

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
March 9, 2022**

The public hearing for the rezoning of property located at 520 Ruah Street was called to Order at 6:00 pm by Council President, Jolene Hall. Present for the public hearing were Council persons: President Jolene Hall, President-Pro Temp Tonya McNamara, Henry Bartlett, and Kenneth Johnson, Borough Solicitor, Patrick Barrett, Borough Manager, George Lloyd, Borough Secretary, Cheryl Bubacz. Mayor Shane Nickerson joined the hearing late.

Guests present were Robin Stangel, Roger Bunn, Jack Eckman, Dave Adams, architect, Hank Jester and Bill Frost, owners, Andrew Harding, architect, and Tim Kellech.

Borough Solicitor, Patrick Barrett, explained the purpose of the public hearing which was to hear comment on Ordinance 452 which re-zones the parcel of real estate located at 520 Ruah Street, from R-2, Residential back to S-1, Public.

Resident Roger Bunn asked what the difference was between the two classifications. Borough Manager explained that R-2 would be for housing/apartments, while the S-1 is for use as a nursing home, hospital, medical center, etc. The property in question was previously zoned S-1 when it was in operation as a hospital. The property will be renovated and become a drug and alcohol treatment facility. The proposed facility will have a total of 80 units, 23 detox and 57 rehabilitation.

Resident, Jack Eckman, asked who would be in the facility. Tim Kellech stated that the residents would all be voluntary admissions, no Court Ordered admissions. Mr. Adams presented a plan drawing of the facility. Buildings A and B will both be renovated for the 80 units and offices, community rooms, group meeting rooms, etc. Additionally, the cafeteria will be renovated. All federal and state renovation requirements will be met.

Mr. Adams stated that the building adjacent to the main building, known as the boiler building, will also be renovated, but not in phase 1 of the renovations. New electric service will be brought into the facility. They hope to be under construction within the next 60-90 days.

Owners, Hank Jester and Bill Frost, stated that they are investing a great deal of money into the building and want the facility to be a viable community asset. There will be approximately 50 jobs at the facility. They reiterated that this is not a "halfway" house, it is for people who want to get rehabilitation.

No further comments were made, and the Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. by President Jolene Hall who thanked the owners of the facility, the architects and residents for coming.