

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

July 9, 2012

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Councilmember 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: (absent, Thomas Bogaczyk (out of town)); (absent, Vice-President Jill Nickerson (attending Southern Tioga School Board Meeting)); Councilmembers Jolene Hall, Paul Hosszu, James Rakoski, (absent, Stephen Wagner (sick)); Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) Member Josh Jones; Rebecca Hazen-Witucki Wellsboro Gazette; Blossburg VFW Representatives: Quarter Master Michael Nickerson and Senior Vice Commander Daniel Stangel; Roger Bunn; Bev Jones; Kenneth Hughes.

Minutes: The minutes of the June 11, 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 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: Blossburg VFW Representatives Quarter Master Michael Nickerson and Senior Vice Commander Daniel Stangel presented Award Certificates to Rebecca Hazen-Witucki, Reporter for the Wellsboro Gazette. The Blossburg VFW Post 8730 and the American Legion Post 572 were impressed with Mrs. Witucki's article regarding their Posts replacing flags for each deceased veteran on Memorial Day. The flags are replaced yearly at five (5) area cemeteries.

Resident Roger Bunn questioned the hours when the gate is opened at the sewer plant for taking lawn clippings and leaves. The gate is open until 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. Mr. Lloyd told Mr. Bunn, because of all the storms our area has had recently, yard waste and brush can be taken and dumped at the "old" landfill. The "old" landfill gate is always open.

Bev Jones asked about the Main Street fire properties. Three (3) homes were destroyed, but only two (2) homes are to be replaced with doublewides. Placement of the new proposed homes will use special setbacks, as required in the Borough Ordinance Book under non-conforming lots.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** School is out for summer break.

(B) **KCC:** Nothing to report.

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.

Reports:

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

V.I.B.E. Topics: (1) New officers will be elected in July. (2) Borough organizations were updated on the Borough website.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman discussed with Councilmembers his concerns with the advertising pennants that are hung around the inside fence of the Little League Field. There is only advertising printed on the inside, but not on the backside. Mayor Backman thinks the Little League should make advertising money for the backside too. The Little League charges \$100.00 per banner. Paul Hosszu made a motion to permit the blank side of Little League banners be used as advertisements; second, James Rakoski. All in favor.

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

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

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of James Rakoski; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

A concrete pad and conduit were installed for the Borough Hall generator. Keystone Welding & Fabrication is making a cover to keep the equipment from the elements.

The building for the Coal Museum on Island Park should be here on August 9, 2012. The concrete base was poured and is ready for the building.

Stuart Lisowski Excavation and NTSWA tore down and removed the fire damaged homes on Main Street, at no cost to the property owners. Letters of recognition will be sent to each business.

Main Street from South Williamson Road to North Williamson Road will be milled and paved in September.

Pedestrian crossing signs / locations erected by Ward Manufacturing were talked about. Councilmembers suggested meeting with Ward Manufacturing to discuss.

(H) **Planning Commission:** Meetings of June 26, 2012 and June 28, 2012.

Two (2) requests were reviewed: (1) Reviewed previously approved Borough Street and cul-de-sac from Granger Street with correct name designation of Miss Daisy Lane. Approved. Information to be sent to Tioga County Planning Commission. (2) Reviewed a variance request from Doug Broughton for a rear setback from 35' to 20'. Approved. Request to be reviewed by Zoning Hearing Board on August 1, 2012.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

A meeting is scheduled for August 1, 2012.

Reports:

(I) **Recreation:** A new lighted flag pole is being installed at the pool area. Bloss Area Pool Association to reimburse the Blossburg Borough General Fund \$1,465.00 towards the cost.

The Annual 5K Run fundraiser for pool is scheduled for August 4, 2012.

Jill Nickerson is seeking sponsors to purchase 10' picnic tables for the large pavilion at Island Park. Anyone wishing to be a picnic table sponsor can get a brass plate on it identifying him / her or the organization. Picnic tables are \$165.00 each. The goal is to get 10 tables. Mayor Backman suggested marking the tables with a "BB" for identification. Motion was made by Paul Hosszu for Blossburg Borough to purchase one picnic table for Island Park Pavilion; second, James Rakoski. All in favor.

Walking Trail: Borough crew is working on, as time allows.

Permission was given by Ward Manufacturing to continue Walking Trail onto their property.

Pool: Materials were ordered for Splash Pad. Borough is waiting on delivery of equipment.

(J) **Fire:** No meeting.

(K) **Library:** No meeting.

(L) **Street Committee:** Tar & chipping to be done next week.

(M) **Shade Tree Commission:** Japanese lilac trees will be ordered and planted in front of the Borough Building this fall, after the sidewalk is repaired.

(N) **Budget:** New diesel International garbage truck, compactor, and recycling unit were ordered. Delivery date will be in 5 – 6 months. **Financing Update:** Use Gas Lease Certificate of Deposit to pay for truck. The \$67,250.00 will be financed through additional Borough Certificate of Deposits. Motion was made by James Rakoski to use Borough CD's to finance new diesel International garbage truck, compactor, and recycling unit; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

New Police car is on hold for now. Possibly will be purchased when / if Natural Gas Impact Fees are disbursed.

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

(P) **Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):** BMA will do smoke testing July 19, 2012 on Main Street to try and locate some infiltration areas.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Tonight is the Southern Tioga School District meeting. Vice-President Jill Nickerson is attending the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. Borough Code of Ordinances – Update:

Received eight copies of the Preliminary Draft along with editorial notes for the Borough Code of Ordinances from Keystates Publishers. 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. Borough Solicitor is trying to get an answer on State's action and is to contact Keystates.

3. Condemned Properties Update:

(1) Schuylkill Street property – Court Order from Judge Dalton issued. Structure shall either be torn down or sold within 30 days. Sale of property shall be accompanied by notice to the purchaser that the structure must be demolished within 60 days of June 8, 2012. (2) South Williamson Road properties were sold. New owner started to clean up properties, but hasn't made much progress lately. Borough Manager is to contact owner to discuss applying for a demo permit. (3) 127 Schuylkill Street – Borough Solicitor is to contact.

Pictures were taken of resident's parcels that are accumulating junk on their properties. On April 24, 2012, letters were sent to these offenders requesting they clean up their properties within 20 days. Chief McCurdy is to follow-up on properties to be cleaned up.

4. Sidewalk Repair Letter: Councilmember Jill Nickerson has a version of a sidewalk letter she wanted to use. Still no completed letter. Councilmembers suggested mailing the first letter to property owners needing sidewalk repairs. Letter can always be amended.

5. New Electrical Service Behind the Downtown Monument:

Josh Jones sent out requests quotes on new electrical service. No quotes were returned yet.

6. Ordinance: "No Parking" along Bloss Mountain Road by Kwik Fill:

At the June Council Meeting discussed proposed "No Parking" along Bloss Mountain Road by Kwik Fill. PennDOT allows local officials to erect "No Parking" signs along state roads. Motion was made to draft and advertise an ordinance prohibiting parking on a portion of Bloss Mountain Road. Proposed ordinance was advertised and will be adopted at the August 13, 2012 Council Meeting.

7. Rezoning of North Williamson Road properties, South of Dandy Mini Mart:

At the June Council Meeting discussed drafting an ordinance on the rezoning of North Williamson Road properties, South of Dandy Mini Mart. This proposed ordinance will be advertised and a Public Hearing scheduled on August 13, 2012 at 6:00 P.M.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution for Plan Revision for New Land Development:**

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) “require municipalities to adopt an Official Sewage Facilities Plan providing for sewage services adequate to prevent contamination of waters of the Commonwealth and/or environmental health hazards from sewage wastes, and to revise said plan whenever it is necessary to determine whether a proposed method of sewage disposal for new land development conforms to a comprehensive program of pollution control and water quality management”.

Motion was made by James Rakoski to adopt and submit to DEP for its approval as a revision to the “Official Sewage Facilities Plan” to the Borough of Blossburg; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TCDC) 19th ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 30, 2012 AT MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY, MAIN MANSER DINING HALL, MANSFIELD, PA. SOCIAL RECEPTION 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY JULY 20, 2012.

TIOGA COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU 2012 – 2013 KICK OFF, TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2012 FROM 5:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M., AT THE TIOGA COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU, 2053 ROUTE 660, WELLSBORO, PA. R.S.V.P. BY FRIDAY, JULY 13, 2012.

THE ANNUAL 5K RUN FUNDRAISER FOR POOL IS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 4, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilmember Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 7:26 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2012 at 6:30 P.M., after 6:00 P.M. Public Hearing.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary