

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 2025**

The Council Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jolene Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Martin called for a moment of silence for former Council Member Jerome Ogden who passed away on February 21, 2025. Jerome served on Council for more than 50 years and helped to shape the Borough into what it is today.

Attendance: President Jolene Hall, Vice-President Joshua Jones, Pro-Temp Kenneth Johnson, Council Members: Jill Nickerson, James Rakoski (Absent), 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 – North Central Conservancy, Joyce & Charlie Andrews from TCCC Thomas Yankowky and Joseph Stitz, Kristie Bowles – Tioga Publishing.

Renee provided an update on the AMD project for Coal Creek. They are currently waiting for documents to be finished. She presented a calendar of events coming up in town in connection with the Library and Blossburg Company Store.

Joyce Andrews came to discuss the sign to be put on the Park. They have decided on a triangular kiosk sign and would like to have a small roof put on it as well. The cost for the kiosk and roof is approximately \$7,300. They are hoping to get funding from Seneca Resources. Also suggested they contact Williamson Road Foundation in care of First Citizens Community Bank. The quote they have is from Premier Graphics and they would like to stay with this company as other signs they have made have weathered well. The panels are graphics and can be changed out with new graphic panels. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Robb Bowens for Joyce and her group to proceed with a timeline while they are looking for funding. All in Favor. She asked the Borough Manager if he would be willing to have a concrete pad poured when the time comes. This was agreed to by Council and the Borough Manager. We can also look at putting a roof on the structure when the time comes. Joyce and Charlie left at 6:45 pm.

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

Minutes and monthly Reports were accepted as presented by Motion of J. Jones, Second K. Johnson. All in favor.

Mayor:

Nothing at this time.

Police:

The two (2) new officers are still in their own police cars and acting as primary for any calls. They still need some additional experience as there were very few calls in February.

Police Committee:

No Meeting.

Borough Manager:

Spring Clean Up will be April 29th and 30th. The Borough Manager presented information regarding the purchase of a 2025 Ford F350 to replace the 2004 F350. This would be a Borough purchase. The cost of the truck and upfit would be \$78,323.42. Both Sunbury Motors and Watson Diesel will hold their prices, lead time for the truck is approximately 6 months. Motion by J. Jones, Second by K. Johnson to add this item to the April Agenda for discussion. All in Favor.

Junior Council Person:

Nothing.

VIBE:

Community Yard sale date is May 10th. There is talk that a Route 15 yard sale may be held the same date. Raise the Region fundraising is going on March 12th and 13th. Support your local organizations such as the Library and VIBE.

The design for the Welcome signs were presented. The design is from Wild Sign Company for Owego. They are looking at 2 signs, one to replace the sign by the Green Bridge and the second by the Kwik Fill on Old Bloss Mountain Road. Total for the 2 signs is \$15,000. VIBE paid for the design which was \$1,500. The Blossburg Improvement Association has agreed to match any donation from the Borough. It was suggested that VIBE contact Hillside Rod & Gun Club, the American Legion and VFW for funding as well as Williamson Road Foundation and to let Council know what they receive in Donations. Motion by J. Nickerson, Second by K. Johnson to add this item to the April agenda. All in Favor.

Solicitor Barrett called for an executive session to discuss legal matters at 6:57 pm. No action will be taken.

Executive Session concluded at 7:14 pm.

Planning Commission Report:

No Meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board:

No Meeting

Recreation:

The Rec. Board discussed the following events:

- a. Island Park 150 to be held November 8, 2025; Motion to approve by K. Johnson, Second by R. Bowens. All in Favor
- b. There will be a tree sale, more information coming, on September 27th and 28th. Motion to approve by K. Johnson, Second by K. Wickman. All in Favor.
- c. Seneca Resources will be on the Park May 22nd for their Day of Doing. They will be picking up debris, etc. Motion to approve by K. Johnson, Second by R. Bowens, All in Favor.

- d. The crew will be putting topsoil on the area by the new Concession Stand/Electric building. The concession stand will likely be open at the end of April when Little League games start. Want to rent a roller to roll Island Park grass.
- e. The Board was approached to hold another Skate Park event on August 5th. More information will be received at the March meeting
- f. A lady wants to have an ice cream truck on the Park and around town. More information will be received regarding this at the March meeting.
- g. The Board is looking to replace some more bbq grills on the Park.
- h. The Rec. Board recommends that the Borough work with the School District in obtaining a DCNR grant to update the track from a gravel/cinder track to an all-weather track and re-grade the football field. The grant would include fencing around the area as well. Once the grant application is completed, we will know any amount needed for matching funds. The School District has agreed to be responsible for one-half of the match, after a \$75,000 donation from the County. The Borough would then be responsible for the other one-half match. Monies for the Borough's share could come from royalty payments received. Motion by J. Nickerson, Second by J. Jones to pass a Resolution to work on obtaining the DCNR grant for this work. All in Favor.

Fire and Ambulance:

Minutes were received for review. The annual awards banquet was held March 1, 2025.

Library:

A report was received from the Librarian. Tonight starts "Raise the Region" fundraising. The Library will be open until 9 pm tonight.

Street Committee:

Nothing.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing.

Budget:

Nothing.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

M. Grinnell is operating the sewer plant and is doing a great job! He has learned a lot regarding the new plant and it is running well.

Insight Pipe is back televising areas between Davis Lane and Carpenter Street. They will be relining various sections of this area through the week of March 17th. The Municipal Authority is waiting for USDA/RUS to approve Alternate B for televising and relining next.

OLD BUSINESS:

LED Streetlights (April 2021): Still nothing.

Project Goals for 2022: Project Goal Updates:

- a. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** Once the weather gets nice, we will be starting the sidewalks on McIntyre Street again.
- b. **Plaza Refurbishment:** Nothing at this time.

Concepcion – Maple Hill: The Borough Manager asked that the Chief provide dates and times they are called to Mr. Concepcion's location for the Court.

FEMA/PEMA Grant Update: Additional information requested by FEMA/PEMA has been sent for their review.

CLOSING OF WARD MANUFACTURING: This remains a priority not only for the Mayor and Council but also for the Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS:

June TCAB Meeting: The Borough is responsible for the June TCAB meeting. A discussion was held. Secretary will contact restaurants about providing a picnic style meal, perhaps pulled pork, or similar. For a speaker, it was suggested the Lis Miranda, the Librarian, be the speaker to talk about the various programs that she has instituted which may help libraries in other boroughs. Motion by R. Bowens, Second by K. Johnson for the secretary to proceed with this. All in Favor.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

R. Bowens discussed the creation of an ordinance for certain areas and roads in the Borough to be designated for ATV use so that riders can access state game lands and other townships with trails. It was discussed that Renovo has an ordinance for this. The secretary will see if she can locate this ordinance or other local ATV/UTV ordinances for review.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by K. Johnson, Second by J. Jones to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 pm. All in Favor.

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary