

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 9, 2025

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 (Absent), Council Members: Jill Nickerson, James Rakoski, Robert Bowens, Kallie Wickman, Mayor, Timothy Martin, Borough Solicitor, Patrick Barrett (Absent), Police Chief, Josh McCurdy, Borough Manager, George D. Lloyd, Borough Secretary, Cheryl Bubacz and School Representative, Kail Thompson.

Guests: Renee Carey – North Central Conservancy, Joe Naimoli, Tonya McNamara, Dawn Hull, Paul Zelinka, Rhonda Shutter and Houston Baker – on behalf of Visit Potter/Tioga, Commissioner Shane Nickerson, Kristie Bowles – Tioga Publishing.

Renee provided an update on the AMD project for Coal Creek. DEP mailed the permanent right-of-way for recording, however, they sent a summary, not the complete document. The Recorder's Office returned the document. The Outreach programs with the Library held their first event. The gnome that was made by Donna Lougher, has been in many photoshoots around the project and towns to develop interest in the project. A forester will be walking the property in the near future.

The Borough received a letter from the County Commissioners asking Council to consider signing a resolution to decertify the Visit Potter-Tioga organization for various reasons.

Tonya McNamara came to the meeting in support of the continuation of Visit Potter-Tioga. She read a prepared speech, attached, which listed several of the benefits that Visit Potter-Tioga provide to small businesses and events throughout the Potter and Tioga Counties.

Paul Zelinka, one of the Visit Potter-Tioga board members, played a short video explaining who they were and the benefits of the organization. Following his presentation and a short speech, Jill Nickerson asked that the matter be tabled for further discussions between the organization and Potter and Tioga County Commissioners.

Dawn Hull also spoke on behalf of the organization saying that even though the Borough does not have any hotels/motels, they still benefit from the organization through their funding of various events in the Borough.

Jill Nickerson asked what the issue is between the organization and the Commissioners. Mr. Zelinka stated that they are required to submit an annual audit, which their accountant says is more than adequate, however, the Commissioners have asked for additional information they are not entitled to. Jim Rakoski asked if other municipalities have voted on this matter and was told that three (3) other municipalities have had their meetings and have voted. After further discussion, Motion by Robb Bowens, Second by Kallie Wickman to table this matter until more information is available. All in Favor.

Following the Motion and Second, Houston Baker, also spoke on behalf of Visit Potter-Tioga. He stated that when he was in 4th grade in 2000, Tioga County was the 2nd poorest county in Pennsylvania. Today, it is 26th. Part of that is based on Visit Potter-Tioga promoting tourism through small businesses.

Jill Nickerson stated that the organization does a great job is not up for debate. The question is transparency and that she is not sure where the combativeness is coming from. Several of the individuals left prior to the rest of the meeting.

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

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

Mayor:

After 9 years, Upper Tioga River Regional Authority has finally received funding for the installation of a water line to bring potable water to residents in Putnam, Covington and part of Richmond Townships. The Mayor also stated that he had the privilege to read to the HeadStart class this week as did one of our Police Officers, Elliot Custred.

Police:

Nothing at this time. Reports will be sent out the week of April 14th due to the Chief being in Court this week.

Police Committee:

No Meeting.

Borough Manager:

As part of the Upper Tioga River Regional Authority receiving their funding, their existence needs to be extended. A Resolution extending their existence until May 15, 2075 was presented. Motion by J. Jones, Second by J. Rakoski to sign the Resolution. All in Favor.

Junior Council Person:

The North-Penn Mansfield has been very busy. There was a 3 on 3 basketball tournament which raised \$500 for the Ronald McDonald House. This amount does not include pop top tabs which were also collected. They will be hosting a 5K during Coal Festival and will contact the Borough Manager regarding the course. On May 10th there will be a kickball tournament and chicken BBQ. The school has also welcomed their therapy dog.

VIBE:

Community Yard sale date is May 10th. There will be a glow-in-the-dark Easter Egg Hunt on the Park on Friday, April 18th.

Planning Commission Report:

No Meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board:

No Meeting

Recreation:

The Rec. Board discussed the ice cream truck's grand opening on April 18th on the Park. There will be a tree sale in August with pick up in September. The pool will open on June 4th, weather permitting, and will close on August 10th. Demolition will begin on August 11th for the new pool house.

A draft drawing of the proposed dog park was presented to Council members. There are many questions regarding the drawing and the proposed location of the park. This will be discussed in further detail at their next meeting.

Fire and Ambulance:

No materials were received.

Library:

A report was received from the Librarian. The library raised over \$12,400 during Raise the Region and received another \$1,000 from the County Challenge.

Street Committee:

Borough Manager would like to set up a meeting with the Street Committee on Monday, April 21st at 4:00 pm to discuss road repairs for 2025.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing.

Budget:

No Meeting.

Blossburg Municipal Report:

A generator has been ordered for the Bellman filter plant and electric will be run to the Bellman Water tank to power the cathodic protection for the metal tank.

OLD BUSINESS:

LED Streetlights (April 2021): Still nothing.

Project Goals for 2022: Project Goal Updates:

- a. **Sidewalk, Lighting and Signage for Island Park:** We will be addressing McIntyre Street soon.
- b. **Plaza Refurbishment:** Nothing at this time.

Concepcion – Maple Hill: Information being collected by the Police Department for the Solicitor

FEMA/PEMA Grant Update: Waiting for their review.

CLOSING OF WARD MANUFACTURING: Meetings are held the 1st Monday of each month

TCAB Meeting in June: It was determined that Lis Miranda from the Library will be the speaker. Menu will be finalized and provided to the members at the next meeting.

VIBE Signage: VIBE has sent out donation requests to various organizations. They have submitted the order for the signs which required 50% down at the time of the order. VIBE has made that payment.

DCNR Grant for Track: The Grant was submitted on April 2, 2025. We won't hear anything until September or October regarding if we are receiving the grant or not.

Truck Purchase: The purchase of the 2025 Ford F350 was discussed. Total cost for the truck and the upfit is \$78,323, the 2004 Ford F550 will be sold to offset some of this cost. Motion by J. Jones, Second by R. Bowens to purchase the truck with upfit. All in Favor. Payment for the truck will be from Act 13 funding.

NEW BUSINESS:

ATV/UTV Ordinance: The Solicitor provided a draft of an ordinance as well as copies of other municipalities existing ordinances. Motion to add this item to the Agenda by J. Nickerson, Second by R. Bowens. All in Favor.

Borough Website – ADA Compliance: Our website needs to be ADA compliant by April 2027. Motion by J. Jones, Second by R. Bowens to add this item to the Agenda. All in Favor.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by R. Bowens, Second by K. Wickman to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 pm. All in Favor.

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary