

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

September 13, 2017

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Jolene Hall 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; Pro Temp Tonya McNamara; Councilmembers Paul Hosszu, Timothy Martin, Jerome Ogden, James Rakoski; Mayor Shane Nickerson; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Junior Council Person Eion Hicks-Lee; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Natalie Kennedy Wellsboro Gazette; Corporal Robert Scott; Unisatvti Hicks-Lee; Walter Belawski, Jr.

Minutes: The minutes of the August 9, 2017 meeting were accepted on motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Timothy Martin. 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 Tonya McNamara; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Guests: Walter Belawski, Jr, a resident of Blossburg, is concerned with Blossburg Ambulance personal response time to an emergency call. On September 11, 2017 a friend of Mr. Belawski was in distress with difficulty breathing. Mr. Belawski phoned 911 at 4:45 A.M. and again at 5:00 A.M. No emergency person responded. At 5:22 A.M. Wellsboro ambulance crew arrived. Mr. Belawski stated something needs to be done for quicker emergency responses. At the present time, Blossburg emergency personal is notified. If Blossburg is unavailable Mansfield personal are contacted. If Mansfield is unavailable then Wellsboro is called. All county ambulance and fire departments are volunteers. These people respond if they are able to. Countywide EMS personal are trying to make the system better. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett suggested the situation to be investigated through the Blossburg Ambulance Association. There are many factors as to why the emergency crew may not have responded.

Mr. Belawski left the meeting after Council listened to his complaint.

Reports:

(A) Junior Council Person: Junior Council Person Eion Hicks-Lee reported this school year he is being taught through PA Cyber School and because of this reason, Principle William David told Eion he needed to stepdown as Council Junior Person. Councilmembers feel Eion should stay on. Councilmember Jill Nickerson is to talk with Mr. David about this matter.

Reports:

(B) Committee Business Development:

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) meetings are held on fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:00 P.M. Meeting locations are different each month. Check the V.I.B.E. website for meeting place.

V.I.B.E is looking for ideas as to what their next project should be. If V.I.B.E likes an idea and if your idea is the one that V.I.B.E picks, you could win \$50.

V.I.B.E. upcoming event: October 15, 2017 Fall Festival. The hours are 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. V.I.B.E. would like to close Main Street, for the festivities, from the corner of Carpenter Street to the corner of Hannibal Street. Motion was made by Jill Nickerson to allow the closing of Main Street for this event; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor. Main Street is a state road; a Parade Permit Application will be submitted to PennDOT by Borough Secretary Mary Signor.

(C) Mayor: Mayor Nickerson reported Kyle Mosso was sworn in as a Blossburg Police Department officer, finished his orientation, and is patrolling on his own.

Mayor would like to get more pictures on Facebook and the Blossburg website of individuals that helped with the new playground construction and the Community Build that was held on July 29, 2017.

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

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

District Magistrate Fines Total: \$560.49.

Chief McCurdy reported he is working on a resolution for audible, visual, and body cams. As of September 5, 2017 all are permitted in homes, etc.

New firearms were delivered.

Complaints of smoking on Island Park by tennis courts, basketball court, and baseball fields. Borough does not have a No Smoking Ordinance covering Island Park. Jill Nickerson to check on "No Smoking" signs through Pete Herres. For now, Boroughs Solicitor Patrick Barrett to write a "No Smoking Resolution" for Island Park.

(E) Police Committee: Nothing to report.

F) Borough Manager:

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of James Rakoski; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Borough Engineer William S. Bray submitted an Engineer Services Agreement for Council's approval. Mr. Bray needs the Agreement for his insurance provider. The Agreement is the same as the last Agreement the Borough signed, except there is no time limit in this new Agreement. Councilmembers questioned the last paragraph of Agreement concerning the limit of Engineer's liability for "the CLIENT's damages to \$5,000.00 or the ENGINEER's fee, whichever is greater. This limitation shall apply regardless of the cause of action or legal theory pled or asserted." Mr. Lloyd is to contact Mr. Bray on the \$5,000.00 limit.

Reports:

(G) Planning Commission: No meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(H) Recreation:

The Minutes from the July 31, 2017 were received.

Mayor Nickerson and Island Park Skate Park Committee are planning a Fundraiser Booth during the Fall Festival to raise funds for repairs to the Skate Park.

Signs need to be made for the tennis courts, new bathrooms, and bocce ball court.

Recreation Board need to work on a Kiwanis Building improvement plan.

Playground: Borough crew pouring concrete curbs.

Tennis Courts: Tennis courts are done.

Trees: Planting of trees around the big pavilion at park is on hold until new playground is completed.

Island Park River Walk: Nothing to report.

(I) Fire: No Minutes were received.

A Financial Report from July 27, 2017 through August 28, 2017 was received.

Department received a Forestry Grant in the amount of \$7,500.00 and a donation of \$2,500.00 from Repsol.

(J) Library: No meeting.

(K) Street Committee: Nothing to report.

(L) Shade Tree Commission: Nothing to report.

(M) Budget: Budget Committee have met two (2) times to work on the 2018 Budget. Property Insurance is to be bid out.

Next meeting is set up for September 19, 2017 at 9:00 A.M. President Jolene Hall asked to have the time changed to later at night, so she could attend. After a discussion, the next meeting was changed to September 26, 2017 at 5:00 P.M., motion of Jill Nickerson; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor. Borough Secretary Mary Signor to advertise "Budget Workshop Meeting" in the Wellsboro Gazette.

(N) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):

Reviewing increase in sewer rates to pay for new sewer plant. The earliest proposed rate increase to take effect is March 2018.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Southern Tioga School District (STSD) Plans:

Plan to sell the administration building on Main Street and move office to Blossburg Elementary school building.

Nothing to report.

2. Borough Code of Ordinances – Update Keystate Publishers:

Nothing to report.

3. Borough Website: A meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2017 at 3:00 P.M.

4. Flood Variance for James Wagner (Jim's Service Station):

Updated building plans need to be submitted to Borough. Plans approved by Building Code Official. Mr. Lloyd has reviewed application with Borough Engineer and Tioga County Conservation District Manager. More information is needed from James Wagner, before the permit can be approved.

Mr. Wagner has put a hold on building expansion.

Remove from agenda. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. STSD Homecoming:

Jessica Webster, a teacher at North Penn-Mansfield, is requesting to hold a Community Carnival on Thursday, September 21, 2017 from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. and a Bon Fire at 7:00 P.M. on Island Park, as part of Homecoming festivities. Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to approve the Homecoming festivities; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

The Homecoming parade is scheduled from 5:00 P.M. to 6:15 P.M. on September 22, 2017. Football game is at 7:00 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2017 AT THE KNOXVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER (FORMER GERTRUDE CASE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL), 301 EAST MAIN STREET, KNOXVILLE, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 6:30 P.M.

FALL FESTIVAL, OCTOBER 15, 2017 FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jolene Hall closed the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Timothy Martin. All in Favor.

**Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 11, 2017
at 6:30 P.M. in the Blossburg Borough Council Room.**

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary