

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 10, 2022**

The August 10, 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, Mayor, Shane Nickerson, Borough Solicitor, Patrick Barrett, Police Chief, Josh McCurdy, Borough Manager, George D. Lloyd, Borough Secretary, Cheryl Bubacz and School Representative, Sara Kelly (Absent).

Guests: Reneé Carey from the Northcentral PA Conservancy (NPC), Brian McClure, Rick Stewart from the Ambulance Association and Natalie Kennedy from Tioga Publishing.

Reneé Carey discussed the meeting held in July regarding the concept drawings of the Abandoned Mine Discharge Treatment Plant. A tour of the sight was discussed specifically traffic patterns, road marking, snow removal and road repairs and the working concept of the pumping station. Coal Creek will eventually dry up when the system is operational. Treated water will be diverted to Fall Brook or Morris Run Creek. Currently the NPC is working with the utility companies regarding where the water lines will be located.

Mayor Nickerson asked if new easements will be needed or do they plan to follow existing easement areas? Renee said existing easements will be followed when possible.

She explained there will actually be two (2) identical systems so that if one goes offline the second will take over. There will also be generator backups. Any emergency response will be automated.

Finally, she stated that the PA Wilds will be nominating the system, once completed, for the Champion of the PA Wilds award which will promote tourism to the area.

A public presentation of the project and a dinner will be held at the Fire Department on September 13th. The presentation is free and open to the public. There will be a charge for the dinner. She will forward information to the Borough Secretary.

Reneé was thanked for her updates on the project. She left the meeting at 6:38 pm.

Brian McClure and Natalie Kennedy had no comment

Rick Stewart with the Blossburg Ambulance Association came to request the Borough consider purchasing another Accutorr Monitor for the 3rd ambulance. He presented a quote from Mindray to the Mayor. The Mayor said that the Borough will see if they can get a better price and would get back to him. This will be discussed at the next meeting under New Business. Mr. Stewart also let the Members know that in September they plan to have another gun show at the Fire Hall and a Cornhole Tournament is scheduled for August 29th.

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

Minutes and monthly Reports were accepted as presented by Motion of Timothy Martin, Second James Rakoski. All in favor.

Mayor:

The Mayor asked that some weeding be done around the street signs and along Main Street. There are some larger areas by the Green Bridge that also need to be cut back.

He was contacted by the family of Bob Bowens about putting a bench at the Library in his memory. The next time we have concrete coming, would we be able to pour a slab for the bench. Borough Manager said yes. The Mayor will mark out where the bench will be going.

Mayor thanked the Borough Manager for fixing the rock slide behind the Victory Garden by the Green Bridge.

Police:

Nothing

Police Committee:

A Police Committee meeting was requested and it is scheduled for Monday, August 22, 2022 at 4:00 pm for the purpose of discussing the lack of candidates in the County for police positions.

Borough Manager:

Fall clean-up has been scheduled for October 4th and 5th and has been confirmed with NTSWA.

The Annual Minimum Municipal Obligation for 2023 has been received for pensions. The minimum contribution for the Uniformed pension is \$32,538 and for the Non-Uniformed pension it is \$41,170. State funds will cover most of these obligations.

A complaint was received and forwarded to NTSWA regarding recycling not being picked up. It was discussed that in the early afternoon, the recycling truck has to go to Burlington to empty and come back. It may be just a timing issue. We will keep an eye on it.

Ray Lamonski, a former employee, passed away. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second by Henry Bartlett to donate \$50 to the Library to purchase a book in his memory. All in Favor.

Selina Bogaczyk has agreed to repaint and update the old Santa, Sleigh and Reindeer that were displayed above the Pharmacy in the 1970s and 1980s. Looking forward to having it back for display this year.

We received a call from PA DEP that the mosquitos around our sewer plant as well as Mansfield's have tested positive for West Nile Virus. They will be doing another test on Thursday, August 11th. The Mayor asked that we update the post online to clarify that the mosquitos have the West Nile Virus.

Borough Manager asked about the status of the Sesquicentennial Books as people were contacting the Borough office. Jill Nickerson said to give her an additional month to work on it.

We have been battling a leak in the vicinity of Granger Street and Morris Street in the block between Bleker and Nevins Streets. There was a waterline that was put in the 1970s or 1980s. We have previously repaired the line, but will now have to dig that up and replace it.

Timothy Martin asked if there was a leak behind the Baptist Church as the driveway back there always seems to have water pooled. Borough Manager will check on it.

Junior Council Person:

Nothing.

VIBE:

VIBE held officer elections at their July Meeting. Josh Jones was elected President, Brian McClure was elected Vice-President, Jill Nickerson, Treasurer and Jackie Smith, Secretary.

They discussed Small Town Christmas with a group who wants to help with the festivities.

Planning Commission Report:

Nothing.

Zoning Hearing Board:

The Special Exemption on the property at 130 Main Street was granted.

Recreation:

There is a sewer issue at the pool bathhouse that we have been working on. Other than that, everything seems to be going smoothly.

Fire and Ambulance:

No Minutes were received. Rick Stewart from the Ambulance Association discussed other items earlier in the meeting.

Library:

The Library is doing well. There is an increase in foot traffic and normal hours have resumed. A question was raised about the people that wanted to operate a produce stand in the parking lot. The Chief sent them a peddler's permit application earlier today.

Street Committee:

Nothing

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing

Budget:

A meeting was requested and was scheduled for Monday, August 22, 2022 at 5:00 pm in the Borough Hall.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

The Taylor Run tank is up and the roof is on. We have to get water to the tank now, which we will be working on for the next week or so. After tank is full, it will be checked for leaks. If no leaks are found, we can backfill around the tank and hopefully be operational by October with DEP approval.

A question was raised if Taylor Run water has dried up and it has not.

OLD BUSINESS:

LED Streetlights (April 2021): Penelec is working on South Williamson Road now.

American Rescue Plan (April 2021): A small payment was received from Pennsylvania's undistributed ARPA funds. The amount received was \$245.22. This was deposited into the ARPA Account.

Sale of 245 Main Street: (April 2021): Solicitor needs to prepare a Resolution to be signed to authorize the Council President to sign the Deed for the property.

Junk Cars on Taylor Street (June 2021): This will be discussed at the Police Committee and a recommendation brought back to Council. Attorney Barrett said we can always file an injunction for repeat offenders that pay their fines.

Project Goals for 2022: Project Goal Updates:

- a. **Better WiFi on Island Park:** We are waiting for Blue Ridge and Penelec to work through their processes.
- b. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** Livic to provide information.
- c. **Island Park Restroom Replacement:** Waiting for time to get the project started.
- d. **Plaza Refurbishment:** Livic working on options.

NEW BUSINESS:

Holly Jolly Christmas: A letter was received on behalf of the Blossburg Fire Department requesting approval to host this year's Small Town Christmas event on Saturday December 10, 2022. Their goal is to make this an annual event working with other organizations. They would like to include varied activities including caroling, cookie decorating, ornament making, etc. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second by Kenneth Johnson to approve the Fire Department's request. All in Favor.

Halloween: A discussion was held regarding what day to hold the annual Trick or Treating in town. October 31st falls on a Monday this year. Motion by Timothy Martin, Second by Kenneth Johnson that we add this to the September agenda.

DISCUSSION:

The Solicitor offered the following informational items:

- a. He attended the PA Municipal Legal Update and it was very helpful. He left the printed materials for our reference.

- b. The lawsuit filed by David Bogaczyk against the Borough for overbilling of garbage was dismissed as there was no overbilling.

The Mayor was contacted by Dave from the Farmer's Table about bikes being ridden on the sidewalk in front of the restaurant. The concern is that if someone is coming out of the restaurant and the bikes are coming down the street there could be an accident. The Chief will talk with Dave tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by President Hall at 7:38 p.m. Motion by Kenneth Johnson, Second by Timothy Martin. All in Favor

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary