

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

November 12, 2007

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Jerome Ogden called the 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, James Bogaczyk, Thomas Bogaczyk; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; (absent, Chief Ronald Steffen (attending school)); Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Charles Freeberg KCC Committee; Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) Member Bev Jones; Newly Elected Councilmember Jill Nickerson; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Troop #69 Assistant Cub Scout Master Kelly Thompson; Kenneth Hughes; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kefover.

Minutes: The minutes of the October 8, 2007 meeting were accepted on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Raymond Kaminski. All in favor.

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Guests: Troop #69 Assistant Cub Scout Master Kelly Thompson attended meeting to thank both Mayor Backman for proclaiming Friday, August 17, 2007 to be known as "CUB SCOUT PACK 69 AND BOY SCOUT TROOP 69 DAY" and Council for their support of the boys participating in the 2007 Little League World Series Opening Ceremonies. Mr. Thompson presented Council with a framed photograph showing the boys holding the 20' x 30' American flag on the baseball field during opening ceremonies. Mr. Thompson stated the boys are invited to participate again in the 2008 Little League World Series opening ceremonies.

Outside Wood Burning Stoves:

Kenneth Hughes, 108 William B. Street; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kefover, 108 Bleker Street; Bev Jones, 386 Granger Street, Blossburg residents that presently own and operate outside wood furnaces, attended the meeting to hear and review concerns they have with the proposed "Outside Wood Furnace Ordinance" which was tabled at the October 8, 2007 Council Meeting.

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett presented a new preliminary "Outside Wood Furnace Ordinance" to Council and attending guests.

Councilmembers and the attending wood stove owners reviewed the new preliminary ordinance. A discussion followed, which included additional corrections to the preliminary ordinance. Overall the attending wood stove owners felt this new revised ordinance was reasonable and less confusing. Tonight's preliminary "Outside Wood Furnace Ordinance" will be corrected and discussed at the next scheduled Council Meeting on December 10, 2007.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** No student present.

(B) **KCC:** Charles Freeberg reported the organization's regular checking account balance is \$441.22. He plans to make a \$300.00 deposit that will increase the checking account balance to \$741.22.

Reports:

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Reports:

- (C) **Committee Business Development:** Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment)
The next V.I.B.E. meeting will be held on November 28, 2007 in the community room of the Blossburg Memorial Library at 6:00 P.M.

V.I.B.E. Minutes for October 17, 2007 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

The new "Welcome Sign", which will replace the old sign by the green bridge at the north end of Main Street, has been ordered.

The V.I.B.E. newsletter is at the printer. This newsletter should be mailed to Blossburg residents soon.

V.I.B.E. will hold an Environmental Fair on November 17, 2007 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. in the North Penn High School parking lot located along Carpenter Street.

Josh Jones is working on the Blossburg FreeNet (the wireless Internet for the Blossburg Borough downtown business district). The wireless equipment is in and ready to install. Blossburg FreeNet should be ready to use by November 30, 2007.

- (D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman conducted an election on behalf of the Tioga County Associations of Boroughs (TCAB) for chair positions.

- (E) **Police:** Chief Steffen was not at tonight's meeting, because he was attending school.

Everyone has received a copy of the Police Report.

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

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

- (G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

The Borough received a 2007 Tioga County Marketing Initiative Grant application. The grant must be used to promote overnight stays in Tioga County. Councilmembers suggested that the grant monies could be used for the Coal Festival, which is held in the month of May each year and the Endless Mountain Music Festival to be held in Blossburg on August 1, 2008. Jill Nickerson volunteered to do the grant application.

Mr. Lloyd reported the bids results from Asset Auctions: 1) Galion 303 Grader – No Bids. 2) York Road Rake – \$750.00. 3) Aluminum Dump Box from the 1996 Mack Tandem Truck – \$3,100.00. Auction Total = \$3,850.00. Asset Auction charges a 10% auction fee. The proceeds due the Blossburg Borough is \$3,465.00.

Reports:

The Blossburg Fire Department is getting their new truck on November 20, 2007. The Fire Department will need somewhere to park both the new truck and the old truck, which is not sold yet. The new police car will need to be kept at the Borough Garage until the old fire truck is sold. Mr. Lloyd asked permission and Councilmembers agreed to park the old police car at his home.

(H) Planning Commission:

No applications were submitted. No meeting.

Motion to accept resignation of David Darby: Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Appointment to Planning Commission: David Darby replacement – Stephen Wagner, 117 North Williamson Road; Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

(I) Recreation: Recreation Board members and volunteers stuffed envelopes for the North Penn Area United Fund campaign drive.

(J) Fire: No report received. No Councilmember attended the meeting.

Councilmembers commended the Blossburg Fire Department on the quick response to the residence of Misty Wiczorek's for a house fire.

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

(L) Library: The Friends of the Library annual book sale was very successful.

(M) Street Committee: Finished the small storm drain project along Granger Street.

Some new street signs are being installed.

(N) Budget: 2008 proposed budget was advertised.

Borough Manager George Lloyd explained the budget difference in health insurance totals. This was because of the way the Budget Committee estimated employee wages between the Borough and the Authority. Blossburg Municipal Authority always have paid their share of employee benefits.

Motion to accept the 2008 Budget, as presented, was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

(O) Blossburg Municipal Authority:

Blossburg Municipal Authority gave approval to proceed with East Creek well drilling. Eichelberger got the bid to do work, which should start later this month.

Entered an agreement with local forester to make up Management Plan for Taylor Run property.

Authority plans to have their property surveyed in the area of the Parkhurst Street water tank.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

The Borough Manager gave information to the Borough Solicitor.

2. Additional Railroad Property:

Tax Sale for old railroad property of 6.72 acres, purchased by the Borough. The wrong property was assessed. Mr. Barrett is working with Tioga County Tax Office in identifying the property lots and including the Borough's request to have these lots tax-exempt.

3. Cell Tower Ordinance: Borough Solicitor is working on.

4. Engine Brakes Ordinance: Borough Solicitor is waiting to hear from State Representative Matthew Baker's office.

5. Building Permit Fees: Additional work needs to be done on amending Ordinance No. 402 to lower the square footage of buildings needing inspections from 1,000 Sq. Ft. to 600 Sq. Ft. Steps to be taken before Ordinance is amended: 1) The Department of Labor should be contacted. 2) The proposed amended ordinance will be advertised. 3) A Public Hearing will be held. 4) Ordinance No. 402 will be adopted as amended.

6. Outside Wood Burning Stoves: Discussed earlier.

7. Streetlights for the Blossburg Exit / Interchange: The Borough Manager is working on.

8. Phelps Property on Davis Street: The Borough Solicitor and the Borough Manager are working on.

9. The Generic Bar: The Borough Solicitor and the Borough Manager are working on. A letter is to be sent to owner.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Reenact the EMST Ordinance to Comply with the New LST Provisions:

Reenacting The Emergency and Municipal Service Tax Ordinance with it being renamed as Local Services Tax (LST). This new ordinance will also allow an employer to withhold the required tax in installments. Notice of intent to enact Local Services Tax Ordinance to be advertised for next Council Meeting. The new ordinance will be adopted at the December 10, 2007 Council Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Tioga County Tax Preferential Program:

The Tioga County Board of Commissioners amended the Tioga County Tax Preferential Ordinance. Based on the amended Ordinance each Borough or Township may designate all or portions of their municipality as eligible under the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA) Law. Now Boroughs or Townships have the opportunity to designate the areas of their municipality they deem appropriate and in compliance with the law. A company can receive tax abatement for the new tax value assessed on their buildings for a five-year period. Boundary areas eligible for these tax abatements need to be established through ordinance or resolution. At least one (1) public hearing must be held. Councilmembers declined to do the Tax Preferential Program, at this time.

3. Zoning Ordinance – Amending Ordinance for One Principal Residential Building Per Lot:

Mr. Lloyd contacted Attorney William Stokes and this is covered on Page 208 in the Code of Ordinance Book.

4. Advertise for Vehicle Fuel Bids: Motion to advertise for vehicle fuel bids was made by Cheryl Bubacz; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

5. Re-Appointments to Committees and Boards (Last Term Year 2007):

Re-Appointment to Planning Commission: Deb Everett, 331 South Williamson Road; (subject to her acceptance); Motion of James Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

Re-Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board: Jeffrey Kriner, 225 North Williamson Road (subject to his acceptance); Motion of James Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

Re-Appointment to Shade Tree Commission: Martha Bastian, 301 Granger Street (agreed to re-appointment); Motion of James Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

Re-Appointment to Blossburg Municipal Authority: Frank Wasowicz, 158 St. Mary's Street, (agreed to re-appointment); Motion of James Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

Appointment to Recreation Board: Raymond Kaminski wants off Board. The Borough Manager will put together a list of names for Mr. Kaminski's possible replacement.

STSD Member: Terry Osborne last term 2007, James Rakoski to do.

6. End Zone Athletics: End Zone Athletics is doing a fundraiser for North Penn High School. They would like Blossburg Borough to take out an advertisement. Thomas Bogaczyk made a motion NOT to participate in the fundraiser; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

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

A motion to purchase turkeys for Borough employees for Thanksgiving, the cost to be split with the Blossburg Municipal Authority, was made by Tonya McNamara; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WILL BE INDUCTING THE LATE WILLIAM B. WILSON INTO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR HALL OF FAME IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON NOVEMBER 13, 2007.

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2007 AT THE PENN WELLS HOTEL, MAIN STREET, WELLSBORO, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.P.V. BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2007.

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

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary