

# BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## March 12, 2007

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council Vice-President Tonya McNamara called Blossburg Borough Council meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Room of the Borough Building, 245 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

**Attendance:** (absent, President Jerome Ogden (out of town)); Councilmembers Raymond Kaminski, James Holleman, Cheryl Bubacz, James Bogaczyk, (absent, Thomas Bogaczyk (in Florida)); Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Ronald Steffen; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; V.I.B.E. members President Bev Jones and Vice-President Jill Nickerson; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Thelma Wickman (arrived approximately 7:00 P.M.).

**Minutes:** The minutes of the February 12, 2007 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 Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

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

**Guests:** Thelma Wickman owner of the Brick Tavern which is located at 224 Main Street attended the meeting to question the rate increase of the Brick Tavern's sanitary bill. Borough Manager George Lloyd explained to Ms. Wickman that there wasn't a rate increase. The calculations are based on the dumpster size and the number of 30 gallon bags each dumpster holds. Ms. Wickman stated the Brick's dumpster isn't always full when the guys dump it, because her employees don't always utilize the back of the dumpster like they should.

Mr. Lloyd is to verify with the garage crew if they are marking down the correct amount of bags for each pickup / dump.

Ms. Wickman thanked Council for their time and left the meeting.

### **Reports:**

(A) **NPBS Student:** NPBS Student Representatives did not attend meeting tonight. Heather Steinbacher NPBS Student Council Advisor contacted the Borough Office today reporting the Student Representative would not attend tonight's meeting.

(B) **KCC:** Charles Freeberg did not attend meeting.

(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 February 21, 2007 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

V.I.B.E. President Bev Jones provided a Financial Report earlier that was included in the Councilmembers packets.

V.I.B.E. member Jill Nickerson gave a detailed presentation, which included a parts list and a design of the proposed skate park to be built on Island Park. There was an extended discussion between Mrs. Nickerson and Councilmembers. Some of the concerns Council have are 1) Location, 2) Supervision, 3) Maintenance, and 4) Liability.

**Reports:**

The required resolution for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant application, which has a deadline date of April 13, 2007, was tabled. Council directed Mrs. Nickerson to discuss her skate park proposal with the Recreation Board at their meeting on March 26 and then come back to Council for a decision.

Bev Jones reported V.I.B.E. is working on getting local business ads for place mats that will be placed in different restaurants around the area.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman reported the United States Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Census Bureau will be holding classes for the 2010 Census. The Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Program provides state and local governments with the opportunity to review and update the Census Bureau's address list. Mayor Backman will be attending the class on May 8, 2007 at Penn College North Campus, Wellsboro, PA.

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

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

Bev Jones reported vehicles are still parking on the Granger Street cul-d-sac. Chief Steffen to talk with vehicle owners and have them park their vehicles elsewhere.

Chief Steffen reported a laptop computer was received from Homeland Security.

All officers have passed their 2007 certifications.

The new police car was ordered and will be here in early April.

A resolution is needed to borrow money for 2007 Dodge Charger Police Car from Warnock Fleet.

**Resolution to Authorize the borrowing of \$13,500.00 to purchase a 2007 Dodge Charger Police Car from Warnock Fleet, to be paid back in 24 monthly payments at 5.50% interest:**

Resolution adopted on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Holleman. All in favor.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

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

Borough Manager reported the Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission obtained funds to have the local streams and river cleaned out.

End Zone Athletics contacted the Borough Office to be a football sponsor. Mr. Lloyd to contact Deb Campbell North Penn Cheerleader Coach to see if monies came back to North Penn or if this company is contacting people / businesses on their own.

Penelec to start the major line replacement project. The Borough was contacted about a site for Contractor's office. Penelec to park their equipment on Island Park by Borough Garage area.

**Reports:**

Construction on the Nextel Tower has started.

The borough emergency siren is working. County 911 did a test before lunch today.

The Borough received a letter from Mr. John W. Hummel addressing the conditions of some sidewalks in town. The Borough Solicitor and Mr. Lloyd to look up original ordinances on sidewalks to see if the Borough has the authority to have some sidewalks repaired.

Councilmembers asked the Borough Manager to check The Generic Bar property located at 162 Main Street. The condition of the building keeps getting worse.

**(H) Planning Commission:** No applications were submitted. No meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

**(I) Recreation:** Total United Fund monies disbursed were \$10,500.00.

Skate park was discussed.

Need cost estimates for repair work on old pavilion.

Update Island Park cost for Southern Tioga School District lease.

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

No Councilmember attended the meeting.

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

Fox News Channel #52 is on cable.

**(L) Library:** Councilmember Tonya McNamara gave out copies of quarterly meeting.

A basket bingo to be done as fundraiser in April.

**(M) Street Committee:** Borough Manager is in the process of ordering pipe for the 2007 Storm Drain Project.

**(N) Budget:** Budget Committee reviewed request by Coal Festival President to pay for its liability insurance.

**(O) Blossburg Municipal Authority:**

Blossburg Municipal Authority is trying to get gas lease signed from Fortuna.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

The Borough Manager did not get information to 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.

**3. Electric System Assessment:**

Penelec to start major line replacement project soon.

**4. Cell Tower Ordinance:** Mr. Barrett is attempting to draft an ordinance with descriptions on sites / height restrictions. These plans will need to go before Planning Commission.

**5. Engine Brakes Ordinance:** Borough Solicitor hasn't heard anything from PennDOT. Mr. Barrett plans to start everything over.

**6. Home Grant:** Martha Lloyd Home site located on South Williamson Road is being worked on.

**7. Building Permit Fees:** The Borough Solicitor did draft ordinance to lower the square footage of buildings needing inspections from 1,000 sq. ft. to 600 sq. ft. The ordinance was sent to Labor and Industry.

**8. Outside Wood Burning Stoves:** A sample ordinance pertaining to outside wood burning stoves was received from Tioga Borough. Tioga Borough to hold public meeting on ordinance.

**9. Coalie Pickman Sign:** V.I.B.E. to take over the charges for the Coalie Pickman sign at the North end of Main Street by green bridge. Tonya McNamara to get information.

**10. Auditor:** Borough Manager George Lloyd received quotes to do the Borough and Municipal Authority audits from the following auditors:

Lee Viard – No

Parente Randolph: \$6,000 Boro / \$6,000 MA / \$9,500 if do both

Allen, Rodgers & Osgood: \$4,900 Boro / \$3,500 MA

Lindsay & Hager: \$1,900 - \$2,400 Boro / \$3,800 - \$4,200 MA

Lisa Guthrie: \$2,700 Boro / \$2,700 MA

Motion to have Lisa Guthrie do the Borough's audit, with a section stating the audit needed to be completed by June, was made by Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. North Penn Basketball Team to Play at Districts:**

A letter of congratulations is to be drafted and sent to the North Penn Basketball team in recognition of their success.

**2. Laurel Youth Services – 5K Run Saturday, May 26, 2007:**

Susan Blackwell of Laurel Youth Services telephoned the Borough Office asking permission to hold a 5K Run in conjunction with the Blossburg Coal Festival. Ms. Blackwell stated the route would be the same as last year. PennDOT Parade Permit paperwork will need to be sent in by the Borough Secretary. Motion to give Laurel Youth Services permission to hold 5K Run, subject to State and Borough approval, was made by James Bogaczyk; second Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT AT 8:05 P.M.  
RECONVENED 8:21 P.M. PERSONNELL DISCUSSED.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2007 AT THE BLOSSBURG FIRE & AMBULANCE BUILDING, 324 MAIN STREET, BLOSSBURG, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2007.**

**TIOGA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TCDC LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST AT THE PENN WELLS HOTEL, 62 MAIN STREET, WELLSBORO, PA ON THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2007 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. (BUFFET OPENS AT 7:30 A.M.). R.S.V.P. & PAYMENT DUE BY MARCH 30, 2007.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Vice-President Tonya McNamara closed the meeting at 8:27 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.

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Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary