

# BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## June 11, 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; David Thompson, Sr. Coal Festival Chairman; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the May 14, 2007 meeting were accepted on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. 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 Thomas Bogaczyk; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

**Guests:** David Thompson, Sr., Chairman of the Coal Festival, attended the meeting to thank Council on behalf of the Coal Festival – Car Show and paying for the liability insurance package to cover the Coal Festival activities. Mr. Thompson reported the Coal Festival Committee is applying for a \$5,000.00 grant. If grant monies are received the funds will be put towards the stage. The Coal Festival Committee is interested in opening a Coal Museum on Island Park. The building should be a minimum of 600 sq. ft. Councilmembers and the Borough Solicitor to assist the Coal Festival Committee on the location and plans for building.

David Thompson, Sr. asked what could be done with the bad condition of the property located at 129 Davis Street. The home is in disrepair and the grass is high. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett to obtain name of finance company from Chief Steffen, then send a letter requesting the property to be cleaned up.

Bev Jones reported vehicles are still parking on the Granger Street cul-d-sac. One truck has been parked in the cul-d-sac since Friday. Chief Steffen is to issue a citation. The Borough Solicitor to send a letter to the owner of company trucks. Mr. Barrett and Chief Steffen to work together to get this problem resolved.

### **Reports:**

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

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

Thomas Bogaczyk reported the organization's regular checking account balance is \$706.28. The kitchen remodeling is completed.

(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 May 16, 2007 were printed from the Internet and copied for Councilmembers.

**Reports:**

Bev Jones reported that Angelina's Pizzeria, which is located at 206 Main Street (the Old Borough Hall), is now open. Borough Manager George Lloyd told Councilmembers that Brendyn Stager invited them to tour the old Borough Hall.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman attended Awards Day on Tuesday, June 5, 2007 at North Penn High School to present his Proclamation declaring Tuesday, June 5, 2007 as "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.

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

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

Councilmember Thomas Bogaczyk questioned the use of the old "unmarked" police car for police duties, especially when the car is used in stopping vehicles. Mr. Bogaczyk feels it is not safe for any individual to be pulled over / stopped by an unmarked car. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to continue to use the old car when needed, because the state of Pennsylvania still allows the use of unmarked cars.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Tioga County Development Corporation (TCDC) held 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. Thomas Bogaczyk, James Bogaczyk and George Lloyd attended. "The Enterprise Zone Program is a grant program designed to assist financially disadvantaged communities in preparing and implementing business development strategies within municipal Enterprise Zones. It is a private sector-driven program, compatible with public sector purposes and designed to increase the quantity and quality of available job opportunities within an Enterprise Zone. The purpose is to create a positive, business-friendly economic climate, in a particular geographic area, to stimulate industrial growth and expansion, which will improve the overall economy of the EZP."

The new street signs obtained through a Pine Creek COG Grant are here. Some supplemental signs will need to be ordered, because the Pine Creek COG Grant didn't cover all that were needed.

Borough Secretary Mary Signor will be on vacation July 1 – 9, 2007. She will not be here for the regular scheduled meeting to be held on July 9, 2007. The information required to do the council meeting reports will not be available before Ms. Signor leaves on vacation. Some Councilmembers reported they also would be unable to attend the July 9 council meeting, due to the fact they have plans to be out of town. Cheryl Bubacz made a motion to have the regular scheduled council meeting rescheduled to July 16, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor. The Borough Secretary will do a "Meeting Change Notice" to be advertise in the Wellsboro Gazette.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

**Reports:**

- (I) **Recreation:** The topsoil and seeding is done along the Tioga River at the lower end of Island Park.  
  
The Bob & Marian Jones sign that is located on the football bleachers is to be updated in a new design form.  
  
Tioga County Emergency Services contracted T3 Global Strategies to place geodetic monumentation through out the County. Two (2) markers were placed at Island Park. These markers will be used as future references for aerial photos. One marker is by the pedestrian bridge and the other marker is located behind the football goal posts on west side of field. These monuments, meet the National geodetic survey standards. The markers consist of a metal cap placed on rebar, surrounded by concrete. The overall size of each metal cap is 3 feet deep and 8 inches in diameter and reads "Tioga County Survey Control Point".  
  
Councilmember Tonya McNamara suggested having portable toilets in use at Island Park during Coal Festival and football games. More toilets are needed during these busy gatherings on the park. George Lloyd will bring up at the next Recreation Board meeting.
- (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:** The Blossburg Memorial Library is having a Summer Reading Program every Tuesday June 19 – July 24. There is Story Time (ages 4-8) at 10 A.M. and Book Club (ages 9-12) at 10 A.M. The library is in need of volunteers for the summer reading program. Please contact Shelby Kinsey at 638-2197 if you are interested.  
  
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:** In July the proposed roadwork of tar and chipping will begin.
- (N) **Budget:** Nothing at this time.
- (O) **Blossburg Municipal Authority:** Borough Manager George Lloyd is to contact hydrogeologist Jim Casselberry of Casselberry & Associates, to work out details on the two proposed well drilling sites located at Taylor Run and East Creek.

**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.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**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 did attempt to set up another meeting with Tioga County Tax Office, instead Mr. Barrett is going to send a letter identifying the property lots, including the Borough's request to have these lots tax-exempt.

**3. Electric System Assessment:**

The Penelec major line replacement project is completed in the Blossburg area. Other Penelec jobs are being done in the area. Councilmember Thomas Bogaczyk is requesting a detailed list of the major line improvements from Jody Place of Penelec.

Councilmembers discussed the installation of streetlights for the Blossburg exit / interchange. They suggested involving Penelec in the request. Borough Manager George Lloyd did contact PennDOT, but he didn't get a response back.

Councilmember James Bogaczyk asked to have the streetlights for the Blossburg exit / interchange added to the agenda under "Old Business".

Bev Jones asked if the Taber Street entrance off old Rt. 15 could be marked. Some suggestions were to extend arm on street light and the use of higher watt bulbs.

- 4. Cell Tower Ordinance:** Borough Solicitor contacted Attorney Bill Stokes to discuss the cell tower issues. Mr. Barrett to present draft to Council.
- 5. Engine Brakes Ordinance:** Borough Solicitor hasn't heard anything from PennDOT. Mr. Barrett contacted State Representative Matthew Baker explaining the problems he is having. Representative Baker is to check on the problem.
- 6. Home Grant:** Martha Lloyd Home site located on South Williamson Road has a temporary occupancy permit. Landscaping and paving not done yet.
- 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. Mr. Barrett to follow up on.
- 8. Outside Wood Burning Stoves:** Tioga Borough did final copy of their ordinance. Borough Solicitor to use a combination of Tioga and Canton Borough ordinances for Blossburg. Also, Mr. Barrett is to check on restrictions for inside wood burning stoves.
- 9. Auditor:** 2006 Borough and Authority audit boxes were taken to Lisa Guthrie on April 23, 2007. Blossburg Municipal Authority audit is done. Lisa Guthrie is to start Borough's audit next.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Pool Association Members:**

Carol Tama and George Lloyd need to be re-appointed to the Pool Association. This is a requirement of the Pool Association By-Laws. A motion was made by James Bogaczyk to re-appoint Carol Tama and George Lloyd to the Pool Association; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT AT 8:05 P.M.  
RECONVENED 8:18 P.M. PROPOSED LITIGATION DISCUSSED.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2007 AT THE TIOGA AMERICAN LEGION LOCATED ON RT. 15 NEXT TO THE EWR GRAVEL PIT AND ACROSS FROM THE WILLIAMSON HIGH SCHOOL. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2007.**

**THE ANNUAL LIBRARY GARDEN PARTY FUND RAISER 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.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.

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Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary