

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 13, 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, Pro-Temp Tonya McNamara, Council Members: Jill Nickerson, James Rakoski (Absent), Henry Bartlett, Kenneth Johnson (Absent), 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 (Absent).

**Guests:** Josh Jones, Andrew O'Connors and Zac Tilburg from Tioga Publishing.

Andrew O'Connors came on behalf of the Blossburg Fire Department to discuss the junior fire fighter program which is being conducted through FFA. The FFA from Liberty is leading the program to enable 14-16 years olds to obtain their training and certifications in advance of age 16. The Worker's Compensation insurance will cover these individuals. These individuals will not be active in the department until they have obtained 16 years of age and their certifications. The fire department in the Westfield, Knoxville and the Deerfield area have started this program and it seems to be working well. It helps to get juniors involved in the departments and keeps them interested after.

The tanker truck tank is going to need to be replaced. The current estimate for the cost to replace the tank is approximately \$55,000. They are looking into donations and asked if the Borough would be willing to help. President of Council said that Council may be able to help, however, the Council needs to receive copies of the monthly minutes and financials monthly. Andrew also mentioned that they may have to have the entire parking lot paved as it is falling apart.

**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 Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

**Mayor:**

Nothing at this time but will call an executive session following adjournment of the meeting to discuss personnel matters. No action will be taken.

**Police:**

The Chief, with Judge Cummings, as well as members of the Mansfield PD and Mansfield University PD met to discuss a grant that is available to train officers in field sobriety, DRE, and to become an instructor for the training. The Chief is interested in being an instructor.

Mr. Hicks-lee is enrolled in the Act 120 course in Harrisburg to complete his training. The Chief would like to have a police committee meeting on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

**Police Committee:**

Meeting scheduled for September 20, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

**Borough Manager:**

We have received a letter from the American Legion regarding a pond they would like to install behind the Legion on approximately 2 acres of land. George believes the pond will help with the run off and wetness in the area behind Wilson Street.

The architects are working on the drawings of the new Pool House. The initial draft has been received and the Jones Family are in the process of tweaking the drawings. Hope to have the new building in place for May 2025 summer season.

We have researched the cost of the small solar speed limit signs that are mounted under a speed limit sign. They are approximately \$3,000 each.

Thus far, through contributions by the Borough and business owners on the Plaza, we have received \$10,574 to pave the swale in the Plaza parking lot. It could be done yet this year depending on the contractor's schedule. Motion by Timothy Martin, Seconded by Jill Nickerson to proceed with the paving of the swale. All in Favor.

**Junior Council Person:** Nothing

**VIBE:**

Josh Jones reported that the Improvement Association will check into their finances to determine how much they can contribute to the Plaza swale paving. He would like to see the Borough continue to research the purchase and installation of a Level-2 EV charger or chargers and install in different locations around town.

New officers were elected – Brian McClure is the President; Annie Brooks – V. President; Jackie Smith – Secretary and Jill Nickerson – Treasurer. They are looking for a bookkeeper at this time.

The Welcome sign is still in the design phase and they are hopeful to get it completed for 2023, but if not in 2024.

Fall Festival is October 15 from Noon to 4:00 pm. Should be about 50 vendors.

**Planning Commission Report:**

No Meeting.

**Zoning Hearing Board:**

No. Meeting

**Recreation:**

The pool heater needs to be replaced. Looking at the cost of a new one. We are waiting for quotes on three (3) – 5 tier bleachers to be placed around the baseball fields. Pool is also looking at having swimming lessons in August in the evening.

**Fire and Ambulance:**

Previously discussed.

**Library:**

Summer programs are all complete. The yoga, tai chi and sign language classes have all started. They are looking into creating a “little library” to be put in town for a take one leave one book station. Looking at it being similar to a grandfather clock and retro fitted to hold books.

**Street Committee:**

Tar and chipping is complete for 2023. Cost was approximately \$8,000 less than the estimated cost.

**Shade Tree Commission:**

Nothing.

**Budget:**

The budget has been provided to everyone. Motion by Timothy Martin, Second by Henry Bartlett to advertise the budget. All in Favor.

**Blossburg Municipal Report:**

The Taylor Run Transformer which will supply power to Well #3 has arrived and will be installed in the next several weeks. The Sewer Plant should have the floors poured for the office and headworks buildings in the next 2 weeks.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**LED Streetlights (April 2021):** The light at the corner of McIntyre and Main Streets was reported to be out. Penelec came and then it flashed. It was reported again and it seems to be functioning properly now.

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

- a. **Better Wi-Fi on Island Park:** On Hold
- b. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** Drawings have been received and are available for review by Council.
- c. **Island Park Restroom Replacement:** A rough drawing has been provided to Livic Engineering to be reviewed and tweaked.
- d. **Plaza Refurbishment:** Livic has submitted a proposed layout for the area for Council review.

**Planning Commission Board Opening:** Robb Bowens has been contacted to fill this vacancy and he is in agreement. Motion by Timothy Martin, Second by Tonya McNamara to appoint Robb Bowens to the Planning Commission Board, as the replacement for Henry Bartlett.

**2024 MMO Resolution:** Motion by Timothy Martin, Second by Henry Bartlett to approve the 2024 MMO Resolution whereby police officers do not have to contribute to the pension program. All in Favor.

**2024 Real Estate Millage Ordinance:** Need verification by County of Library and Fire Department millage, then it will be ready for review and advertisement.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2024 Trick or Treat:** After much discussion, it was decided that Trick or Treating would be held on Saturday, October 28, 2023 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Motion by Timothy Martin, Second by Henry Bartlett. All in Favor.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned by President Hall at 7:18 p.m. Motion by Timothy Martin, Second by Jill Nickerson. All in Favor. An Executive was called following the adjournment to discuss personnel matters, no action was taken. Executive Session ended at 7:57 pm.

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Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary