

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 8, 2023**

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

Councilman, Henry Bartlett, asked that a moment of silence be observed for the passing of former Mayor and Councilman, William Bogart.

**Attendance:** President Jolene Hall, Vice-President Timothy Martin, Pro-Temp Tonya McNamara, Council Members: Jill Nickerson (Absent), James Rakoski (Absent), Henry Bartlett, 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, Kail Thompson (Absent).

**Guests:** Renee Carey from Northcentral PA Conservancy; resident Josh Jones and Ash Sergejenko from the Wellsboro Gazette.

Renee updated everyone on the status of the acid mine reclamation project.

- Renee has started to gather the funding needed for the survey of the property. TCCCC has some funding available and has agreed to donate toward the survey. The surveyor will be Land Services Group from Wellsboro. They were \$7,000 less than other quotes received.
- Currently the design of the facility is 30% complete and they are working on the next phase to bring the design to 60% completion. Kleinfelder will be holding another municipalities meeting in the near future to discuss the stormwater runoff.

Neither John Jones or Ash Sergejenko had any comments.

**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 Kenneth Johnson. All in favor.

**Mayor:**

The Mayor asked George to thank the Borough Crew for their hard work in cleaning up Main Street following the last snowfall. He continues to hear a lot of compliments about the work that they do.

The Mayor asked Borough Manager to check the sewer manhole in front of the Nationwide Insurance office. It appears that it may need a new riser. Borough Manager said he would look into it.

**Police:**

Chief had nothing to report.

Chief was asked about the report of a homeless individual staying on the Island Park. He said he was aware of the situation and had contacted Probation Department regarding her. Between himself and Probation the situation will be resolved.

**Police Committee:**

No Meeting.

**Borough Manager:**

We have received a letter from the Fire Department regarding the 2023 Holly Jolly Christmas to be held December 9, 2023. The Fire Department wanted to get started planning earlier this year. This will be added to new business for discussion during April's Council Meeting.

The swale in the Plaza Parking Lot needs to be repaired. The cost estimate for the repairs is approximately \$20,000.00. The Borough has some funds set aside for this project and a letter is being prepared to send to business owners on the Plaza asking for their financial support for the project.

A survey was conducted on the property being the old "Bell Block", 248 Main Street. The survey shows that the Borough owns the parking lot behind the Bell Block from Carpenter Street to Nickerson Construction's building off of Finnigan Lane. The Borough Crew will start getting the parking lot in shape. Councilman Henry Bartlett asked if this will be part of the gas lease lands. Borough Manager said yes as it is part of the old railroad property the Borough purchased.

**Junior Council Person:** Although Kail Thompson was absent, he dropped off a report. Track practice has started and is being held in the Elementary School cafeteria. After the March break, it will move to Island Park. The Jr. High Baseball team is currently practicing in the old High School gym and will also move to Island Park following the March Break.

**VIBE:**

The last meeting was again interrupted by a snow/ice storm.

**Planning Commission Report:**

Nothing.

**Zoning Hearing Board:**

Nothing.

**Recreation:**

During the recent Rec. Board meeting Holly Berguson asked if season passes could be resurrected for "out of towners". This is being reviewed by the Board. The Board authorized the advertising for lifeguards.

**Fire and Ambulance:**

Reports were received and sent to Council Members. Henry Bartlett wanted to let everyone know that they will be holding their Municipality Status Meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. Dinner will be served to those attending.

**Library:**

The "Raise the Region" fundraising campaign started at 6:00 pm tonight. This event matches donations received during a 30-hour period.

**Street Committee:**

Nothing

**Shade Tree Commission:**

Nothing.

**Budget:**

The 2022 Audit was received from Guthrie & Co. with no comments or issues noted.

**Blossburg Municipal Report:**

The contractors are digging the footers for the SBR tanks at the sewer plant. A meeting with DEP will be held on March 9, 2023 to review the new Taylor Run water tank and determine when it can go online.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**LED Streetlights (April 2021):** Penelec is still working on completing the change over from sodium to LED.

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

- a. **Better Wi-Fi on Island Park:** Under discussion
- b. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** A sidewalk layout has been received.
- c. **Island Park Restroom Replacement:** On Hold
- d. **Plaza Refurbishment:** Borough Manager staked the property for reference by the Council. A proposed design for the area was provided to Council members. The first step is to move the streetlight that is in the middle of the area. Motion by Timothy Martin, Second by Kenneth Johnson to move forward with the project and determine what needs to be done to move the streetlight. All in Favor.

Tim Martin also brought up that maybe we can “sell” pavers for the edging of the area similar to the brick on the Island Park. We will look into this and discuss further.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Solar Speed Signs:** Borough Manager reported that the cost for a single unit is running about \$5,000.00. Chief McCurdy asked that this be tabled for now due to his ongoing conversations with Repsol.
2. **Spring Clean-up** will be held May 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> depending on resident’s normal garbage day.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

Chief McCurdy asked the Council if they will be making a donation in memory of William Bogart. Generally, a donation is made to the Library. With the Raise the Region fundraising going on, a Motion was made by Timothy Martin, Second by Kenneth Johnson to make a \$100.00 donation to the Library in memory of Mr. Bogart. All in Favor.

Henry Bartlett asked if anything can be done regarding the ongoing garbage issue on Granger Street near his house. Borough Secretary will discuss with Chief.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned by President Hall at 7:04 p.m. Motion by Timothy Martin, Second by Kenneth Johnson. All in Favor

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Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary