years. Motion to pass the PennDOT Agility Agreement was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2014 AT THE BLOSSBURG FIRE & AMBULANCE BUILDING, 324 MAIN STREET, BLOSSBURG, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 6:30 P.M.

TIOGA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 18TH ANNUAL TCDC LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST AT THE PENN WELLS HOTEL, 62 MAIN STREET, WELLSBORO, PA ON THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2014 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. (BUFFET OPENS AT 7:30 A.M.). R.S.V.P. & PAYMENT DUE BY APRIL 11, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT: Vice-President Jill Nickerson closed the meeting at 7:47 P.M.

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

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary