

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

August 8, 2011

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Thomas 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: Vice-President Jill Nickerson; Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jeffrey Everett, (absent, Cheryl Bubacz (vacation)), Roger Bunn, Jolene Hall; Mayor John Backman; (absent, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett (ill)); (absent, Chief Joshua McCurdy); Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Rebecca Hazen Wellsboro Gazette; Bev Jones; Kenneth Hughes.

Minutes: The minutes of the July 11, 2011 meeting were accepted on motion of Jolene Hall; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

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

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Jolene Hall; second, Roger Bunn. All in favor.

Guests: Bev Jones asked about the seismic survey testing that is to be done in the Blossburg area. President Thomas Bogaczyk reported only wires and vibration would be used, no blasting is to occur.

Reports:

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

(B) **KCC:** Partners in Progress have been using the building for the summer. The group should be moving out by August 19, 2011.

(C) **Committee Business Development:**

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) meetings are usually held on fourth Wednesday of the month in the KCC Building on Island Park at 7:00 P.M.

V.I.B.E. Minutes were not available from the Internet.

V.I.B.E. topics: (1) Fall Festival is scheduled October 16, 2011 from 12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Vendors will be charged a \$10.00 table fee. Contact person is Jackie Smith. (2) Planning on doing a "spot light" advertisement for the new businesses on Main Street.

Skate Park: Two (2) "Skate Park" informational signs are on order.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman reported the Hydro Recovery Plant is open.

President Thomas Bogaczyk presented Mayor Backman with a walking cane for the great job the Mayor Backman did during the May 26, 2011 storm. The walking cane was made by President Thomas Bogaczyk and the wood was from an Island Park white pine tree root.

Reports:

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

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Roger Bunn; second, Jeffrey Everett.
All in favor.

Chief McCurdy was absent. He took his new baby boy to the hospital for a hearing test.

A discussion was held on the increase of traffic and people due to the Marcellus Shale development. With this increase there has been a shortage of parking places close to the businesses that people want to patronize. A letter will be sent to all Main Street and Riverside businesses asking their employee's to park behind their stores, in parking lots next to the Tioga River, or behind the Borough Building. This should free up more parking spaces in front of the stores for paying customers.

Two parking spacing on Main Street need to be taken out, for the reason of poor visibility while pulling onto Main Street. One parking space is in front of the Bloss Hardware and the other parking space is the last parking space on the west side of Main Street, heading South. Jeffrey Everett made a motion to have the two parking spaces removed; second, Roger Bunn. Jerome Ogden opposed the motion.

Use of Electronic Read Out Speed Signs: Purchase prices of signs are to be acquired. A price to be reviewed before a purchase is made.

(F) Police Committee: Nothing further to report.

(G) Borough Manager:

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Jill Nickerson; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

Mr. Lloyd reported the Borough is eligible for financial assistance under the Robert Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (FEMA and PEMA) for reimbursement of funds, over \$1,000.00, for the storm damage washout in April 2011. A "Designation of Agent Resolution" is a requirement designating George D. Lloyd as agent for Borough to execute all required forms and documents to obtain financial assistance. Motion to delegate George D. Lloyd to do paperwork for the Robert Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (FEMA and PEMA) was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Jeffrey Everett. All in favor.

(H) Planning Commission: No meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(I) Recreation:

A person was at meeting to discuss fixing up the hardball baseball field. The individual will workup a price and submit to the Borough Manager.

Walking Trail: Borough crew is working on, as time allows. Packer Foundation declined request for funding. For now, the trail will have a gravel base and be 6 ft. wide.

Reports:

Pool: Main Line Pools submitted Invoice #9 for the 5% held back on work completed at the pool. The invoice amount is \$30,261.86. All work is completed.

Potential \$29,500.00 penalties for Main Line Pools, because Island Park pool was not ready by May 17, 2010. Additional consulting / engineering costs paid by Borough, because of bad construction performed by Main Line Pools: \$18,787.90. Motion to pursue penalties and fines was made by Jerome Ogden; second. Jolene Hall. All in favor. Borough Solicitor to review additional consulting / engineering costs of \$18,787.90.

Due to rain, the Pool Renovation Dedication that was to be held on August 6, 2011 from 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. was changed to August 21, 2011.

(J) Fire: No Financial Report was received.

Steve Hall met with Selective Insurance on Worker's Compensation activity schedule.

(K) Library: No meeting.

Library Board to be contacted on possibly changing their meeting time, so Council Library Committee Members would be able to attend the Library Board meeting.

(L) Street Committee: Tar & chipping of streets is done. The loose chips will be brushed up at a later date.

(M) Shade Tree Commission:

The diseased tree on Spring Street was cut down.

The pine trees behind monument were discussed. Every other one will be removed and one will be moved from one area to another.

Borough Solicitor to do a form letter in reference to property owner's responsibility in removing diseased trees.

(N) Budget: 2012 budget preparation to start in September.

(O) Project Committee: Fire and Ambulance Departments "Thank you" picnic / concert, for their help with Island Park cleanup after the May 26, 2011 storm damage, will be held on August 27, 2011 at 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Jill Nickerson to do presentation thank you.

(P) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):

Working on trying to locate water infiltration into sewer system.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Nothing to report. All going as planned.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. Borough Code of Ordinances – Update:

Nothing at this time.

Preliminary Editorial Report was reviewed with Keystate Publishers on November 30, 2010. Nothing received yet. Process is taking longer than originally thought.

Councilmembers requested a projected date as to when update will be received. A letter is to be sent to Keystate Publishers.

3. Condemned Properties Update:

(1) Schuylkill Street property owner has a Demolition Permit. An extension was granted due to the terrible weather conditions this past spring. Demolition to start next week. (2) South Williamson Road properties are to be sold soon.

4. Sidewalk Repair Letter: The Borough Solicitor to review and approve letter. Letters to be sent certified giving resident's notice of their sidewalk repair. All letters to be kept on file.

5. Reduce Speed Limit on Old Rt. 15:

Remove from agenda. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

6. New Flood Plain Ordinance:

The "draft" New Flood Plain Ordinance was reviewed and approved by Councilmembers, then was sent to Tioga County Conservation. FEMA was to review by April 1, 2011. Since no updates have been received, Borough Manager George Lloyd contacted Mary Guimond of Tioga County Emergency. Ms. Guimond response was the proposed flood maps are wrong. Some homes are designated as being in Flood Plain that were not before. The problem is not just in Pennsylvania, but in the whole country and probably will take awhile to straighten out.

Project to be started over.

Remove from agenda. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

7. Review New Employee Applications:

David Grinnell quit on April 15, 2011. A replacement is needed. The position was advertised. A few new applications were received. A test for math knowledge will be part of the job requirement. Applicants will be contacted.

Borough Manager is working on.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. New Electrical Service Behind the Downtown Monument:

Councilmember Jeffrey Everett acknowledged a new quality / appealing electrical service is needed behind the downtown monument. The new service would be an asset for special events being held. All Councilmembers agreed. Borough Manager is to ask Stoudt's Electric for an estimated cost.

2. Borough Building Upgrades:

New Council Room windows need to be replaced. The new windows are in budget. George D. Lloyd is to get with contractor for purchase and installation. Quotes to have the Borough Building power washed were discussed.

3. Borough E-mail Address:

Bev Jones suggested having the Borough e-mail address added to the Borough letterhead stationery. All Councilmembers agreed adding the Borough's e-mail address was an excellent idea.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: President Thomas Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 8:05 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary