

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 12, 2023**

The 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 (Absent), Pro-Temp Tonya McNamara, Council Members: Jill Nickerson, James Rakoski, Henry Bartlett, Kenneth Johnson, Mayor, Shane Nickerson, Borough Solicitor, Patrick Barrett (Absent), Police Chief, Josh McCurdy, Borough Manager, George D. Lloyd, Borough Secretary, Cheryl Bubacz and School Representative, Kail Thompson.

Guests: Josh Jones, Renee Carey from North Central Conservancy and Zac Tilburg from Tioga Publishing.

Renee Carey reported that the contract with the surveying company has been signed and the deposit has been paid. She will let us know when they are ready to start the actual survey. Kleinfelder completed the archaeological test pits last week and nothing was found on the Conservancy lands. There was, however, a ring and pipe found on church property. This caused additional test pits to be dug on the church lands, however, nothing additional was found. Kleinfelder is at their 60% design phase and are confident that construction can begin in the spring.

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 James Rakoski. All in favor.

Mayor:

The Mayor reported on a conference call that he had with Canvas. Canvas is a company that takes de-commissioned windmill blades and makes them into outdoor furniture. Further, they partner with different organizations to have the furniture donated to communities in the windmill areas. It was discussed that the new space behind the Veterans' Monument may be an ideal place for this type of furniture. Motion by Kenneth Johnson, Second by Jill Nickerson to continue the discussions with Canvas regarding this opportunity. All in Favor.

Police:

Nothing to report.

Police Committee:

No Meeting.

Borough Manager:

The 2002 Caterpillar Backhoe was sold on Municibid for \$24,600. This is a three-way split between Borough, water and sewer.

The Borough received a donation from the Tioga County Housing Authority in the amount of \$500.00 toward the Plaza parking lot repairs. Currently the Borough has \$2,800 in a bank account for this work. Mayor Nickerson asked how much it would cost to pave the entire parking lot and the estimate that we have is approximately \$20,000.

Junior Council Person: Nothing

VIBE:

Josh Jones said August 5th will be a big day in town. Besides the Skateboard competition and the Alumni Banquet, there will also be a Discover Blossburg highlighting local businesses. They are also updating the website and looking into event insurance.

October 15th will be the Fall Festival. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Kenneth Johnson to authorize the Fall Festival. All in Favor.

Planning Commission Report:

No Meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board:

No. Meeting

Recreation:

The Tennis Courts are being cleaned in preparation for lining the courts for pickleball. The old bleachers around the Park are gone and there have been fresh wood chips put on the playground. The 2023 through 2025 Lease with STSD has been approved by the School. The Borough needs to approve and sign the Lease. Motion by James Rakoski, Second by Henry Bartlett to approve the new Lease. All in Favor.

Fire and Ambulance:

The Ambulance Department sent in minutes.

Library:

The Library is very busy with their summer programs.

Street Committee:

Tar and Chipping won't start until sometime in August. A question was raised about how much it would cost to pave streets. Borough Manager said he could get a quote but it is very expensive. The other issue is if water and sewer lines leak, you have to dig up the pavement. Are there sections of town where the water/sewer lines are relatively new and could be paved? Borough Manager will check into that.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing.

Budget:

Nothing

Blossburg Municipal Report:

SBR Tanks at the sewer plant have been set and are being tested for leaks. The construction of the tanks was impressive.

OLD BUSINESS:

LED Streetlights (April 2021): There are a few lights remaining to be changed over. Need to check the light at the corner of McIntyre and Main Street to see if it is out.

Project Goals for 2022: Project Goal Updates:

- a. **Better Wi-Fi on Island Park:** On Hold
- b. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** A sidewalk layout has been received.
- c. **Island Park Restroom Replacement:** On Hold
- d. **Plaza Refurbishment:** The light pole needs to be removed so that we can select the design.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Municipal Authority has almost exhausted the interim financing. The next step is to close on the RUS loan and grant. In order to do so, the Borough needs to Guaranty the financing and pass an Ordinance to authorize the financing. Motion by James Rakoski, Second by Tonya McNamara for the Borough to sign any and all documents necessary to guaranty the indebtedness by the Municipal Authority for the sewer project.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

A question was raised about the notice from PennDot and the refurbishment of the Green Bridge. At this time, PennDot is not anticipating working on this until 2024. Their plans are not complete as to what they are going to do to the Bridge.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by President Hall at 6:58 p.m. Motion by Kenneth Johnson, Second by Jill Nickerson. All in Favor

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary