

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2020

Council Meeting was called to Order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jolene Hall.

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

Guests: Adam Mahonske, Betty Woodard, Wendy Shattuck, Luke Tanner and Natalie Kennedy from the Wellsboro Gazette.

Wendy Shattuck: Wendy came to provide an update on the TNR Project. As of September 9, 2020, a total of 66 cats have been spayed or neutered. In the last trapping, 9 kittens were trapped, but were too anemic to be spayed or neutered. Wendy has nursed them back to health and found homes for them. There are still about 10 colonies identified. One colony is from a specific house on Granger Street where the resident feeds the cats. Wendy is working with that resident. To date Wendy has paid \$1,598 out of pocket for additional vet bills over and above the spaying and/or neutering. She received \$886 in donations and has paid the balance herself. She is wondering about doing more fundraising and/or having the Borough add the TNR to the annual budget until the colonies are under control. Adrien McElroy, who is running the TNR project in Mansfield, said that they are setting an annual budget of \$5,000. As of the date of this meeting, there is approximately \$1,985 left for additional trappings for 2020. That amount includes donations and the balance from the initial monies set aside from the Borough. Betty Woodard stated that Wendy is not charging for her time and/or gas, feed, litter or other supplies. Jill Nickerson stated that the Council is 100% behind the project and money would be provided either through VIBE or a donation campaign. Jerome Ogden suggested that a donation request be sent to Williamson Road Foundation. Henry Bartlett stated that he can see a marked difference near his house.

Council thanked Wendy for her hard-work and dedication to the project.

Luke Tanner: Nothing

Betty Woodard: – Nothing

Adam Mahonske: - Nothing

Natalie Kennedy: Nothing.

Minutes, Treasurer’s Report, Bills, Police Report & Borough Manager’s Report:

Minutes and Reports were all accepted as presented by Motion of Tonya McNamara; Second Jim Rakoski. Jerome Ogden noted a change to be made to the Rec. Board Section of the Minutes. He would like the minutes to state that the “grant” for the purchase of picnic tables and grills be changed to read as follows: “The Rec. Board received a donation of \$5,360 from the Williamson Road Foundation for the purchase of six (6) new picnic tables and six (6) new grills. The

concrete has been poured for the stands and the grills will be installed this Friday.” Following the change to the minutes, the Reports were accepted, All in favor.

Mayor:

The Mayor would like to see the “slow down” warning signs on Main Street reinstated. The Chief and Borough Manager stated that new warning signs have been purchased and will be received the week of September 14th.

The Mayor asked Borough Manager about the status of fixing the curb by the Green Bridge. Borough Manager stated that he is waiting for PennDot to get the permit to fix the curbing.

Police:

From the August March of Honor, the Police Department received a \$50 gift card to Lowe’s and a \$100 in cash. Chief McCurdy asked Council if he could obtain a quote for a pin code door lock for the backdoor. When the Officers have someone in custody and are trying to get into the building, it is very cumbersome to unlock and relock the door. Jerome Ogden asked that the lock also have the ability to unlock with a key as well as a pin code. It was suggested that the Chief contact Larry’s Locksmithing and see what he has and get a quote for the lock and installation. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Jerome Ogden to proceed with obtaining quotes. All in Favor.

Officers will be qualifying with their weapons during September.

Police Committee:

The Mayor and Chief discussed the recommendation that new desktop computers be budgeted for 2021 for the two (2) computers in the Police Office. Currently, the computers are still running fine and they wish to table this recommendation until 2022.

Borough Manager:

Fall Cleanup is scheduled for October 6 and 7 on normal garbage days.

Requested permission to purchase holiday turkeys for the employees. Motion by Jerome Ogden, Second Tonya McNamara, to purchase turkeys for the employees. All in Favor.

The topic of Halloween has come up and how the Borough is going to handle Trick or Treat under Covid-19. Jill Nickerson stated that she was of the opinion that we celebrate on October 31, 2020 and once the Commonwealth has issued their guidelines for Halloween, we would follow their guidance. The way in which Trick or Treating would be held was tabled until the October 14th Meeting. Motion by Jerome Ogden, Second by Jill Nickerson, to celebrate Halloween on October 31st and table the manner of Trick or Treating until the October 14th Meeting. All in favor.

Jolene Hall asked the Borough Manager about Boone Run Road where you turn to access the Kwik Fill. Whose responsibility is it to repair the dip as you enter? Borough Manager said that he will check on it as he believes that to be a Borough Road.

Junior Council Person:

Not Present.

VIBE:

The Island Park 150, being an outdoor event, scheduled for November 14, is proceeding as planned.

The Committee is working on Small Town Christmas planning.

Ralaine Mundis has volunteered to work on the Hometown Hero Banners which need to be replaced and/or new banners purchased by individuals.

Planning Commission Report:

Nothing

Zoning Hearing Board:

Nothing.

Properties Sold During Month:

Five (5) properties were transferred during August and two (2) new residents moved into town. Each new resident received the Welcome to Blossburg letter from the Borough with copies of the recycling calendar and school calendar.

Recreation:

The pool was closed following Labor Day. Everything else seems to be going well on the Park. Henry Bartlett asked why the Pool was closed on Sundays this year. Tonya McNamara stated that was the scheduled day for pool parties. It was easier to tell people who wanted to hold a pool party that Sunday would be the day rather than trying to space them out during the week with the hours the pool was open during 2020.

Jill Nickerson stated that the Rec. Board will be investigating the cost and grants available for a Dog Park. A discussion ensued regarding the best location for a dog park. The site will be determined when a grant is written.

Jericho Sexaur's Eagle Scout Project has been a huge hit.

Playground: Nothing

Riverwalk: The trail is being heavily used this year.

Fire:

Minutes were not received prior to meeting.

Library:

The Library opened for limited in person activities on September 9, 2020. The Librarian stated that they had 20 people come in opening day. There is a Board meeting scheduled for September 15, 2020.

Street Committee:

Nothing.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing

Budget:

Borough Manager asked to schedule a meeting with the Budget Committee to review the drafted budget. Committee Meeting scheduled for September 21, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

The water line installation at Taylor Run is going very well. The guys have about 80 more feet to go before they reach the sand bank and then will be doing clean-up at the site.

It appears that the Sewer Project will not be started until the Spring or Summer of 2021 due in large part to the back-up of projects to be reviewed at the State level and the fact that there is only one (1) person that reviews the Environmental portion of the projects.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sesquicentennial Planning:

The meeting held on September 3, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. was well attended. Annie Brooks and Kelly Yungwirth along with Tonya McNamara have agreed to be Co-Chairs of the festival. There is a budget meeting scheduled for September 17, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Shared Services Agreement:

Solicitor is reviewing Agreement with Counsel of the other municipalities.

Municipal Agreement:

The Equipment Rental Agreement between the Borough and the Municipal Authority was reviewed. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second by Jerome Ogden that the Equipment Rental Agreement be accepted. All in Favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Rec. Board has been approached to paint the name, jersey number and stats of long-time North Penn basketball star Dennis "Dutch" Bogaczyk, on the basketball court on the Park. Selina Bogaczyk has volunteered to do the painting. The Rec. Board will be moving forward with this project.

Tonya McNamara asked that the Council revisit the priorities they would like to see completed in the Borough for 2020. The Pandemic seems to have stalled the various projects and she would like to see them put back on the Agenda for consideration.

A question was raised by Jerome Ogden regarding the EV Charging Station. Can the Borough legally charge for electric. Borough Manager will check with the Solicitor and report back.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by Vice President Jill Nickerson at 7:22 p.m.
Motion by Henry Bartlett, Second by Jill Nickerson.

/s/ Cheryl L. Bubacz

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary