

# BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## May 14, 2007

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, James Bogaczyk, Thomas Bogaczyk; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Ronald Steffen; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; V.I.B.E. President Bev Jones.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the April 9, 2007 meeting were accepted on motion of Tonya McNamara; 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 Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

**Guests:** None present.

### **Reports:**

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

(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 April 18, 2007 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

V.I.B.E. will be selling Mother Jones silhouettes as a fundraiser. The silhouettes will be for sale at the Bloss Hardware at the cost of \$12.00.

The first Farmer's Market will be May 26 at the Bloss Plaza parking lot from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Also, starting the third Saturday of each month, a Flea Market will be held at the Plaza.

V.I.B.E. received their first Penelec billing for electric to the Coalie Pickman sign at the North end of Main Street by green bridge.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman attended the 2010 Census Local Update Census Addresses (LUCA) Program on May 8, 2007 in Wellsboro, PA at Penn College North Campus.

**Reports:**

(E) **Police:** *(The Police Report was discussed at the beginning of Reports, because Chief Steffen had a meeting to attend in Mansfield.)*

Everyone has received a copy of the Police Report.

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

The Blossburg Police Department was awarded a \$500.00 grant from PennDOT and Buckle Up Pennsylvania to conduct seat belt safety checks. Chief Steffen will have Officer Scott to do this activity.

Again, Councilmembers discussed the conditions / appearance of 129 Davis Street, North Williamson Road and The Generic Bar. A resident of Blossburg made a complaint of a broken window at The Generic Bar. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett had contacted the owners of The Generic Bar. They are looking for bids to tear down the building.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

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

The Tioga County Probation Department did an excellent job cleaning up Island Park. A letter is to be sent thanking them for work performed.

Spring cleanup went good. Next year a deadline day is to be set for putting out all items to be picked up. Mr. Lloyd suggested putting items out from Saturday to Tuesday night.

Spring Cleanup comparison: 2005 was 29 tons costing approximately \$1,300.00  
2006 was 28 tons costing approximately \$1,500.00  
2007 was 32 tons (not including metal) costing approximately \$1,700.00

Councilmember James Bogaczyk feels the Penny-Saver is not read as much as it once was. Mr. Bogaczyk suggested the spring cleanups be advertised in a newsletter and included in the envelope with a monthly utility billing. Mr. Lloyd would like Council to set the 2008 cleanup dates by the end of 2007, so a notice could be sent to customers by the beginning of 2008.

The installation of streetlights for the Blossburg exit / interchange was discussed. Other local municipalities have done agreements with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to have streetlights at their interchanges. All Councilmembers agreed to pursue having streetlights installed at the Blossburg exit / interchange. Contact names were discussed for the Borough Manager to get in touch with.

The dog waste signs are installed at three (3) entrances to Island Park.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

**Reports:**

- (I) **Recreation:** The pool maintenance for the spring opening is completed. The Borough Manger plans to start filling the pool with water on Monday. Opening day should be Memorial Day or June 1.
- (J) **Fire:** No report received.  
No Councilmember attended the meeting.
- (K) **Television:** Board meetings are second Tuesday of month.  
Food Channel (#53) should be on soon.
- (L) **Library:** Quarterly meeting is next month.  
The new ceiling has been installed. New furniture is on order.  
On April 21, 2007 the Blossburg Memorial Library held their Basket Bingo fundraiser. The fundraiser raised approximately \$2,600.00.  
The annual Library Garden Party fundraiser will be held on July 22, 2007 at the Hamilton Club in Morris Run from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Price is \$25.00 / couple and \$15.00 / single.
- (M) **Street Committee:** A list of 2007 proposed streets for tar & chipping was reviewed and accepted by Council.
- (N) **Budget:** Nothing at this time.
- (O) **Blossburg Municipal Authority:** The low bid proposal from Lisowski Excavating to remove the water tank on Parkhurst Street was accepted.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

The Borough Manager to get information to the Borough Solicitor so this deed of dedication can be finished.

**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 had a meeting scheduled to identify property lots, but meeting was cancelled.

**3. Electric System Assessment:**

Penelec is working on a major line replacement project in the Blossburg area. Customers are receiving checks for damages from the March 28, 2007 power surge, which occurred from repair work.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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. The Borough to apply for partial funds from their share of HOME administration fees.
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. A mistake was found in ordinance and needs to be corrected.
8. **Outside Wood Burning Stoves:** A sample ordinance pertaining to outside wood burning stoves was received from Tioga Borough. Local communities are still waiting on decisions.
9. **Coalie Pickman Sign:** Remove from agenda. Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.
10. **Auditor:** 2006 Borough and Authority audit boxes were taken to Lisa Guthrie on April 23, 2007.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Coal Festival:**

Coal Festival to be held May 23 – 26, 2007. The parade permit from PennDOT was applied for. Mayor Backman & Councilmembers are asked to ride in the parade. Mansfield Borough Council President will be riding in the parade, since Mansfield is celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. If you plan on riding in the parade, please contact Sally Ward by Friday, May 18, 2007.

2. **Tioga County Development Corporation:**

Tioga County Development Corporation (TCDC) will be holding a Tioga County Enterprise Zone Organizational meeting on Wednesday, June 6, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. at the Pennsylvania College of Technology / North Campus. TCDC are requesting a representative from the Blossburg Borough to attend. Jerome Ogden, James Bogaczyk, Thomas Bogaczyk and George Lloyd plan to attend.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2007 AT THE HARVET FAMILY FELLOWSHIP, SHAFFER HILL, LIBERTY, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2007.**

**THE BLOSSBURG ELEMENTARY AND NORTH PENN HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STUDENTS ARE SCHEDULED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE BLOSSBURG MEMORIAL MONUMENT ON MAY 24, 2007 AT 9:00 A.M. TO SING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM AND HONOR OUR LOCAL VETERANS.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

THE 15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL COAL FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD FROM MAY 23 – 26, 2007 AT ISLAND PARK. VISIT [www.blossburgcoalfestival.org](http://www.blossburgcoalfestival.org) OR TELEPHONE (570) 638-3313. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

MAYOR BACKMAN PROCLAIMS TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2007 “NORTH PENN HIGH SCHOOL BAND DAY” IN RECOGNITION OF THE NORTH PENN HIGH SCHOOL BAND TAKING FIRST PLACE AT THE 2007 ATLANTIC COAST CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION FOR CONCERT BAND HELD IN WILDWOOD, NEW JERSEY. THE BOROUGH OF BLOSSBURG CONGRATULATES NORTH PENN HIGH SCHOOL BAND AND OFFERS THEIR GOOD WISHES FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

**ADJOURNMENT:** President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 7:49 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.

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Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary