

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 8, 2024**

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 Joshua Jones, Pro-Temp Kenneth Johnson  
Council Members: Jill Nickerson, James Rakoski, Robert Bowens, Kallie Wickman, Mayor, Timothy Martin, 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 – Northcentral PA Conservancy and Kristie Bowles from Tioga Publishing.

Renee Carey: She has been following up with DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mines to determine if they have enough signed rights-of-way back to file for their permits. As of now, they do not. SRBC has been in the area to reach out to property owners to answer questions about the rights-of-way.

The Conservation District is ordering the materials and getting the contractors in line for the Tioga River work at Island Park. It is 100% funded as of now.

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

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

**Mayor:**

The Mayor and Commissioner Shane Nickerson spent the morning of May 8<sup>th</sup> with the Tioga County Youth Leadership program on Island Park. Great program and great students.

Thank you to all who attended the Southern Tioga School District Board (“STSD”) meeting on Monday, May 6, 2024. It was a very disappointing outcome, but we will continue to fight the fight. Kudos to Josh Jones for answering the questions raised on social media.

One of the contentions of the STSD consolidation is that Blossburg Borough doesn’t allow farm animals in the Borough. Mayor would like the Council to consider allowing farm animals, including but not limited to cows, chickens, pigs, sheep, and horses to be housed in the Borough for STSD educational purposes only, with STSD responsible for all aspects of keeping and maintaining the animals.

Motion by Kallie Wickman, Second by Robb Bowens to allow STSD to house and maintain farm animals in the Borough of Blossburg for educational purposes only. Unanimously passed.

Mayor Martin said that he will personally purchase the first cow that is needed for the STSD.

The trees behind the Head Start building have been removed which is one step closer to allowing for pick up and drop off of children at the back of the building rather than on Main Street.

The Mayor would like us to revisit lights for the Green Bridge and for the footbridge.

Mayor called for a Police Committee meeting to be held following the adjournment of the Council Meeting.

**Police:**

Nothing.

**Police Committee:**

A meeting was held to interview an additional cadet candidate.

**Borough Manager:**

Manager was approached by someone interested in cutting some of the trees at the Arbon Cemetery. Before we do anything, he would like to contact Kerry Gyekis to look at the acreage and make a determination of what trees we have that could be harvested. The Cemetery has approximately 39 acres of land in total. Mr. Gyekis will review the area for the Borough and then report back.

The Borough Crew has started their four (4) ten (10) hour days. Fridays and Mondays off are staggered so that we always have crew available depending on the situation.

**Junior Council Person:**

Absent.

**VIBE:**

The Community yard sale had over 50 addresses on the list, which does not include the multiple tables at the Library or the Fire Hall. May 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> will be clean-up at the Community Garden which will be overseen by Cassie Chase again this year. The Girl Scouts will be working on a project at the Garden as well.

VIBE is working with a sign maker for the new welcome sign and are looking into signage for the Borough. They are a step closer to the fixed point camera installation, having selected the footbridge and the intersection of Johnson Creek and Tioga River as two (2) locations.

**Planning Commission Report:**

No Meeting.

**Zoning Hearing Board:**

No Meeting

**Recreation:**

The Rec Board would like to repair the restrooms behind the Community Building for use. We will need to look at them to see the extent of the repairs. There are a few spots of rust on the footbridge that need to be fixed. The current pool heater is no longer repairable. A contractor came and provided a quote for a new heater and the quotes range from \$50,000 to \$80,000. The Board will continue to discuss a new heater.

The pool should be ready to paint by May 13<sup>th</sup> and begin filling the pool the 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Cannon wheels have been repaired and are back. We are currently putting polyurethane on them for protection.

The three (3) sets of bleachers are together and set. Chief asked if one of the existing bleachers could be moved to the lower field as there is no seating down there at this time.

The lifeguards have all been lined up by Holly and therefore advertising is not necessary this year.

**Fire and Ambulance:**

A list of the 2024 officers was received.

**Library:**

The Library has seen a 26% increase in both programs and people from 2022 to 2023. The list of summer programs will be posted soon. The Library continues to partner with Blossburg Pizza and Subs for their fundraising program. The Program provides all of the profits on a particular item on a particular day to a non-profit organization. Great program! The Friends of the Library will be having a table during the Coal Festival to handout free books.

**Street Committee:**

Borough Manager will be preparing a list of streets to be tarred and chipped in the next month or so.

**Shade Tree Commission:**

Nothing.

**Budget:**

Nothing at this time.

**Blossburg Municipal Report:**

The Belman Tank rehab will be completed the week of May 13<sup>th</sup>. Once it is completed and filled, we will super chlorinate it and test for coliform. Once DEP approves the testing, Belman Tank should be back online. Hoping for June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Taylor Run wells – the water testing was completed again as the last testing was 3 years ago. Once the testing is complete and DEP approves the results, we can bring the Taylor Run wells online. Hoping for June 3<sup>rd</sup> as well.

Once the Taylor Run wells are online, we will then start the filter media replacement at the Rod & Gun wells.

The new sewer plant started up on April 23, 2024. Contractor representatives have been on site showing us how to operate the various pieces of equipment. Matt Grinnell has done a very good job learning the operation and testing steps. We still have some chemical probes that need installed.

Also, we need to start to clean out the old plant, and the trick is not to discharge anything into the Tioga River from the old plant.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**LED Streetlights (April 2021):** Ted Kelchner provided a list of the remaining lights to be converted from sodium to LED. This list will be submitted to Penelec.

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

- a. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** Waiting for Spring.
- b. **Island Park Restroom Replacement:** Construction progressing extremely well.
- c. **Plaza Refurbishment:** A copy of one of the quotes from Canvas was provided to Council. Need to keep working to find a donor to cover the cost of the furniture.

**Blue Ridge Franchise Agreement:** The drafted letter was reviewed. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Kallie Wickman, to send the letter to Blue Ridge the renewal letter requesting a franchise fee be paid.

**TCAB Meeting June 20, 2024:** A speaker needs to be determined.

**Civil Service Rules and Regulations:** The Solicitor published the rule and regulation summary and the Ordinance can be adopted. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Kenneth Johnson to accept the Civil Service Ordinance presented to the Solicitor. All in Favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Create a Strategic Planning Committee:** A strategic planning committee should be created in order to review the comprehensive plans that are approximately 10 years old for the Borough and the Park. Volunteers for the Committee are Kallie Wickman, Josh Jones, Jill Nickerson and Mayor Tim Martin.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Kenneth Johnson, Second by Josh Jones to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 pm. All in Favor.

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Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary