

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

January 7, 2008

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

As required by the Borough Code, Mayor John Backman called Blossburg Borough Council Reorganization Meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Room of the Borough Building, 245 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

Attendance: Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, James Holleman, Cheryl Bubacz, James Bogaczyk, Thomas Bogaczyk, Jill Nickerson, Jeffrey Everett; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Ronald Steffen; 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; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; David Jones; Kenneth Hughes; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kefover; Leighton Hill.

Oath: Mayor John Backman administered the Oath to newly elected Councilmembers:

James Holleman, Jill Nickerson, Jeffrey Everett (Each elected 4-year terms).
All terms were result of the elections.

According to the requirements of Borough Codes, the Mayor conducted the election of Council President and Council Vice-President:

Nomination Council President: Jerome Ogden; motion of James Bogaczyk; second, Thomas Bogaczyk.
Motion to cease: Thomas Bogaczyk; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Nomination Council Vice-President: Thomas Bogaczyk; motion of James Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz.
Motion to cease: James Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

Newly elected President Jerome Ogden presided over the other elections and appointments.

Appointment of Borough Solicitor: Patrick J. Barrett, III; motion Thomas Bogaczyk; second, James Bogaczyk.
All in favor.

Appointment of Borough Engineer: William S. Bray; motion Thomas Bogaczyk; second, James Bogaczyk.
All in favor.

Appointment of Borough Auditor: Lisa M. Guthrie; motion Thomas Bogaczyk; second, James Bogaczyk.
All in favor.

Appointment of Borough Secretary-Treasurer: Mary Signor; motion Thomas Bogaczyk; second, James Bogaczyk.
All in favor.

Appointment of Tax Collector for the collection of LST (Local Services Tax): Dorothy Rakoski; motion Thomas Bogaczyk; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Depository for Blossburg Borough: First Citizens National Bank (FCNB); motion Thomas Bogaczyk; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Vehicle, Liability and Workers' Compensation Insurance Carrier: Gannon Associates; motion Thomas Bogaczyk; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Regular Scheduled Council Meetings: The meetings will continue to be held on the second Monday of each month, unless a meeting change is needed. A public notice will be published in the local newspaper for all meeting changes.

Committees of Council: All Committees to remain the same, although some Councilmembers changed Committees; motion Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

GARBAGE: REDEVELOPMENT: SEWER: WATER:

Thomas Bogaczyk	307 Granger Street	638-3688
James Bogaczyk	338 North Williamson Road	638-2933
Jill Nickerson	217 Parkhurst Street	638-2586

BUDGET:

Jerome Ogden	262 South Williamson Road	638-2296
James Holleman	119 Granger Street	638-2527
Thomas Bogaczyk	307 Granger Street	638-3688
James Bogaczyk	338 North Williamson Road	638-2933
Jeffrey Everett	331 South Williamson Road	638-3554

STREETS & ROADS: PROPERTY & BOROUGH EQUIPMENT:

Jerome Ogden	262 South Williamson Road	638-2296
James Holleman	119 Granger Street	638-2527
Thomas Bogaczyk	307 Granger Street	638-3688
James Bogaczyk	338 North Williamson Road	638-2933

LIBRARY:

**(Blossburg Memorial Library Meetings are held Quarterly – Jan-April-July-October
3rd Monday of Month in the Blossburg Memorial Basement at 4:00 P.M.)**

Cheryl Bubacz	236 South Williamson Road	638-3106
Jill Nickerson	217 Parkhurst Street	638-2586

POLICE:

Jerome Ogden	262 South Williamson Road	638-2296
James Holleman	119 Granger Street	638-2527
Cheryl Bubacz	236 South Williamson Road	638-3106
Thomas Bogaczyk	307 Granger Street	638-3688
James Bogaczyk	338 North Williamson Road	638-2933

FIRE:

**(Blossburg Fire Department Meetings are held the 4th Monday of Month in the
Blossburg Fire & Ambulance Building at 7:30 P.M.)**

Cheryl Bubacz	236 South Williamson Road	638-3106
Thomas Bogaczyk	307 Granger Street	638-3688
Jeffrey Everett	331 South Williamson Road	638-3554

RECREATION:

James Bogaczyk	338 North Williamson Road	638-2933
Jill Nickerson	217 Parkhurst Street	638-2586
George Lloyd	205 South Williamson Road	638-2836

TELEVISION:

**(Williamson Road TV Co. Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of Month in the
Blossburg Borough Council Room at 7:00 P.M.)**

Cheryl Bubacz	236 South Williamson Road	638-3106
James Bogaczyk	338 North Williamson Road	638-2933

KCC:

Cheryl Bubacz	236 South Williamson Road	638-3106
Thomas Bogaczyk	307 Granger Street	638-3688

MONUMENT:

Jerome Ogden	262 South Williamson Road	638-2296
James Holleman	119 Granger Street	638-2527

SHADE TREE COMMISSION:

Martha Bastian	301 Granger Street	638-3293
Jeffrey Everett	331 South Williamson Road	638-3554
William Novitske, Jr.	230 South Williamson Road	638-2455

VACANCY BOARD:

Anthony Lupkowski	209 Ruah Street	638-2306
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Temporary Outdoor Furnace Committee: A motion to set up a "temporary" Outdoor Furnace Committee was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

OUTDOOR FURNACE:

James Holleman	119 Granger Street	638-2527
Cheryl Bubacz	236 South Williamson Road	638-3106
James Bogaczyk	338 North Williamson Road	638-2933

A motion was made by Cheryl Bubacz to exchange two committee members names from the Fire Committee to the Television Committee, because of conflict scheduled meeting times - Jeffrey Everett will be on the Fire Committee and James Bogaczyk will be on the Television Committee; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor. *(The above listings of Committees of Council already reflect the changes.)*

Minutes: The minutes of the December 10, 2007 meeting were accepted on motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Holleman. All in favor.

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

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

Guests: Mr. Leighton Hill, 101 Hannibal Street is a resident of Blossburg Borough. He was attending tonight's meeting for observation.

Outside Wood Burning Stoves:

Kenneth Hughes, 108 William B. Street; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kefover, 108 Bleker Street; David and 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".

Outside Wood Burning Stoves will be discussed under "Old Business" Item No. 6.

Reports:

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

(B) **KCC:** Charles Freeberg reported the organization's regular checking account balance is \$262.22.

Mr. Freeberg stated most people use their cell phones. He suggested having the telephone disconnected in the KCC building to help cut back on expenses. Councilmembers asked Borough Manager George Lloyd to contact the telephone company asking if it would be possible the KCC telephone line could be shared with the pool telephone service. James Bogaczyk made a motion to have the KCC building telephone bill be forwarded to the Borough Secretary, bill to be paid through the General Fund. Expenses were budgeted in the 2008 Borough Budget for KCC building; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

With only a minimum balance in the KCC checking account, Thomas Bogaczyk made a motion to have a \$500.00 check from the Blossburg Borough General Fund made payable to the KCC Building for the purpose of paying bills; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

Reports:

(C) Committee Business Development:

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) V.I.B.E. meetings are held on third Wednesday of the month in the community room of the Blossburg Memorial Library at 6:00 P.M.

No meeting was held in December.

V.I.B.E. Minutes for November 28, 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, was installed. Old sign and flower box to be removed.

V.I.B.E. applied for a \$4,100.00 grant from Tioga County Visitors Bureau and the County Commissioners to be used for marketing the Endless Mountain Music Festival (EMMF) to be held in Blossburg on August 1, 2008, as "Music Meets Memories: A Weekend in Blossburg" and the Blossburg-North Penn Alumni Reunion Banquet on August 2, 2008. The goal of this project is to draw people into Blossburg for the weekend and "substantially increase overnight stays in Tioga County, as well as increase appreciation for fine arts, our local history and community ties." The funding comes from the county's hotel room tax. The award announcements will be at the February Commissioners meeting.

V.I.B.E. plans to reapply for Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) skate park grant.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR AT 7:10 P.M. RECONVENED 8:15 P.M. POSSIBLE LITIGATION DISCUSSED.

(D) Mayor: Nothing to report.

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

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

The Police Report was revised as requested at the December 10, 2007 Council meeting. Councilmember James Bogaczyk, for a second time, asked for the Police Report to be checked for typing and spelling errors before copied for Council.

Interviews for part-time police officers positions were held with Richard Kotch and Kent Warner. The department hopes to have Chad Buttorff back for work 1 Day / Week.

Old fire truck was sold to Costy's Auto Salvage. Police car is being parked back at Fire Hall.

(F) Police Committee: Nothing further to report.

(G) Borough Manager:

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

Reports:

Tioga County Tax Preferential Program:

Borough Manager George Lloyd asked Council to reconsider the Tioga County Tax Abatement Program.

Councilmembers discussed and declined to do the Tax Preferential Program at the November 12, 2007 Council meeting.

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. Boundary areas eligible for these tax abatements need to be established through ordinance or resolution. At least one (1) public hearing must be held.

“Tax Abatement Program is a very effective economic development tool for any profit business in a designated area in our county who constructs new buildings and/or undertakes major renovations to an existing building adding real estate tax value. A company can receive a tax abatement for the new tax value assessed on their building(s) for a five (5) year period. The taxes generated are new taxes and do not affect the existing real estate which is currently assessed.”

After a discussion, Councilmembers agreed to research the Tax Abatement Program and scheduled a committee meeting on January 10, 2008 at 10:00 A.M. in the Council Room of the Borough Building. Councilmembers to attend meeting are Jerome Ogden, James Holleman, Thomas Bogaczyk, James Bogaczyk and Borough Manager George Lloyd.

The Tax Abatement Program is to be added to the 2008 February agenda.

A Riverside resident, that uses / drives a motorized wheel chair, requested a caution light be installed on the corner of Carpenter and Main Street. Councilmembers discussed this possibility, but thought this would be a very expensive project. This intersection is bad, but the intersection at Hannibal and Main Street is also bad. Anyone crossing these two intersections should use extreme caution. To help visibility, the Police Department will keep drivers from parking their vehicles in the yellow painted curb areas and ticket violators.

(H) Planning Commission:

No applications were submitted. No meeting.

Organization meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2008.

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting.

(I) Recreation: No Meeting.

The Blossburg Pool Association was awarded a \$275,000.00 grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to remodel the Island Park Pool.

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

Reports:

(K) **Television:** Board meetings are second Tuesday of month.
Councilmembers reported to Jerome Ogden that several channels have problems.

(L) **Library:** Nothing to report.

(M) **Street Committee:** Nothing to report.

(N) **Budget:** Nothing to report.

(O) **Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):**

Blossburg Municipal Authority decided to have the 0.5 MG tank removed from Lynd Street site. The demolition to start soon.

Taylor Run Management Report completed by Forester. Plan to be reviewed and meeting set up to discuss.

Blossburg Municipal Authority to apply for an \$8,000.00 PENNSTEP Grant to be used for water line installation materials. BMA will be responsible for labor costs.

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.

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett suggested the item be removed from agenda.

Remove from agenda. Motion of James Holleman; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

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

4. **Engine Brakes Ordinance:** Borough Solicitor reported that PennDOT is reluctant to do anything about engine brakes.

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett suggested the item be removed from agenda.

Remove from agenda. Motion of James Holleman; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

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.

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett suggested the item be removed from agenda.

Remove from agenda. Motion of James Holleman; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

6. Outside Wood Burning Stoves:

A new "temporary" Outdoor Furnace Committee was appointed earlier tonight. The new committee to review suggested corrections to proposed ordinance. The revised "Outside Wood Furnace Ordinance" to be ready for review on February 11, 2008, the next scheduled Council meeting.

7. Streetlights for the Blossburg Exit / Interchange:

A letter is to be drafted requesting streetlights for the Blossburg exit / interchange. The letter is to include reasons for the request and letters of support from the surrounding townships and local businesses.

8. Phelps Property on Davis Street – The Generic Bar – Robinson Property on Schuylkill Street:

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett suggested these items be removed from agenda.

Remove items from agenda. Motion of James Holleman; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Re-Appointments to Committees & Boards (Last term Year 2007):

Motion to accept resignation of Recreation Board Member Raymond Kaminski: Motion of James Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

Appointment to Recreation Board: Raymond Kaminski replacement – Thomas Augustine, 525 Granger Street; Motion of James Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

2. Upper Pine Creek Council of Governments Proposed Amendment:

Municipalities from McKean County have expressed interest in joining. The Upper Pine Creek Council of Governments are asking Blossburg Borough if permission should be granted,

Motion was made by James Bogaczyk granting permission for municipalities of McKean County to join the Upper Pine Creek Council of Governments; second, Cheryl Bubacz. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

3. **PennDOT Agility Agreement / Resolution:**

The PennDOT Agility Agreement is required to be renewed every five (5) years. Motion to pass the 2008 PennDOT Agility Agreement was made by James Bogaczyk; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

4. **Accept Gannon Insurance Package 2008:**

Motion to accept 2008 Gannon Associates insurance quote was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

5. **Appoint Richard Williams as Emergency Coordinator:**

Richard Williams was appointed as Blossburg Emergency Service Coordinator on December 8, 2003. The State never received all of Mr. Williams's required paperwork. Denny Colegrove, EMA Coordinator, Tioga County Emergency Services, is requesting the Blossburg Borough to resubmit the required forms.

Appointment to Serve as Blossburg Emergency Coordinator: Richard Williams, 107 South Williamson Road – Motion of Cheryl Bubacz; second, James Bogaczyk. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

INVITATION FROM PSAB FOR PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC OFFICIALS DAY LUNCHEON TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 10, 2008 AT THE FARM SHOW BUILDING, HARRISBURG BUILDING.

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2008 AT THE WREN'S NEST RESTAURANT, 102 WEST WELLSBORO STREET, MANSFIELD, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. WITH A DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 8:42 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary