

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 8, 2022**

Council Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jolene Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

**Guests:** Betty Woodard, John Martin, Renee Carey from Northcentral PA Conservancy and Natalie Kennedy from *Wellsboro Gazette*.

Betty Woodard: Ms. Woodard said that she came to the meeting for two (2) items. The first being a neighbor whose travel trailer is parked such that when she is backing out of her driveway, she cannot see any oncoming traffic. The second was a culvert at the corner of Ruah and Bleker Street. The culvert has weeds growing up out of it and they need to be cleared. Borough Manager said that he will have his crew check the culvert and clean it accordingly. Chief McCurdy said that he will talk with the adjacent property owner and ask him to move the travel trailer back further in his yard or to the back of his property.

Renee Carey from Northcentral PA Conservancy came to see if there were any new questions, comments or concerns regarding the mine run-off project that was discussed at the previous meeting. She also mentioned that if there is interest, the PA Wilds would be the Department to check regarding increasing tourism and business once the project is complete. PA Wilds can help with grant money and with strategic planning.

John Martin came to hear the results of the sealed bids for the property located at 245 Main Street.

Natalie Kennedy reporting for the newspaper.

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

Councilman Henry Bartlett noted a correction to be made to the May Minutes under the Planning Commission Report. The name of the resident asking for a special exemption is Parker not Parks. Following the correction, Minutes and monthly Reports were all accepted by Motion of Tonya McNamara, Second Timothy Martin. All in favor.

**Mayor:**  
Nothing

**Police:**

The issue with the speeding on Water Street has been discussed with Penn Dot. As the Borough receives liquid fuels monies from the State for that road, we must follow Penn Dot guidelines for establishing the speed limit. The Chief will be doing a speed study on the road in the next week or so. Once that is completed, the speed limit signs can be erected on Water Street. Another part

of the discussion with Penn Dot revolved around speed bumps. Penn Dot does not allow speed bumps anymore. They allow speed humps. This is a more gradual up and down grade. It is very costly to install speed humps on blacktopped roads.

Finally, reported speeding issue on S. Williamson Road was discussed. Penn Dot installed a speed check on the Street. It seems to be working well. For one week the check was picking up vehicle speeds going north and now it is checking speeds going north. Soon that speed check will be moved to Main Street and will be checking northbound traffic one week and then southbound traffic. It appears to be getting people's attention. As S. Williamson Road and Main Street are both state roads, we can use Penn Dot's speed check at no cost.

**Police Committee:**

Nothing

**Borough Manager:**

The Borough Manager reported that the Taylor Run water tank pad has been poured and the tank wall panels will be set starting the week of June 13<sup>th</sup>. Our crew has been very busy preparing for the installation of the tank as well as getting the swimming pool ready for opening.

As part of the cybersecurity, Know B-4 training will need to be conducted with the staff. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second by James Rakoski to proceed with the training. All in Favor.

The Wi-Fi contract with PennTele Data has been received. The upfront cost is \$3,707.00 then a monthly charge of \$92.35 per month for 3 years. After a brief discussion regarding the costs and the benefits of the upgrade, a Motion was made by James Rakoski, Second by Timothy Martin to move forward with the upgrade to the Wi-Fi on Island Park. All in Favor.

**Junior Council Person:**

Nothing.

**VIBE:**

No Meeting in May, next meeting is June 22, 2022

**Planning Commission Report:**

Nothing.

**Zoning Hearing Board:**

Nothing.

**Recreation:**

The Rec. Board met and said that the Park looks ready for summer. The Borough crew found the leak in the pool and fixed it. The heater is up and running and the water is around 80°. The sunshade sails have been installed and look great.

The Wandering Barista asked about coming to the Park once or twice a week with her coffee truck to sell coffee. The Rec Board thought it was a good idea. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that she will need a permit, similar to the permit issued to the Ice Cream Truck. Once that has been obtained she would be able to setup on the Park. Motion by James Rakoski, Second by Timothy Martin. All in Favor.

**Fire and Ambulance:**

Councilman Bartlett reported on the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting held by the fire department to discuss the issues they are experiencing. The fire department provided a very detailed handout explaining their needs. Mr. Bartlett stated that they are doing a great job with what they have to work with. One of the biggest issues, besides funding, is lack of volunteers. He suggested that the Borough Council do something to increase the morale of the department.

**Library:**

Everything seems to be running smoothly. The ice cream social held June 3<sup>rd</sup> was a success. Lots of summer programs going on for both children and adults.

**Street Committee:**

Nothing.

**Shade Tree Commission:**

Nothing

**Budget:**

The budget committee met and discussed the hiring of a new full-time employee. At this time, we would be advertising, but it doesn't mean that we would be hiring right away, if at all. It will depend on the applications received. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second by Henry Bartlett to advertise for an additional full-time employee. All in Favor.

**Blossburg Municipal Report:**

The bids for the new sewer plant were opened on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The bids totaled \$18,223,700, which is 40% higher than the last estimate of costs. RUS, HRG and the Municipal Authority are working on getting a supplemental funding offer.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**LED Streetlights (April 2021):** The second phase of the contract was prepared and sent to Penelec. Waiting on them to proceed.

**American Rescue Plan (April 2021):** Second payment should be received in July 2022.

**Sale of 245 Main Street: (April 2021):** An advertisement for sealed bids was duly published with a deadline for submission of June 3, 2022 at 2:00 pm. The Borough received one bid. The President of the Council opened the bid. It appears that all of the bid requirements have been met. The bid received was from Bloss Beverage Co., in the amount of \$500.00. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by James Rakoski to accept the bid from Bloss Beverage of \$500.00. A roll call vote on was taken: Jill Nickerson – Aye; James Rakoski – Aye; Tonya McNamara – Aye; Henry Bartlett – Aye; Jolene Hall – Aye; Timothy Martin – Abstained from voting as he is an owner of Bloss Beverage. Motion carried.

**Junk Cars on Taylor Street (June 2021):** Solicitor to expand this Ordinance.

**Project Goals for 2022:** We will review the eight (8) project goals for 2022 periodically and provide updates.

- a. **Better WiFi on Island Park:** Discussed earlier in the Meeting. The contract with PennTele Data will be signed and returned.
- b. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** Borough Manager will get in touch with LIVIC regarding cost to prepare a cad drawing showing the new sidewalk from S. Williamson Road to the Park gate. This would include the new gate to the Park as well. Once the cost to prepare a cad drawing is received, the Borough Manager will bring it to Council for their approval to proceed.
- c. **Island Park Restroom Replacement:** The Borough Secretary has been gathering information for the replacement of the clevis multrum restrooms on the Park. A donation in the amount of \$50,000 toward the replacement has been received from Ward Manufacturing. Borough Manager will be looking at different layouts to see what can be done by the Borough for this replacement.

**Tioga County Response Operations Plan:** Motion by Timothy Martin, Second by Henry Bartlett to adopt the Tioga County Response Operations Plan. All in Favor.

**Tioga County Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second by James Rakoski to adopt the Tioga County Hazard Mitigation Plan. All in Favor.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

Tonya McNamara would like to see the inclusion of an upgrade to the area behind the Veterans' Monument on Main Street to the Project Goals for 2022. After further discussion, it was suggested that LIVIC, who is looking at the sidewalk to the Park, also be asked about their interest in designing something for the area behind the Monument.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned by President Jolene Hall at 7:29 p.m. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Timothy Martin. All in Favor

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Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary