

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

August 11, 2008

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 Thomas Bogaczyk; Councilmembers Jill Nickerson, James Holleman, Cheryl Bubacz, James Bogaczyk, (absent, Jeffrey Everett (on vacation)); Mayor John Backman; (late, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett); (absent, Chief Ronald Steffen); Corporal Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) Member Tonya McNamara; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Bev Jones; Kenneth Hughes.

Minutes: The minutes of the July 14, 2008 meeting were accepted on motion of James Bogaczyk; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Cheryl Bubacz. 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:** Councilmembers suggested having a letter sent to Principal David asking if any student(s) would be interested in attending the Council meetings. Councilmembers feel this would be a way to have the student(s) get involved in community activities, experience our local government and report on school happenings. The student(s) recruited may possibly use their time towards the school civic duty requirement.

(B) **KCC:** No report.

(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.

V.I.B.E. Minutes were not available to be printed off the Internet.

Tonya McNamara reported on V.I.B.E. topics:

The Wood / Anthony Building owners were paid \$12,000.00 for the completion of their building façade. Other façade improvements in process are: The Bloss Hardware, the Borough Building and Matt Tompkins is working on a façade design for the downtown plaza.

Stoudt's Electric is adding more lighting to the "Welcome Sign" located North Main Street.

"Music Meets Memories" event went well.

V.I.B.E. is planning on doing a recycling booth for the Fall Festival.

The organization hopes to do another newsletter.

Reports:

Skate Park: DCNR Grant Application was mailed. May have a reply in December.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman contacted a qualified military workforce requesting all four (4) Model 4.7 Cannons to be de-milled, sand blasted and painted as necessary. The cannons to be repaired in Blossburg are: Blossburg Borough Island Park, American Legion Post 572, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8730. American Legion Post 167, Morris Run, PA is the fourth cannon on the repair list.

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

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

Corporal McCurdy presented a report on Tasers to Councilmembers. The cost for the Taser is \$809.95. Cartridges are sold separately at the cost of approximately \$23.00 each. Training is a requirement and would be an additional charge of \$275.00 per officer. The Police Department is looking into state grants to cover the costs. Councilmember James Bogaczyk asked Corporal McCurdy to get a package together and give to the budget committee in the event the state grants do not come through.

After a discussion, Councilmembers decided to authorize Corporal McCurdy to become a Taser instructor. Council thought they could save money by certifying Corporal McCurdy. He could teach the Blossburg Borough officers, as well as other district personnel needing instructions in use of Taser equipment. Upcoming 2-day Taser classes are scheduled throughout the state. The next scheduled class is all reserved. Councilmember Thomas Bogaczyk made a motion to have Corporal McCurdy check the locations of Taser schooling and get registered ASAP to become a Taser instructor; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

Corporal McCurdy to report back to Council at next month's meeting on all findings.

(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 Borough Manager reported on the following items:

East Resources has contacted the Borough about gas exploration at the old landfill.

A training workshop for local government officials and planners on natural gas exploration and drilling with a focus on the Marcellus shale will be held on August 21, 2008 at Tioga County Penn State Cooperative Extension Office, Courthouse Annex, 118 Main Street, Wellsboro, PA.

The local Cub Scout Pack 69 and Boy Scout Troop 69 are to participate in the 2008 Opening Ceremonies of the Little League World Series that is being held in Williamsport, PA on August 15, 2008. The Troop Leaders requested a police escort out of town. All Councilmembers agreed to allow the police department to escort the Scout motorcade out of town.

Reports:

(H) Planning Commission:

Meeting of July 29, 2008. The new pool renovations were presented for review. A letter of support will be sent.

Elections were held due to passing of Coral Stocum. Ralph Mundis is Chairperson. Nathan McNamara is Vice-Chairperson.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

Borough Manager is waiting on replies from nominated replacement names for Zoning Board member Jeffrey Manikowski.

(I) Recreation: No meeting.

Recreation Board received a check in the amount of \$417.00 from Lewis and Clark Circus for using Island Park on June 30, 2008.

(J) Fire: No report.

A letter was sent explaining the Act 8 of 2008 (House Bill 1133) and asking the Fire Department to meet with the Blossburg Borough Budget Committee for the 2009 budget.

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

No meeting last month.

(L) Library: The annual Library Garden Party fundraiser was held on July 27, 2008 at the Hamilton Club in Morris Run. The fundraiser was a success.

Librarian Shelby Kinsey gave a technology plan for upgrading the equipment in the library.

The 4-day Computer classes were excellent. There are plans to do the classes again.

The Library is planning to take advantage of the Main Street Façade Program.

(M) Street Committee: Nothing to report.

(N) Budget: A "Statement of Revenues and Expenditures – Compared to Budget" report was copied for Council to review. All totals were up to and including July 31, 2008.

(O) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):

A "separate" list of delinquent accounts was presented to Council for permission to write off the amounts since they are not collectable. These delinquent accounts have been on the records for years. The amounts mentioned were not collected because of i.e. sheriff, judicial or tax sales, foreclosures, deaths, etc.

Reports:

A few suggestions by Councilmembers: 1) New guidelines to shorten response times. 2) Monthly billings. 3) Bill only delinquents monthly.

No action was taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR AT 7:35 P.M. RECONVENED 7:50 P.M. POSSIBLE LITIGATION DISCUSSED.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

The Borough Manager gave information to the Borough Solicitor.

2. Cell Tower Ordinance: Borough Solicitor sent to another lawyer for his review.

3. Borough Building Repairs / Estimates:

Borough Manager George Lloyd is working on prices for concrete work and window replacements.

4. Island Park Oil & Gas Lease:

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett is researching East Resources proposed lease and putting together a plan to submit for bid.

5. List of Homes to Start Condemnation Proceedings:

An independent contractor inspected three (3) homes on August 1, 2008 to verify if homes meet the requirements to be condemned.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Central Westmoreland C.O.G. / Resolution:

A letter from Central Westmoreland C.W.C.O.G. was received for a yearly permanent associate membership from September 30th to September 30th. The requirement for renewal is to renew membership at a public hearing by resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 3:

Be it resolved that the Borough of Blossburg will accept the yearly permanent associate membership with Central Westmoreland C.O.G. for \$150.00 per model year, which will allow the Borough to purchase all vehicles and equipment listed in the C.W.C.O.G. brochure under the bid award for that model year was made. Motion was made by Cheryl Bubacz; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jerome Ogden closed the meeting at 7:52 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary