

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 14, 2022**

The December 14, 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, Kenneth Johnson (Absent), Mayor, Shane Nickerson, Borough Solicitor, Patrick Barrett, Police Chief, Josh McCurdy (Absent), Borough Manager, George D. Lloyd, Borough Secretary, Cheryl Bubacz and School Representative, Sara Kelly (Absent).

**Guests:** Roger Bunn, Annie Brooks, Kaycee Hulslander and Ash Sergejenki from Tioga Publishing.

Annie Brooks came to discuss an award that the Coal Festival will be starting in 2023. It will be the Keith Lindie Impact Award for volunteerism. The Coal Festival would like to work with the Borough regarding the award. There will be two (2) awards, one for under 18 years of age and one for over 18 years of age. Each winner will receive an award and a donation will be made to a non-profit organization of their choice.

Mayor Nickerson and the Council concurred that this is a great idea and will be happy to assist in any capacity needed.

Annie also discuss Wreaths Across America which will be Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Wreaths will be laid in Arbon Cemetery.

She also reported that the first annual Holly Jolly Christmas went very well and 34 of the vendors would like to come back again next year. The movie on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> was attended by over 100 people. Mayor Nickerson thanked the Holly Jolly Christmas committee for the event and their hard work promoting it. Annie left the meeting at 6:46 pm.

Roger Bunn came to present the 2022 Develop Tioga County Change Maker award to members of the Blossburg VIBE. A summary of the differences VIBE has made, as discussed at the dinner, include:

VIBE has made a huge difference in our town. New families are moving to our town because of the work that VIBE members have done for us. Our town is revitalized! Current V.I.B.E. Projects: Island Park 150 Run/Walk, Community Garden, Blossburg Fall Festival, Small Business Saturday, Community Yard Sale, Light Up The Holidays Contest, Blossburg Freenet – Downtown Wi-Fi, Hometown Hero's Banners. Past V.I.B.E. Projects: Shop Small Town / Small Town Christmas, News & Views Column, Community Branding, Island Park Skate Park, Improvements & Basketball Court, Re-sealing Island Park, Walking Trail, DCED Main Street Program Façade Improvement, Blossburg Visioning Sessions, Business Directory/Placemats, Calendar of Events, Welcome/Events Sign, Island Park Skate Park, Electronics Recycling, Environmental Fair.

Tonya McNamara accepted the award on behalf of VIBE.

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

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

**Mayor:**

The EMS Meeting held last month was very interesting and informative. The Mayor had discussions with the Ambulance Association and Fire Department to have them determine what they need from us for support.

After a discussion, it was decided that after the start of the New Year, the Mayor and President of Council will sit down and brainstorm with both departments to determine what the Borough can do to help with recruiting volunteers, new members, getting certifications, etc.

Roger Bunn added that the Tioga County Commissioners and the local Fire Chiefs formed a group who met and they discussed items needed, problems, and other items for the County to assist with. A memo from that meeting was prepared by the EMS Department. Secretary will request a copy for Council.

The Mayor would like to call a street committee meeting to discuss sidewalk repair, particularly on McIntyre Street. A meeting was set for January 4, 2023 at 4:00 pm.

**Police:**

Nothing at this time.

**Police Committee:**

Nothing

**Borough Manager:**

We received the annual letter requesting the appointment of the Borough's delegates to the Tioga County Committee tax collection. The 2022 delegates were Henry Bartlett as the primary and James Rakoski as the First Alternate. Both members agreed to a re-appointment. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Timothy Martin to reappoint Mr. Bartlett and Mr. Rakoski. All in Favor.

We received information from Rootstock Racing regarding an Endless Mountains 2023 Adventure Race. The Race will be a five-day multi-sport adventure and will be throughout the County covering approximately 300+ miles. It will start at the Tioga Hammond Lake and end in Williamsport. The course goes through Tioga, Potter, Clinton and Lycoming counties. Motion by Timothy Martin, Second by James Rakoski to allow the course on Borough roads once the course has been determined. All in Favor.

**Junior Council Person:**

The Mayor would like to talk to Kale Thompson about being the new Junior Council Member. Council thought this was a good idea.

**VIBE:**

Small Business Saturday was a small low-key event. The Light Up The Holidays contest will be decided on Sunday December 18 and the winners will be announced.

**Planning Commission Report:**

Nothing.

**Zoning Hearing Board:**

Nothing.

**Recreation:**

No Meeting.

**Fire and Ambulance:**

Items discussed previously.

**Library:**

The Library is still very busy and doing well. The basket raffle was a big success and they sold more tickets than ever before.

**Street Committee:**

Meeting scheduled for January 4, 2023 at 4:00 pm.

**Shade Tree Commission:**

Nothing.

**Budget:**

Nothing.

**Blossburg Municipal Report:**

The chlorine building in Taylor Run is up and the roof is on. The doors for the building need to be installed to finalize the building for DEP inspection. The tank has water in it.

The sewer plant contractors are on the jobsite. Their intention is to bore under the Tioga River in January and pour footers in February.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**LED Streetlights (April 2021):** Still ongoing.

**Junk Cars on Taylor Street (June 2021):** Motion to remove this item from the Agenda by Timothy Martin, Second by Henry Bartlett. All in Favor.

**Project Goals for 2022:** Project Goal Updates:

- a. **Better Wi-Fi on Island Park:** Penn Tele Data was on the Park and will be providing a 3 phase proposal for review.
- b. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** Livic has received the authorization to proceed with design of the sidewalk.
- c. **Island Park Restroom Replacement:** On Hold

d. **Plaza Refurbishment:** Livic working on options.

**2023 Real Estate Tax Millage:** The Ordinance for the 2023 tax millage has been duly advertised. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second by Henry Bartlett to approve the 2023 tax millage. The Ordinance was adopted unanimously.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Ambulance Department's request for funding for PPE equipment:** A request for replacement equipment was received. The request is for 5 sets of PPE equipment, totaling \$18,330.00. President Hall said that the Fire Relief money, similar to Act 13 monies, can be used to purchase specific items. The PPE may be some of it. The Mayor and President Hall will talk with Fred Yungwirth, with the ambulance association, regarding the balance in the Fire Relief account and if those funds can be used to purchase the PPE.

Attorney Barrett called an Executive Session following adjournment to discuss legal matters. No action will be taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned by President Hall at 7:22 p.m. Motion by Timothy Martin, Second by Tonya McNamara. All in Favor

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Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary