

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

November 14, 2005

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Jerome Ogden called Blossburg Borough Council regular meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Room of the Borough Building, 245 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

Attendance: Vice-President Tonya McNamara; Councilmembers Raymond Kaminski, James Holleman, Cheryl Bubacz, (absent, Timothy Roupp), Thomas Bogaczyk; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; (absent, Chief Ronald Steffen); Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Charles Freeburg KCC Committee.

Guests: V.I.B.E. President Heidi Jones, Lonny Frost; Attorney Sandra Olson, John Eckman, Donald Krause, Larry Mitchell; Brendyn Stager, Dick Stager; Mrs. Merrill Mischke.

Minutes: The minutes of the October 10 & 17, 2005 meetings were accepted on motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Raymond Kaminski; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Guests: Attorney Sandra Olson, John Eckman, Donald Krause, Larry Mitchell; Brendyn Stager, Dick Stager all attended the meeting to discuss the status or legal procedures required for the conveying or purchasing of the former Borough Hall located at 206 Main Street.

Sandra Olson gave a brief summary to all attending tonight's meeting on the newly formed Coal and Iron Historical Society of Blossburg. A membership drive will be started shortly. At the present time, the organization has a board of about twenty (20) volunteer board directors. The purpose of the Society was incorporated to collect and preserve the history of coal mining and related industries in the greater Blossburg area.

Ms. Olson presented Borough Council with a petition, with 158 signatures, asking Borough Council to support the efforts of the Coal and Iron Historical Society of Blossburg to renovate and use the old Borough Hall as a Museum.

John Eckman asked Mr. Barrett if the Borough Hall could be given to the Coal and Iron Historical Society of Blossburg. Under the Borough Code borough buildings may be given to a Library, Fire Department, non-profit housing service, non-profit housing or for emergency services.

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett reported under the Borough Code there are three (3) options. First, the building could be auctioned. Second, the building could be put up for bid. Third, have the building appraised. If the appraisal is less than \$1,500.00, the building could be sold to a private organization or person. Mr. Barrett suggested the building be put up for bid. There are some terms and conditions that should be included with the bid advertisement. 1) The building should not be destroyed. 2) Emergency repairs on the building should be done as soon as possible so the building receives no further structural damage. 3) All external repairs are made to the main structure as soon as possible so the building does not deteriorate any further.

Guests: All of the terms and conditions should include time periods for completing the repairs. Also, required of bidder is to post a performance bond in the amount of \$50,000.00 to ensure the completion of the terms and conditions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY COUNCILMEMBER CHERYL BUBACZ AT 7:40 P.M. RECONVENED 7:56 P.M. TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OR LEASE OF REAL ESTATE DISCUSSED.

Motion to advertise for bid the former Borough Hall was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Raymond Kaminski.

Bids to be received by December 12, 2005 at 6:30 P.M. January 9, 2006 final decision.

Roll Call: Yes – Tonya McNamara, Raymond Kaminski, James Holleman
Thomas Bogaczyk

No – Cheryl Bubacz

Motion carried.

Mrs. Merrill Mischke, 343 North Williamson Road attended the meeting. She reported on several concerns she has noticed in her neighborhood. Her first complaint is the Dake property located at 357 North Williamson Road with unregistered vehicles on the property. Another complaint is the property at 349 Wilson Lane has a number of dogs that bark most of the time. The dogs are left to run lose and defecate in neighbor's yards. Mrs. Mischke last complaint is the speeding on North Williamson Road. Mayor Backman to turn these complaints over to the Police Department.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Students:** No student present. Tonya McNamara reported no student was interested in representing NPHS this year.

(B) **KCC:** Charles Freeberg reported the organization's regular checking account balance is \$1,167.87. Mr. Freeberg is concerned about the cost of KCC building utilities for the upcoming winter. KCC finances are tight. There are no reservations for the building until January 2006.

Lonny Frost will ask Cheryl Boinski to advertise KCC Building for rental purposes in Blossburg News & Views.

(C) **Committee Business Development:** Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment)

V.I.B.E. Minutes for October 19, 2005 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

V.I.B.E. President Heidi Jones reported two (2) businesses were recipients for the restoration of facades under the Main Street Program. The recipients were Shane & Jill Nickerson in the amount of \$1,263.22 and Dr. Stephen Ollock in the amount of \$3,000.00. Brick Tavern is scheduled for next year. There should be enough monies for eight (8) buildings. V.I.B.E. can apply for more funding after these monies are gone.

Lonny Frost reported on the "Light Up the Holidays" in Blossburg. The Tree Lighting Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, December 4, 2005 at 5:00 P.M. at the Library. Mayor Backman to light the tree. The "Light Up the Holidays" contest is opened to every resident of Blossburg who loves to decorate the outside of his or her home. The following themes are encouraged: Victorian, Modern, Whimsical and

Reports:

(C) **Committee Business Development:** most Christmas Spirit and Best Christmas Store Front Display. Prizes will be awarded for each theme. The judging is scheduled for December 18, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman reported the state did a survey on the speed limit for North Williamson Road. The speed limit is now 35 M.P.H. starting at VFW and ending at Scales.

(E) **Police:** Chief Steffen was absent due to attending school.

Everyone has received a copy of the Police Report.

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Raymond Kaminski; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

(F) **Police Committee:** Nothing further to report.

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Tonya McNamara; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

Borough Manager reported the Taber Street Bridge to be set on November 22, 2005. Mr. Lloyd to get a total cost for repair of bridge.

Motion to advertise for vehicle fuel bids was made by Cheryl Bubacz; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

New Borough hall flooring is scheduled to start Friday, November 18, 2005 and finish on Sunday, November 20, 2005. While looking around at the floors, some bad areas were discovered and need work done on before the flooring people get here. Some parts of floors are uneven and nails are sticking up. Floor leveling compounds are needed. Borough Manager and employees working on getting the floor ready for VCT tile.

(H) **Planning Commission:** Meeting scheduled for November 29, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. Review Verizon cell tower plans.

Zoning Hearing Board: Meeting scheduled for November 29, 2005 at 7:30 P.M. Review Verizon cell tower plans.

(I) **Recreation:** No meeting last month.

(J) **Fire:** No report received.

Councilmembers on Fire Committee: Tonya McNamara, Raymond Kaminski and Cheryl Bubacz. Fire department meetings are held the last Monday of the month.

(K) **Television:** Channel 50 is now "Cartoon" channel. Hallmark channel to be added soon. All equipment is in for "Emergency Alert System".

Reports:

- (L) **Library:** Carol Tama presented a Library budget for a scheduled Budget Committee meeting. There will be no tax increase in 2006 for the Library.
- Stuart Lisowski milled out the Library parking lot at his own expense. Borough Secretary to send Mr. Lisowski a thank you.
- New HAVC system is being installed.
- (M) **Street Committee:** Nothing to report.
- (N) **Budget:** Budget meeting scheduled for November 17, 2005 at 9:00 A.M. to meet with Gannon Associates on insurance coverage packages.
- (O) **New Historical Society:** Discussed earlier.
- Remove from agenda. Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Evaluation:** The Personnel Policy was updated. Several corrections were reviewed. New sheets to be added to final Council copies.
2. **Minor Sub-Division/Cul-D-Sac:** Borough Solicitor is working on Deed of Dedication.
3. **Additional Railroad Property:** Tax Sale of old railroad property of 6.72 acres, purchased by the Borough, was to be sold on September 26, 2005. Borough Solicitor contacted Tioga County Court House to review listings. The wrong property was assessed. Sale put off for one (1) year.
4. **Electric System Assessment:** Borough Solicitor is working on.

Penelec suggested doing a community project on Island Park. Council would rather see the lines repaired.
5. **Home Occupation:** Proposed Home Occupation Ordinance as been amended. Changes need to be made.
6. **Williamson Commercial Park Access Street:** Borough Solicitor is working on.
7. **Building Permit Fees / Rental Inspections:** New rates to be advertised. Borough Solicitor to get with George Lloyd for more information.
8. **Ward Manufacturing Petition Requesting Zoning Change:** Needs to be advertised. Borough Solicitor is working on.
9. **Cell Tower Ordinance:** Review and add windmills. Nothing at this time.
10. **Attorney Fee Ordinance:** Borough Solicitor to do.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Permission to Purchase Turkeys for Borough Employees for Thanksgiving:

Motion to purchase turkeys for Borough Employees for Thanksgiving. The cost to be split with the Blossburg Municipal Authority was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

2. Old Occupation Privilege Tax (OPT) / New Emergency and Municipal Services Tax:

Motion to raise Old Occupation Privilege Tax / New Emergency and Municipal Services Tax from \$10.00 per person to \$20.00 per person for 2006 was made on April 11, 2005. New rates need to be advertised three (3) times. Will adopt new rates next month.

3. 2006 Budget: Budget is advertised for December meeting. Adopt budget next month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1. TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2005 AT THE PENN WELLS HOTEL IN WELLSBORO, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. WITH A SMORGASBORD DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2005.**

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 9:25 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2005 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary