

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

October 9, 2006

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, James Bogaczyk, (absent, Cheryl Bubacz, Thomas Bogaczyk); (absent, Mayor John Backman (out of town); Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Ronald Steffen; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Charles Freeberg KCC Committee; Bev Jones Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment); Kevin Lindquist Blossburg Fire Company; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette.

Guests: Nell Bergstresser and Liz Naylor.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 11, 2006 meeting were accepted on motion of Raymond Kaminski; second, James Holleman. All in favor.

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

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

Guests: President of Riverside Park Association Nell Bergstresser and Liz Naylor attended the meeting to ask questions about the garbage dumpsters that will be placed at the Diehr and Riverside Housing. Ms. Bergstresser stated some elderly at the Housing aren't very tall and are not in the best of health. The dumpsters are going to be very difficult for these people to use. Some of the residents have a hard time just getting their garbage bags out of their apartments, without trying to put the bag in a dumpster. Borough Manager George Lloyd explained to Ms. Bergstresser and Ms. Naylor that the dumpsters are to help decrease the time on garage collection. Mr. Lloyd stated he would like to get the garbage collection for the town down to two (2) days per week. It is very time consuming collecting garbage from each apartment at the Housing. Mr. Lloyd was hoping the maintenance workers at Housing would help the residents with their garbage bags. Mr. Lloyd said the garbage dumpsters are definitely going in and the Borough will work with the residents who have problems using the dumpsters.

Ms. Bergstresser asked if there was a dog lease law in the Borough and if the law could be enforced. Dogs are running loose and are defecating in the Housing lawns. Chief Steffen advised Ms. Bergstresser to telephone 911 when the residents see the dogs running loose. 911 will get in touch with the Blossburg Borough Police Department, so the Department can go out and catch the dogs running loose.

Nell Bergstresser and Liz Naylor thanked Council and left the meeting.

Kevin Lindquist Blossburg Fire Department attended the meeting to report the Blossburg Fire Company received a Home Land Security Grant from Representative Peterson office in the amount of \$166,250.00 to purchase a \$175,000.00 pumper truck. The grant will pay 95% of the cost, with the Fire Company paying the balance of 5% (\$8,750.00). The Fire Company has tried for the last 5 years to get this money. With the persistence of Mr. Lindquist, the grant finally came through. The old pumper truck is to be sold.

Guests: The 1977 Ward Lafrance fire truck was sold for \$7,000.00. It will be picked up October 13, 2006. This vehicle will be removed from the Borough auto insurance.

Mr. Lindquist stated the Fire Company is in the process of rewriting their by-laws.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Students:** No student present, because there was no school today. Zara Johnson, a senior at N.P.H.S., is working at the Borough under the "school-to-work" program, agreed to attend the meetings.

(B) **KCC:** Charles Freeberg reported the organization's regular checking account balance is \$869.64. The total cost for utilities is \$428.02.

President Jerome Ogden stated the 2007 budget is to be voted on tonight. If passed, the Budget Committee did include the KCC Building and Island Park repairs as line items in the 2007 Budget. These added line items should help with the expenses in both places.

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

V.I.B.E. meetings are held second Wednesday of the month.

V.I.B.E. Minutes for September 20, 2006 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers. Also, President Bev Jones supplied a printout of the notes that are easier to read. Financial Reports were also presented.

Tonya McNamara reported Raymond Davis, owner of Ray's Service Center, located at 314 Main Street has been working hard on his business façade. Upon completion, Mr. Davis's business will be receiving some grant monies from the Main Street Façade Program.

President Bev Jones arrived at 7:00 P.M. for tonight's meeting. She reported Bob Wood and Dick Anthony will be starting work on their building façades next week. The work was approved under the Main Street Façade Program through V.I.B.E. The work is to include doors, windows, stucco and paint.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman did not attend tonight's meeting, because he was out of town.

(E) **Police:** Everyone has received a copy of the Police Report.

The Police Report was accepted on motion of James Bogaczyk; second, Raymond Kaminski. 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.

George Lloyd and Mary Signor attended a class in Hazelton on September 15, 2006. The class was Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) training for new users, which was sponsored by the Department of Community and Economic Development. The IDIS process will be used for accessing monies for the Home Grant.

Reports:

Borough Manager George Lloyd asked permission to re-advertise for bid the 303 Galion Grader. He would also like to bid out a Mack truck dump box and a stone rake. Motion to re-advertise the 303 Galion Grader, Mack truck dump box and stone rake was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

Verizon is starting construction on their cell tower. Nextel is in the process of supplying information to the Codes Official for their permit application.

Chris Johnson's 10-year-old son would like permission to plant a tree, behind the visitor football bleachers with the other dedicated trees, in honor of his deceased father. Councilmembers agreed to the tree planting. The Borough Manager will also ask permission from the Recreation Board.

(H) Planning Commission:

No applications were submitted. No meeting.

Appointment to Planning Commission Board: Glenn Bastian Replacement – Patrick Marriner, 136 North Williamson Road; motion of James Bogaczyk; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

(I) Recreation: No meeting. Recreation Board members and volunteers met on Tuesday, September 26, 2006 at 6:30 P.M. at the North Penn High School Library to stuff envelopes for the United Fund 2006 campaign fund drive.

(J) Fire: Discussed earlier.

(K) Television: Board meetings are second Tuesday of month.

Councilmembers asked about getting Fox News, Food Channel and Blue Screen (announcement channel) added to Williamson Road TV cable. Jerome Ogden will ask at the next meeting. Mr. Ogden suggested doing petitions for the requested channels.

(L) Library: Thomas Bogaczyk was absent. No report.

(M) Street Committee: Working on Granger Street storm drain project.

(N) Budget: The Budget Committee updated Borough Employee salary ranges. Motion to accept the updated Borough Employee salary ranges was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

2007 Budget: Revenues – Real Estate tax millage will stay the same. The Emergency and Municipal Services Tax (EMST) will increase from \$20.00/working person employed in Blossburg to \$36.00/working person employed in Blossburg. Expenses – Landfill rates are up \$10,000.00, and health insurance rates increased 18%. Motion was made to accept the 2007 Budget was made by Raymond Kaminski; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

The 2007 Budget will be adopted at the November 13, 2006 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Minor Sub-Division/Cul-D-Sac:

The Borough Manager has to meet with the Borough Solicitor to finish this deed of dedication.

2. Additional Railroad Property:

Tax Sale for old railroad property of 6.72 acres, purchased by the Borough. The wrong property was assessed. Borough Solicitor is working on.

The Borough Solicitor is to petition the court to get property taxed revised.

3. Electric System Assessment:

A meeting was held on September 27, 2006 at 11:00 A.M. in the Council Room. Penelec representatives attended the meeting. As a result of the meeting, some plans and an agenda were set up. Mr. Barrett has prepared a letter that will be presented to Council. Mr. Barrett would like to have Thomas Bogaczyk review the letter, first. Committees will be set up to review specifications.

4. Williamson Commercial Park Access Street:

Mr. Barrett has the deed. If the ordinance is completed he will notify Williamson Land Company, record and schedule the dedication.

5. Cell Tower Ordinance: Mr. Barrett is attempting to get an ordinance that has been passed which deals with windmills, cell towers, signage, or anything tall.

6. Outdoor Burning Ordinance: The Borough Solicitor amended ordinance per Committee suggestions. Mr. Barrett will send over for Council to review.

7. Engine Brakes Ordinance: The Borough Solicitor presented a sample ordinance for Council to review. PennDOT is to do study on Route 15 tractor-trailer traffic before they approve.

8. Janford McCauley Replacement (Shade Tree Commission):

Appointment to Shade Tree Commission: Janford McCauley Replacement – Jeffrey Everett, 331 South Williamson Road; motion of Raymond Kaminski; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

9. Home Grant: Public announcement from State should be made in next couple of weeks about funding. Paperwork was submitted to Harrisburg enabling Borough access to funds. The paperwork may take 4 – 6 weeks for review.

10. Building Permit Fees: The Borough Solicitor is writing up an ordinance, which would lower the square footage of buildings needing inspections from 1,000 sq. ft. to 600 sq. ft. Labor and Industry has to be notified of the proposed ordinance before adoption.

11. Emergency and Municipal Services Tax (EMST):

Motion was made by Raymond Kaminski to amend Ordinance 406 from \$20.00/working person employed in Blossburg to \$36.00/working person employed in Blossburg; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

OCTOBERFEST WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2006, WITH A RAIN DATE OF OCTOBER 15, 2006, AT THE PLAZA ON MAIN STREET. THE HOURS FOR THE FESTIVAL ARE 11:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. THERE IS NO ADMISSION FEE.

THE BLOSSBURG BOROUGH WILL HOLD HALLOWEEN ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2006. THE PARADE IS AT 5:00 P.M. – STARTING BY THE FORMER BLOSSBURG AMBULANCE BUILDING LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF HANNIBAL AND MORRIS STREETS. THE PARADE WILL PROCEED WEST ON HANNIBAL STREET – THEN TURN RIGHT ONTO MAIN STREET AND PROCEED NORTH TO THE NEW FIRE & AMBULANCE BUILDING, 324 MAIN STREET, WHERE THE JUDGING OF COSTUMES WILL TAKE PLACE. HALLOWEEN HOURS ARE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2006, 6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS MAY BE POSTED ON THE BLOSSBURG WEBSITE AT <http://www.blossburg.org>.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 7:54 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2006 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary