

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 13, 2021

Council Meeting was called to Order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jolene Hall. Meeting was held by both in person and by conference call due to Covid-19 concerns.

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

Guests: Wendy Shattuck

Wendy Shattuck reported on the 2020 TNR Project. The group spayed and/or neutered a total of 95 cats and found homes for 29 kittens. She believes the group has captured about half of the population. Wendy has sent a funding request to Williamson Road Foundation for \$3,000 and a grant request to doTerra Oil Company. This grant would match fund raising of \$3,500. She also reported that she received a letter from the veterinarians that they will be raising their costs for 2021.

Mr. Ogden reported that the Williamson Road Foundation would not be meeting until April. Wendy said that would be about the time she would be starting to capture again.

Council thanked Wendy for her dedication to the project and the progress that she has made.

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

Minutes and Reports were all accepted as presented by Motion of Jerome Ogden; Second Henry Bartlett. All in favor.

Mayor:

The Mayor thanked Wendy for her hard work with the TNR Project.

During the most recent Tioga County Task Force conference call, the Mayor said that he left the call feeling a bit upbeat. UPMC is currently vaccinating people using the Pfizer vaccine which must be kept at -60°F, the only place capable of this is the Hospital. Also, the amount of vaccine received from the State was less than the initial reported amount.

The Task Force would like to survey communities and industries starting with manufacturing facilities regarding how many employees want to receive the vaccine. One of the situations UPMC is facing is that they will have x number of people scheduled to receive the vaccine, will prepare for that number and then not all of those people show up. They are then left with unused vaccine that cannot be put back into storage. The shelf life of the vaccine after prepared is less than 2 hours. When people who have committed to get the vaccine don't show up UPMC then scrambles to vaccinate other people from the list of authorized candidates.

The State has recently authorized the 1B group, which includes first responders, correctional officers, food and agriculture workers, postal workers, manufacturing employees, teachers and other education workers, clergy, public transit employees and certain types of caregivers and individuals 75 and older to get the vaccine.

The Mayor is going to work on a list of those in our community that are in the 1B group that would be able to go to the Hospital with short notice to get the vaccine that is left over and have the list at the Hospital when this situation occurs. The process would be that the Hospital would call the first person on the list and ask if they can get to the Hospital within the next hour and if not, they call the next person on the list. By having this list and the ability to contact possible recipients, the vaccine would not go bad. The Mayor will contact our EMS Coordinator, Steve Hall, to help with this planning.

Finally, Mayor wanted to clear up a misconception regarding the vaccine shots. The reason people are asked to wait 15 minutes following the vaccine is in case there is an allergic reaction.

Police:

Larry Locksmith is ordering the necessary parts for the keyless door entry system. Car #2 is here and being calibrated and ready to run. Mr. Bartlett asked when Corporal Scott would be returning to work. The Chief stated that he had an appointment on January 20, 2021 for evaluation.

Police Committee:

A Police Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 19 at 5:00 pm in the Council room.

Borough Manager:

Our insurance carrier has provided us with a letter regarding Autism limits for insurance. The carrier limits reimbursement for ABA Therapy and PA Act 62 Autism Services to a maximum of \$40,000. The letter states that due to increased data, many insurance carriers have not covered this type of therapy. The carrier requires a written decision regarding the removal of the annual maximum limit. Motion by Tim Martin, Second by Tonya McNamara to authorize the removal of the \$40,000 Autism limit for therapy. All in Favor

Junior Council Person:

Not Present.

VIBE:

No meeting in December. Next meeting is January 27, 2021 in the Bogaczyk Building on Main Street. Question was raised, is VIBE leasing that space? Tonya said that there is a lease agreement, wherein VIBE pays the utilities for the space. VIBE was hoping to use it as a business center, however, with COVID, that has not been able to happen.

Planning Commission Report:

Nothing

Zoning Hearing Board:

Nothing.

Properties Sold During Month:

Five (5) properties were transferred during December and two (2) new residents.

Recreation:

No Meeting; Skate Park addition is waiting on bids at this time.

Riverwalk: Thank you to Bob Metarko and the Borough guys for plowing and salting the trail.

Fire:

Minutes were received from the Fire Department for June through November except for October. Those minutes were taken at the time of the transfer of the Secretary position and cannot be located. Minutes for the Ambulance Association were received for November.

The Ambulance Association has purchased two (2) sanitizer machines to sanitize the interior of the ambulances following a transport. The cost for each unit was \$968.05. They are in the process of purchasing a third unit so that each ambulance has its own unit. Chief McCurdy stated that the Ambulance Association has offered the use of the Sanitizer at the Police Department for the cars as needed. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Henry Bartlett to pay for one sanitizer unit from our Act 13 funds. All in Favor.

Jerome Ogden stated that the Williamson Road Foundation donated to the Fire Department in November, he thought it was \$4,000.

Library:

Quarterly meeting will be Tuesday January 19th at 6:00 pm at the Library.

Street Committee:

Nothing.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing

Budget:

Nothing.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

Nothing.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sesquicentennial Planning:

Nothing. Meeting will be scheduled for the near future to discuss what may be scheduled with the Pandemic still active.

Shared Services Agreement:

Solicitor is reviewing Agreement with Counsel of the other municipalities.

Repsol Lease Agreement

Attorney Barrett has provided us with the changes he would like to see to the Agreement. He will forward the same to the Repsol Representative.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution – Tioga County Tax Collection Committee Representative

The existing committee representatives are Paul Hosszu, Jill Nickerson and Jerome Ogden. Mr. Hosszu is no longer on Council and Jill Nickerson has asked to be removed. James Rakoski and Henry Bartlett have volunteered to be on this committee. All in favor.

Solicitor – Annual Legal Agreement

Council has been provided with the Legal Services Agreement from Attorney Barrett for 2021. Motion by Jerome Ogden, Second by Jim Rakoski to accept the Agreement. All in favor.

Resolution – PennDot dotGrants online reporting authorization

PennDot has changed their reporting system to online filing for many reports. PennDot requires a Resolution containing the names of the people authorized to file those reports. Motion by Jim Rakoski, Second by Jerome Ogden to authorize the Borough Manager and/or the Borough Secretary to complete and file the necessary reports. All in favor.

Mr. Bartlett asked about the Ward Manufacturing tax appeal that was filed with the County to reduce their assessment rates. Attorney Barrett stated that he had received a copy of the appeal form and had discussed the same with Chris Lantz, attorney for the School District. The two discussed that Attorney Lantz was proceeding in the matter on behalf of the School District, so the Borough would be joined in. The Council consensus was that they needed to receive more information regarding this matter at the time of the filing of the appeal and the Order issued by the Commissioners. Attorney Barrett agreed that more information should have been provided and that in the future this would be on the Agenda for discussion.

President Hall asked Borough Manager if a crosswalk could be installed at the corner of Main/Gulick and S. Williamson Road. Since that is a state road, George will have to check with the State regarding this matter. Motion by Tim Martin, Second by Jerome Ogden to authorize Borough Manager to investigate this matter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by President Jolene Hall at 7:21 p.m. Motion by Tim Martin, Second by Jerome Ogden. All in Favor

Cheryl L. Bubacz

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary