

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

February 13, 2012

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council Second 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, (absent, James Rakoski (In Florida)); Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Tioga County Commissioner Roger Bunn; Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) Member Josh Jones; (absent, Kelsey Rudinski NPHS Student Representative); Rebecca Hazen-Witucki Wellsboro Gazette; Bev Jones, and Kenneth Hughes.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 3, 2012 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, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

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

Guests: Commissioner Roger Bunn was attending tonight's meeting for observation. Mr. Bunn also presented a 2012 millage listing for municipalities.

Bev Jones asked about the bad conditions / appearances of two (2) properties on Schuylkill Street. One property is on the condemned property list, owner has taken no action to start the demolition. The other property will be sent a property cleanup letter.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY VICE-PRESIDENT JILL NICKERSON AT 6:40 P.M.
RECONVENED 7:18 P.M. PERSONNEL ISSUES DISCUSSED. NO ACTION TAKEN.**

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** Kelsey Rudinski was absent.

(B) **KCC:** Organization is in process of choosing new siding type.

(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.

V.I.B.E. Officers are: President – Heidi Jones, Vice President – Jill Nickerson, Secretary – Josh Jones and Treasurer – Kelly Rossell.

Meeting of January 25, 2012 V.I.B.E. members discussed:

Put forward a new Town Square for the Blossburg Veterans Memorial area, which would include a new electrical service, bike racks, benches and lighting. Blossburg Improvement Association has budgeted \$2,000.00 toward the project.

Reports

Blossburg Community Yard Sale is planned for April 28, 2012 from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Blossburg's two (2) Facebook pages (V.I.B.E. & Borough) were consolidated into one. E-mail Addresses events@blossburg.org and sign@blossburg.org were eliminated. The new e-mail address is news@blossburg.org .

Skate Park: Final payment authorized by DCNR on January 25, 2012, but no money received yet.

(D) **Mayor**: Mayor Backman questioned if any decisions were made on a reliable Wi-Fi system for the Blossburg Fire Department. In September 2011 the Blossburg Fire Department Building was being used as "command center" during the flood emergency. The Wi-Fi went down, causing problems, because accurate rain fall measurements could not be monitored. A few options were discussed, at that time. Later, the Borough was contacted by an Indigo representative. Indigo would be willing to provide free service if they acquire a contract to put their equipment onto the cell tower located on the Benjamin Jones property. A small antenna installed onto the Fire Department building, is all that would be needed, for emergency communication. Borough Manager George Lloyd is to contact Indigo on their prior offer.

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

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

PennDOT to be contacted requesting traffic lines across from Kwik-Fill to be repainted.

Speed lines have been re-painted throughout town.

Police Patrol Bike is in and being assembled at Oswald Cycle Works in Mansfield, PA.

A Crime Rate Comparison to be included in the next Blossburg Bulletin.

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

(G) **Borough Manager**:

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Jolene Hall; second, Steve Wagner. All in favor.

South Mountain Biosolids: Expect to haul 15,000 to 18,000 tons of material. About half has been processed so far. Kyler Environmental expects to finish hauling in early spring of 2012.

A property owner is interested in purchasing the Railroad property bordering the back of his lot. A survey with legal description would be required.

Spring Cleanup is scheduled for April 23 – April 27, 2012. Items for pickup should be put out on Saturday or Sunday night, April 21 – 22, 2012. **All items must be out by Tuesday Night.** All spring cleanup items will be picked up by Friday, April 27, 2012. **Local trash only!**

Island Park cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, 2012, with the rain date set for May 5, 2012.

Jo Render, Environmental Resources Management representing Shell met with a few Councilmembers to discuss any concerns the Borough may have with gas company subcontractors.

Reports

(H) Planning Commission: Meeting of January 31, 2012.

Two (2) requests were reviewed. (1) Hydro Recovery LP for a zoning change from Commercial to Industrial. Approved. (2) Laurel Health Center for a zoning change from S-1 Public Use to C-2 Highway Commercial. Approved.

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett recommended the Laurel Health Center zoning change as R-2, instead of C-2. Motion was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor. Mr. Barrett to draft ordinance.

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett recommended the St. Andrews property to be zoned R-2. Motion was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor. Mr. Barrett to draft ordinance.

Councilmembers suggested having Hydro Recovery representatives meet with them, to discuss their intentions for the above zoning change request. Motion to reconvene tonight's meeting on February 20, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. to discuss Hydro Recovery zoning plans was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

Robert Kelly was contacted and accepted to serve on the Planning Commission. Mr. Kelly will be Stephen Wagner's replacement (Last Term Year 2013). Motion to appoint Robert Kelly to Planning Commission was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

Meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. to review request to turn a Single Family home, located at 110 Lynd Street, into a two (2) Family Unit.

(I) Recreation: Discussed amounts to be given to local organizations from United Fund.

Walking Trail: Borough crew is working on, as time allows. Borough Manager to submit statement, of labor done by Borough employees, materials and equipment used, to V.I.B.E. for reimbursement.

Pool: Paperwork submitted to DCNR for \$275,000.00 Grant money. DCNR authorized final payment on December 16, 2011. No money has been received yet.

(J) Fire: No Financial Report was received.

Councilmember Jolene Hall presented an updated list of department officers.

Blossburg Fire and Ambulance Department Annual Banquet will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2012.

Fish Fry Fundraisers are scheduled for March 2 and March 30.

(K) Library: The Blossburg Memorial Library is sponsoring a Keurig Coffeemaker Raffle.

(L) Street Committee: A meeting was scheduled for February 16, 2012 at 2:00 P.M. Items to be discussed: (1) Review streets and roads. (2) The replacement of Borough Building trees. (3) Assessment of business signage sizes.

Reports:

(M) **Shade Tree Commission:** Borough Building trees were removed by Penelec subcontractor. Replacement of trees will be discussed at meeting of February 16, 2012 at 2:00 P.M.

(N) **Budget:** Discuss proposed new Building Fee Structure. Proposed Resolution under NEW BUSINESS.

(O) **Project Committee:** Working on new Blossburg Bulletin.

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

Letters were sent out to homes that may still have sump pump connections to sewer system.

Installing flowmeters in sewer manholes to determine areas of highest infiltration.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

A meeting is scheduled tonight. Councilmember Jill Nickerson to write a letter of support to District.

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

Received eight copies of the Preliminary Draft along with editorial notes for the Borough Code of Ordinances. Preliminary Draft to be reviewed. Pennsylvania plans to change Borough Code of Ordinances. If State makes changes, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett suggested waiting before Preliminary Draft is reviewed.

Nothing to report.

3. **Condemned Properties Update:**

- (1) Schuylkill Street property owner has a Demolition Permit. Property owner hasn't started work yet.
- (2) South Williamson Road properties were sold. New owner started to clean junk out of trailer.

Another property on Schuylkill Street is in bad condition. Property to be evaluated.

4. **Sidewalk Repair Letter:** George Lloyd is working on letter for the Borough Solicitor to review. Specifications were obtained from Code Official Michael Stoudt. A letter will be sent this spring to alert properties owners of sidewalk repairs needed.

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

V.I.B.E. is working on. Organization to group into Town Square Project. Veteran organizations to be contacted with proposed changes.

6. **Borough Building Upgrades:** Upgrades are on hold until spring.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Laurel Health Services Building:

Location: 520 Ruah Street. Renovating into a homeless / displaced shelter is on hold, while Laurel Health Systems in discussion with a developer that wants to turn building into apartments.

2. Tioga Tax Collection Committee / Earned Income Tax Ordinance:

Keystone Collection Group wants municipalities to consider an ordinance to make the penalties provision consistent. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett recommended advertising. Motion to advertise ordinance was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

3. Resolution: Implementing Act 192 of 2004 / Pennsylvania Municipal Service Company (PA MS):

PA MS is requesting a Resolution for collection of 2011 and prior years delinquent Earned Income Taxes / Implementing Act 192 of 2004 concerning collection of Earned Income Taxes.

Resolution approved on motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

4. TCAB Dinner – Blossburg Borough Host for March:

Thursday, March 15, 2012 was decided as the date. Location is to be the Blossburg Fire and Ambulance Building. The Blossburg Fire Department Auxiliary to provide the meal. Councilmember Jill Nickerson is to contact Tioga County Commissioner Erick Coolidge to speak on the new Marcellus Shale Impact Fee and Zoning Legislation.

5. Resolution to Accept the New Building Inspection Fees:

Motion to accept and pass the New Building Inspection Fees was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

6. Donation to “Partners in Education”:

A request was received from Southern Tioga School District for support in “Partners in Education. Donations are to help fund vocational education programs, reading, mathematics, and sciences areas, as well as, uniforms for athletic programs. Motion to donate \$100.00, from the Blossburg Borough General Fund, was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012 AT THE TRINITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 6 BROAD STREET, TIOGA, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M.

BLOSSBURG FIRE AND AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL BANQUET WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2012 AT 6:00 P.M. RSVP BY FEBRUARY 15, 2012.

Meeting will not adjourn as there are some items to be completed. The meeting was dismissed at 8:33 P.M. by Vice-President Jill Nickerson, to reconvene February 20, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Room of the Borough Building, 245 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary

Attendance: Vice-President Jill Nickerson; Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Stephen Wagner, Jolene Hall; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Cheryl Clarke Williamsport Gazette; David Hedrick Hydro Recovery Representative; Bev Jones.

Discussion on rezoning of properties, around the existing Hydro Recovery Frac Filter Plant, that were purchased by Hydro Recovery. The properties were (1) Preston Anderson (2) Chester Tokarz (3) Roy Baker (4) Joe Tokarz.

David Hedrick explained that the primary properties to be used would be the Anderson and Chester Tokarz properties. Use of land would include possible brine treatment of frac water, storage tanks and a place to store drilling mud. The mud and drillings would be separated, with the mud sold back to the drillers and the drillings sent to a landfill. There may be another 50 trucks per day. Chester Tokarz's driveway would be used as an additional access to help ease congestion on Boone Run Road. Wooden fences, noise barriers, and shrubbery would be placed along Johnson Creek to block view of Hydro operations from neighbors along South Williamson Road. Expansion would create employment for another 10 – 15 people from the area.

Councilmember Jerome Ogden discussed with Mr. Hedrick about keeping two (2) lots, along Old Bloss Road, Commercial (i.e. Roy Baker, and Joe Tokarz), for possible hotel or restaurant. Mr. Hedrick explained that Hydro would like to rezone everything Industrial.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY ATTORNEY PATRICK BARRETT AT 7:15 P.M. RECONVENED 7:35 P.M.

Council would like to keep Roy Baker and Joe Tokarz properties as Commercial and rezone Preston Anderson and Chester Tokarz properties to Industrial. Council will discuss rezoning with Councilmembers not present tonight, at the next regular scheduled Council Meeting on March 12, 2012. After discussion, Councilmembers will then vote on proceeding with rezoning

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

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2012 at 6:30 P.M.