

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

December 11, 2013

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, Paul Hosszu, Jolene Hall, (absent, Stephen Wagner, James Rakoski); Mayor John Backman; (Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett (left for Florida at 7:05 P.M.)); Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; (absent, Tylia Porter NPHS Student Representative); Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Shane Nickerson; Diane Barrett – Borough Solicitor's wife.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 13, 2013 meeting were accepted on motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

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

Bills: Bills to be paid on motion of Jill Nickerson; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Guests: Shane Nickerson was attending for observation. Mr. Nickerson was elected in the November election and will be sworn in, as Mayor, January 2014.

Mrs. Barrett came to tonight's meeting with Mr. Barrett. After the meeting, they will be leaving for a vacation in Florida.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** Tylia Porter was absent.

(B) **KCC:** Councilmembers discussed if they should hold future Council Meetings at the KCC Building. A few concerns with moving are: (1) Kiwanis items need to be donated to the Borough. (2) The building would need to be upgraded – meeting layout, tables, chairs, etc. (3) Extra expenses with the upgrading and the extra use of utilities were not included in the 2014 budget. (4) Interference with same night scheduled sports activities. (5) Some councilmembers feel no more people would attend meetings, even with the new location.

President Thomas Bogaczyk requested a roll call to change the location of the Blossburg Borough Council meetings to the KCC Building on Island Park.

Roll Call: No – Thomas Bogaczyk, Jerome Ogden
Yes – Jill Nickerson, Jolene Hall, Paul Hosszu

Motion carried. Blossburg Borough Council meetings will be held on Island Park in the KCC Building starting February 2014.

Reports:

(C) Committee Business Development:

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

Councilmember Jill Nickerson reported Small Town Christmas, which was held on November 30, 2013 was a success.

(D) Mayor: Nothing to report.

Tonight is the last night Mayor Backman will be attending Blossburg Council meetings as Mayor, but plans to attend the January 2014 reorganization meeting as a guest. Mayor Backman has been Mayor three (3) months short of 15 years.

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

The Police Report was accepted on motion of Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Correction to Police Report: Dated as October 2013. Should be dated November 2013.

Department received a donation from the Blossburg V.F.W. Post 8730, in the amount of \$1,300.00. Monies were used to purchase a shooter package and entry tools. A thank you will be sent to the V.F.W., from the Chief, for the generous gift.

(F) Police Committee: Nothing to report.

(G) Borough Manager:

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Mr. Lloyd presented floor plans for the new Borough Garage, which is to be built on Island Park and funded through the Act 13 Budget.

Mr. Lloyd asked to purchase a new 2015 Ford F-350, which will be available in January 2014, instead of the 2014 Ford F-350 which was previously approved by Council. The 2014 is only available in white, but the 2015 is available in yellow, the color preferred for borough equipment. The truck will still be received approximately the same time the 2014 was to be received. Motion was made by Paul Hosszu to purchase the 2015 Ford F-350, instead of the 2014 Ford F-350; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: A meeting was held on November 19, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. to hear Bruce Toothaker's special exemption request to repair and sell small equipment at 114 South Williamson Road. There were no objections from neighbors. ZHB members approved request.

(I) Recreation:

Still working on the printing requirements for the Blossburg Area United Fund mailers.

Reports:

Island Park River Walk: People are still using the walking trial, but there are concerns if it would become icy. George D. Lloyd is to look into purchasing a smaller plow and a salt / cinder spreader to use on the walk way.

(J) **Fire:** No Financial Report or Minutes were received.

Annual Christmas Party went well.

Department applied for a State Grant. Monies to be used for pagers.

(K) **Library:** Councilmembers commented the December 8, 2013 Open House was “warm and welcoming”.

The Library Board requested a donation from the Borough for money to help balance the Library Budget. The State has mandated the Library must be open 35 – 45 hours per week. The Library Board has sent letters to the surrounding areas and organizations requesting monies. Council decided to wait on any action until all other donations have been received by the Library. A Financial Report may be requested at that time.

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

(M) **Shade Tree Commission:** Jill Nickerson to advertise a Public Hearing to be held on January 22, 2014 at the KCC Building at 6:30 P.M. Agenda will be the Main Street trees.

A plan of action for care and replacements needs to be prepared for the Island Park trees.

(N) **Budget:**

Proposed 2014 Budget: \$895,101.00 Revenues/Expenses. (No tax increase.)
Borough: 5.807 Mills – Fire: .568 Mills – Library: .250 Mills.
Effective rate: 6.625 mills.

Motion to accept the 2014 Budget, as presented, was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

A meeting was scheduled for December 19, 2013 at 4:30 P.M. to revisit the 2014 Budget. The Blossburg Memorial Library budget deficit and the Police coverage increased hours to be discussed.

(O) **Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):** A company is to reline sewer main lines next week.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Southern Tioga School District (STSD) Plans:** Nothing to report.

2. **Borough Code of Ordinances – Update:**

A “Final Draft” letter was received, with Keystate Publishers recommendations and changes. Comments were reviewed and changes e-mailed to Keystate Publishers. Keystate Publishers are reviewing changes suggested by Council.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chief McCurdy and Borough Manager George Lloyd reviewed stop signs throughout town. Revised list is completed and will be submitted to Keystate Publishers for the updated Borough Code of Ordinances.

3. Condemned Properties Update:

- (1) 127 Schuylkill Street – Property was sold to local contractor.
- (2) 101 Post Street – Condition of property was checked by independent contractor on December 10, 2013. Borough Solicitor will do a Title search, send a register letter to the property owner / mortgage holder, and file through the court. Lien is already on property.
- (3) 134 Taber Street – Property owner plans to raze house in next few months.

4. New Electrical Service Behind the Downtown Monument:

Nothing to report. Stoudt's Electric is working on 200 AMP design for Josh Jones. Cost to be approximately \$5,000.00. Mike Stoudt to be contacted on update of project.

5. Update Comprehensive Plan:

Finished with Public Hearings. The top five (5) priority strategies are:

1. Develop Park / Recreation Master Plan for Island Park.
2. Revise the zoning and subdivision/land development ordinances to reflect the future vision.
3. Conduct a Market Study/Analysis for the Borough including the Downtown and possibly including the surrounding communities.
4. Develop a coordinated streetscape and downtown improvements plan.
5. Develop Capital Improvement Plan / Program (CIP).

The next scheduled meeting with RETTEW is scheduled on January 8, 2014 at 4:30 and will be held at the Blossburg Memorial Library.

6. Update on Hiring Office Assistant:

Eighteen applicants applied. In reviewing the letters and resumes, six (6) applicants are to be interviewed. Proposed to have two (2) finalists for the January 6, 2014 meeting. Interviewers are: Thomas Bogaczyk, Jill Nickerson, Jerome Ogden, and Mayor.

7. Road Right-of-Way Agreement with PVR:

PVR Partners requested a Temporary Road Right-of-Way Option Agreement, in the amount of \$6,310.00, to use the old landfill access road. The road will be maintained by PVR Partners. Motion to sign Agreement, subject to Borough Solicitor's approval was made at the November 13, 2013 Council Meeting. Mr. Barrett reviewed Agreement and recommends some language changes be made and a new Resolution be prepared.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution No. 9 – Mansfield Regional Valley Group – Water Supply Planning Report:

Mansfield Regional Valley Group recommends forming a Regional Authority. They would like Blossburg Borough Council's approval and two (2) Blossburg area people to be on the Board. Before making a decision, Councilmembers met with Attorney Chris Lantz, Blossburg Municipal Authority, and Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett for more information on this proposal. A meeting was held on November 25, 2013 at 6:30 P.M. in the Borough Council Room. It is noted, the Borough is **not** obligated to remain in this process and can withdraw at any time. Motion to adopt this resolution was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

2. Resolution No. 10 – “Upper Tioga River Regional Authority:

A resolution of the Borough of Blossburg providing a statement of intent; and authorizing the Upper Tioga Regional Valley Group and the Betterment Organization of Mansfield to proceed with the appropriate work necessary to incorporate a joint authority to be known as the “Upper Tioga River Regional Authority”. Motion to adopt this resolution was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

3. Ordinance No. 436: 2014 Tax Ordinance:

Motion that the proposed 2014 Tax Ordinance be adopted as advertised: Borough 5.807 mills / Fire 0.568 mills / Library 0.250 mills, totaling 6.625 mills was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

4. Ordinance No. 437: 2014 Local Services Tax (LST Tax) Ordinance:

Motion to amend Ordinance No. 411 and thereafter amended with respect to Chapter 24, Taxation, Special, to repeal Part 5, Emergency and Municipal Services Tax and to enact a new Part 5 to be entitled Local Services Tax (LST). LST to be increased from \$36.00 per working person to \$52.00 per working person. Motion to adopt this ordinance was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

5. 2014 Fuel Bids (Coverage Period: January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014):

Received as advertised:

<u>Williams Oil & Propane:</u>	Diesel Winter Mix -	\$3.323 per gallon
	Diesel Summer Mix -	\$3.323 per gallon
	Unleaded Medium Grade -	\$3.0366 per gallon
<u>Superior Plus Energy Services:</u>	Diesel Winter Mix -	\$3.4405 per gallon
	Diesel Summer Mix -	\$3.4105 per gallon
	Unleaded Medium Grade -	\$2.9942 per gallon

Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to accept Williams Oil & Propane Diesel Winter Mix and Diesel Summer Mix bids; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to accept Superior Plus Energy Services Unleaded Medium Grade bid; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

6. Re-Appointments to Committees and Boards (Last Term Year 2013):

Re-Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board: Kathryn Wesneski, 263 South Williamson Road declined re-appointment to the ZHB. 5yrs. – Term ending 2018. Lynne Thompson, 127 Carpenter Street agreed to be appointed to the ZNB. Motion to accept Kathryn Wesneski's resignation and appoint Lynne Thompson to the Zoning Hearing Board was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH'S DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2013 AT THE WELLSBORO FIREMAN'S ANNEX BUILDING, EAST AVENUE, WELLSBORO, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 6:30 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: President Thomas Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 8:54 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. in the Blossburg Borough Building Council Room.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary