

# BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## February 1, 2010

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President James J. Bogaczyk 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:** (absent, Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk (in Florida)); Second Vice-President Jill Nickerson; Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jeffrey Everett, Mark Bowne, Roger Bunn; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Corporal Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Kenneth Hughes, Leighton Hill and Josh Jones.

**Minutes:** Correction on January 4, 2010 minutes:

Nomination of officers: Vice-President Thomas Bogaczyk offered to resign his seat on Council, for the reason of his absences during his winter stay in Florida. Councilmembers didn't see a problem with his nonattendance during this period of time and would like Thomas Bogaczyk to remain on Council.

The minutes of the January 4, 2010 meeting were accepted on motion of Jeffrey Everett; second, Roger Bunn. All in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:** Report accepted subject to audit on motion of Jeffrey Everett; second, Mark Bowne. All in favor.

**Bills:** Bills to be paid on motion of Jeffrey Everett; second, Mark Bowne. All in favor.

**Guests:** None present.

### **Reports:**

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

(B) **KCC:** Borough is scheduling the rentals of KCC Building.

David Grinnell is repairing motion lights inside the building. Councilmember Jeffrey Everett stated the building still needs more front door lighting.

Borough Manger George D. Lloyd reported on the C.O.P.S. Monitoring security system for the building. The yearly cost is \$170.00. The alarm responds to 911 and four (4) additional assigned telephone numbers. Mr. Lloyd and Corporal Joshua McCurdy would be two contacts. Motion to purchase the C.O.P.S. Monitoring was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

### (C) **Committee Business Development:**

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) meetings are held on fourth Wednesday of the month in the KCC Building on Island Park at 6:00 P.M.

Councilmember Jill Nickerson reported V.I.B.E. is working on summer projects: Famers Market and Community Garden.

**Skate Park:** Mrs. Nickerson is working on finalizing Skate Park Grant papers.

**Reports:**

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman stated the Borough Code of Ordinances needs to be updated. There are ordinances that are obsolete and others that need to be revised. An Ordinance Review Committee will be appointed in March. This item is to be added to next month's agenda.

A definition of family needs to be clarified. The housing and rental properties need to be monitored as to how many persons per unit are permitted. Borough Solicitor is to review and bring back to Council for the next meeting.

Mayor Backman requested lights be added around the Island Park cannon to prevent vandalism.

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

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

Corporal McCurdy stated he will add a "Non-Traffic" column to the monthly Police report. The judge sets the charges on "Non-Traffic" and these fines are not set, until the person pleads guilty or found guilty.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Roger Bunn; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

Southern Tioga School Board voted to keep North Penn High School open.

Councilmember Jerome Ogden made a motion to change the regular Council Meeting back to the second Monday of the month; second, Roger Bunn.

After a brief discussion, some Councilmembers stated they would like to keep attending the school board meetings. The Community is still being encouraged to support and keep updated in the decisions regarding repairs or new construction on the Blossburg schools.

"Amend Motion": A motion was made by Jill Nickerson to change regular Council Meetings from the second Monday of the month to the third Monday of the month, until further notice; second, Jeffrey Everett. Vote was held, unanimous. All in favor. Meeting change to be advertised

(H) **Planning Commission:** No meeting. A meeting was scheduled, but cancelled due to no quorum.

**Zoning Hearing Board:** A meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. to discuss St. Andrews Church & Hall to be made into apartment buildings. Convert the church into six (6) apartments and the hall into three (3) apartments.

(I) **Recreation:**

Recreation Board was given a copy of proposed Recreation budget outline.

Richard (Pete) Hall to bring in the Recreation check book. The account will be closed out and all revenues and expenditures will be distributed through the Blossburg Borough General Fund.

**Reports:**

**(I) Recreation:**

Island Park Storm Drain Project: Subsurface piping, rain garden. To be located at lower end of Island Park, between KCC Building and Pedestrian Bridge. Project cost: \$11,159.00 (materials - \$8,483.00 / in-kind service - \$2,676.00. Borough is applying for grant money. Acknowledgement of grant approval should be next month.

Pool: Checking other zero access footers for proper elevation. Pool construction is down until spring.

The 2009 Blossburg Borough \$5,000.00 pledge for the pool renovation project was paid on January 28, 2010. Council President James Bogaczyk requested to have the Borough's yearly pledge be paid in June of each year. Five year pledge – 2009 to 2013. Motion made by Jerome Ogden; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

**(J) Fire:** A Financial Report and copy of minutes were received.

Councilmembers Jeffrey Everett and Roger Bunn attended the monthly meeting.

The Blossburg Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Association's annual Appreciation Banquet is being planned.

**(K) Library:** Councilmember Roger Bunn attended the last meeting and reported on the following items:

Upcoming fundraisers:           April 3, 2010 – Chicken BBQ  
  April 24, 2010 – Super Bingo  
  July 25, 2010 – Annual Garden Party

Received a \$10,000.00 Ward Foundation Grant.  
Volunteers are needed to work in Library.  
Reviewing personnel policy.  
Library goals and mission statement is being worked on.  
Due to decrease in funding, the Library will be closed on Saturdays.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2010.

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

**(M) Budget:** Nothing at this time.

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

BMA meeting will be held tomorrow night.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Southern Tioga School District Plans for Closing North Penn High School:**

Discussed under Borough Manager Report.

Councilmember Jill Nickerson reported the Save Our Schools (S.O.S.) group will become a Parent Teacher Association (P.T.A.) and use the remaining \$2,500.00 to fund school programs.

**2. Newly Elected Municipal Officials Training:**

Councilmember Roger Bunn reported he attended the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) training for newly elected Municipal Officials and it was an excellent class.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY PRESIDENT JAMES J. BOGACZYK AT 7:23 P.M.  
RECONVENED 8:10 P.M. PERSONNEL ISSUES DISCUSSED.**

Discussion was on the present Police Department. Motion was made by Jerome Ogden on hiring Corporal Joshua McCurdy as the new Borough Chief of Police. Salary was set at \$27,500.00 for a six-month probationary period, after which will increase to \$30,000.00. Insurances will remain the same (coverage on himself, no dependents); second, Mark Bowne. A vote was held, unanimous. All in favor

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. \$400,000.00 Obligation Note – Swimming Pool & Capital Related:**

Documents of approval from the Department of Community and Economic Development were received. Motion for acknowledgement of receipt and approval authorizing the Council President and the Borough Secretary signatures in the \$400,000.00 loan closing with First Citizens National Bank was made by Jeffrey Everett; second, Mark Bowen. All in favor.

**2. TCAB Dinner – Blossburg Borough Host for March:**

Thursday, March 18, 2010 was decided as the date. Location to be the Blossburg Fire and Ambulance Building. The Blossburg Fire Department Auxiliary will be providing the meal. Ed Boardman, Customer Service of Marketing, Endless Mountains Transportation Authority (E.M.T.A.) will give a presentation on Public Transportation and Shared-Ride services which are vital to the residents of Bradford, Sullivan and Tioga Counties.

**3. Mansfield Request on YMCA for Blossburg to be a Participant:**

The Borough of Mansfield in conjunction with both Richmond and Covington Townships are in the process of establishing a regional center at the Mansfield Armory. Councilmembers James J. Bogaczyk and Roger Bunn would like to know more information. Mrs. Nickerson to contact Mansfield and bring information back to Council.

**4. Island Park Open Hours:**

Leighton Hill questioned Island Park hours. He would like to have the Island Park gate closed during certain hours to help as a deterrent against vandalism. A discussion was held. Island Park hours to remain the same.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**5. Gas Lease:**

Councilmember Jeffrey Everett brought forward the idea that possibly all Blossburg residents join together in a commonly beneficial gas lease agreement, eliminating the middle man. Borough Manager George Lloyd to investigate if this arrangement is possible.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. **TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2010 AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 6 BOARD STREET, TIOGA, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2010.**
2. **SPRING CLEANUPS: SPRING CLEANUP IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 26 – APRIL 30, 2010. ITEMS FOR PICKUP SHOULD BE PUT OUT ON SATURDAY OR SUNDAY NIGHT, APRIL 24 – 25, 2010. ALL ITEMS MUST BE OUT BY TUESDAY NIGHT. ALL SPRING CLEANUP ITEMS WILL BE PICKED UP BY FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2010.**

**ISLAND PARK CLEANUP IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2010, WITH THE RAIN DATE SET FOR MAY 8, 2010.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** President James J. Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 8:37 P.M.

**Next Council Meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2010 at 6:30 P.M.**

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Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary