

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 8, 2020**

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the mandatory stay at home Order and distancing Order from the Governor, the Meeting was held via teleconference.

Meeting was called to Order at 6:30 p.m.

Attendance: President Jolene Hall, Vice- President Jill Nickerson, Pro-Temp Tonya McNamara, Council Members Jerome Ogden (unable to connect), Henry Bartlett, Tim Martin, James Rakoski, Mayor, Shane Nickerson, Borough Solicitor, Patrick Barrett (unable to connect), Police Chief, Josh McCurdy Borough Manager, George D. Lloyd and Borough Secretary, Cheryl Bubacz.

Guests: Natalie Kennedy from Wellsboro Gazette, Annette Thompson, Wendy Shattuck and Artie Matreski (who joined late).

Guests: Wendy Shattuck asked for an update on the TNR Project. It was explained that after the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, the TNR Group would be able to meet and start trapping cats.

Minutes, Treasurer's Report, Bills, Police Report and Borough Manager's Report Through the Consent Agenda, the Minutes of the March 11, 2020 meeting were accepted as presented, Treasurer's Report accepted, subject to Audit, Bills to be paid, and the Police Report and Borough Manager's Report were all accepted by Motion of Tim Martin; Second James Rakoski. All in favor.

Mayor: The Mayor reported that the Food Pantry held April 1st was a huge success. A big thank you to Todd Berguson and his driver Jeff Patterson for picking up our multiple loads of food from the Food Bank in Williamsport and bringing them to the Park. The Mayor together with the Supervisors from Bloss Township, Covington Township, Hamilton Township and Putnam Township have joined together to provide the food to those in need. The Food Pantry was a drive-thru system so that individuals did not leave their cars. It worked very well and a total of over 257 families received food from the Pantry.

The Mayor has been in contact with Steve Hall, the Borough's Emergency Coordinator regarding the COVID-19 situation. Based on the Governor's guidelines, it was determined that the Island Park, including ballfields, tennis courts, basketball court, skate park and playground, will be closed to the public until further notice. The walking trail will remain open.

The Ambulance Association has contacted the Mayor regarding the purchase of two (2) monitors, one for each ambulance. The cost per unit is approximately \$3,000.00. The Mayor said that he suggested that the Ambulance Association send a request to the Borough as well as to the Townships that are served by the Ambulance Association detailing the cost, reason for the purchase and request for funds.

Several individuals in the communities are making face masks and have them available for sale. Easter Cards have been made by a few Girl Scouts and will be handed out during the April 10th food pantry.

The Mayor wanted to thank everyone for staying home and taking the virus seriously. It is very admirable that people are doing what is asked. A BIG THANK YOU to all the truck drivers for their deliveries and a to our local businesses for their support and ingenuity. Please support our local businesses during the crisis. Please continue to support our business when you can.

Police: The Chief stated that call volume is low, and the Officers are helping with getting food and other necessities to residents.

The Easter Bunny will be going through town on Saturday, April 11th. There will be NO congregating of individuals.

Police Committee: No Meeting

Borough Manager: 1. A Shared Services Agreement between the Borough, Mansfield Borough and Wellsboro Borough has been prepared. The purpose of the Agreement would be to share Equipment. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second Henry Bartlett to accept the draft of the Agreement pending final review by our Solicitor. All in favor.

Junior Council Person: Not Present.

Committee Business Development VIBE: VIBE signage project is currently on hold. Library Art Classes are on hold.

Planning Commission Report: Planning Commission meeting to be held April 13, 2020 via telephone conference to discuss Ordinance regarding first floor apartments in C-1 zone.

Zoning Hearing Board: Nothing.

Properties Sold During Month: No sales.

Recreation: The Rec. Board meeting was cancelled.

- MDA Walk scheduled for June 27th has been changed to August 8th;
- Coal Festival/United Methodist Church 5K Color Run on May 23rd;
- Canyon Music Fest, proof of insurance was received and is on file;
- A contractor will be coming to make repairs to the pool in preparation for painting;

- A memo from our insurance carrier was read regarding liability insurance for groups on the park.

Playground: Waiting for new swing set to be delivered, site is ready for installation.

Tennis Court: Nothing

River Walk: General Spring maintenance is being completed on the path.

Fire: Minutes were not received prior to the meeting. March and April meetings have been or will be cancelled. They are running under emergency management to pay bills, etc.

Library: Nothing. The Library is currently closed, and staff has been laid off. There are boxes of books available on the porch for borrowing.

Street Committee: Hope to be able to put together the list of streets for 2020 tar & chipping for next meeting. We want to work with surrounding communities and put all oil needed into one bid package for potentially a better quote.

**Shade Tree
Commission:** Nothing

Budget: Nothing

**Blossburg Municipal
Report:** Received 2 bids for the sewer culvert; one from Keystone Concrete and one from Glenn O. Hawbaker. Keystone was the recipient of the Bid with a low bid of \$99,200.

OLD BUSINESS:

**Annual Financial
Statements:** Borough Secretary still needs two (2) statements.

Ordinance: Ordinance was advertised and Planning Commission will meet on April 13th as required. A public meeting will be needed when the Pandemic has receded.

**Sesquicentennial
Planning:** Currently on hold due to the COVID-19 Virus.

**Repeal of Mechanical
Device Tax:** On hold.

NEW BUSINESS: _____

COVID-19:

Blossburg Together was created by Blossburg Vibe and the Borough and started as a phone number to call if you needed groceries, personal items, prescription pickups, or just someone to talk to. A Facebook page was created and as of the date of this meeting, it currently has over 1,000 members. This Facebook page is for positive, factual information. Mailing have been sent to members of the Borough, as well as the surrounding communities regarding the virus and what we can do as an individual and as a community. In conjunction with the Bloss, Covington, Hamilton and Putnam Townships, a Food Pantry was set up for April 1st, a second for April 10th and have two (2) set for: May 8th and 29th. Please check the Facebook page for positive information.

Individuals have requested items such as jigsaw puzzles, Suduko puzzles, word search, etc. If you have any of these items and would like to share, we are happy to distribute them.

A post was made on April 8th around 10 in the morning for donations to make Easter baskets for children. By 6 that night, Blossburg Together had received \$651 of in donations for the baskets.

A special thank you to the following:

- Todd Berguson Trucking for picking up at the Food Bank in Williamsport;
- Blossburg Police Department for assisting with traffic and making deliveries as needed;
- Chris Gilbert with the Tioga County Food Bank for his help and guidance
- Bloss Holiday Market for everything they are doing to obtain additional items we need;
- Bimbo Bakery and Bloss Holiday Market for their generous donation of 200 loaves of bread for distribution.

It is truly amazing how our communities have come together to date, not only raising funds for the Food Pantry (\$4,871) but with volunteering to do what can be done.

Tiffany Cummings is the liaison for Riverside and has been super cautious regarding delivering food, etc. A special thank you to Tiffany and her husband.

Taylor St. Property: Henry Bartlett said that he had been approached by two (2) Borough Residents regarding an unsightly property on Taylor Street. Chief McCurdy said that he knew the property and will forward a letter to the property owner.

Announcements: None at this time.

Adjournment: President Jolene Hall adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m. Motion by Henry Bartlett, Second by Jim Rakoski.

Cheryl L. Bubacz

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary