

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

April 8, 2015

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President James Rakoski 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, (absent, Thomas Bogaczyk (in Florida)), Jolene Hall, Paul Hosszu, (absent, Stephen Wagner); Mayor Shane Nickerson; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Corporal Robert Scott; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette.

Committees of Council: President James Rakoski presented a new list of Committees of Council. Councilmembers discussed and accepted changes to list. The newly revised list is included at end of these minutes.

Minutes: Correction on the March 11, 2015 minutes: Next Council Meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2015.

The minutes of the March 11, 2015 meeting were accepted, with correction, on motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

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

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

Guests: None present.

Reports:

(A) NPHS Student: Vice-President Jill Nickerson will do a brochure explaining the responsibilities of a Junior Council Person, based on Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) requirements. It was suggested that maybe a student could be Junior Council Person as their Senior Project.

(B) Committee Business Development:

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

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

V.I.B.E. projects: (1) Over 100 surveys were received on the Branding Project survey.
(2) Community Yard Sale to be held on April 25, 2015.

(C) Mayor: Mayor Nickerson had a meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 with Steve Hoover from Forestry to look at ash trees around town. The largest ash trees in town are located at the Bed & Breakfast on North Williamson Road, the Blossburg Memorial Library and another is located on Main Street. The cost is \$800.00 - \$900.00 per year to inoculate.

AT END OF MEETING, AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS REQUESTED BY MAYOR NICKERSON. NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN.

Reports:

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

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

Addition to the Police Report: District Magistrate Fines Total - \$596.71.

The new camera purchased for car or as a body camera was sent back for repairs.

The bid / sale of old police car was advertise and bids will be ready for opening next month.

Chief McCurdy is scheduled for surgery. Shifts will be covered by the other patrolman while Chief is off work.

(E) Police Committee: Nothing to report.

(F) Borough Manager:

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

Mr. Lloyd stated Tioga County is under a **Drought Watch**. The declaration was in response to below-normal precipitation over the fall and winter months in addition to low groundwater levels for parts of the Commonwealth, in particular the northeast. "A drought watch is intended to alert government agencies, public water suppliers, water users and the public regarding the onset of conditions indicating the potential for future drought-related problems. The focus during this stage is on increased monitoring, awareness and preparation for response if conditions become worse. A request for voluntary water conservation is made. The objective of voluntary water conservation measures during a drought watch is to reduce water uses by 5% in the affected areas. Because of varying conditions, individual water suppliers or municipalities may be asking for more stringent conservation actions."

The Tioga County GIS Department has a no cost service in creating a GPS/GIS sign inventory data repository and subsequent sign location maps for the surrounding communities. After the work is completed the County will provide the Borough with a map.

(G) Planning Commission: Meeting of March 31, 2015.

Reviewed and approved resident Amber Wetzel, 122 Morris Street to board and train one (1) dog at a time in her home. A Special Exemption is required for this request. Zoning Hearing Board meeting is to be scheduled.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

Reports:

(H) Recreation:

United Fund disbursements decided, contingent on receiving matching funds from Ward Manufacturing.

The Pool Manager position for the 2015 season was advertised. Applicants were interviewed. Recreation Board selected Holly Berguson for the Pool Manager position. Motion to accept Holly Berguson as Pool Manager was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

Advertising for Pool Lifeguards positions this month.

Island Park River Walk: Nothing to report.

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

Departments sponsored their 1st East Egg Hunt.

(J) Library: Nothing to report.

(K) Street Committee: Nothing to report.

(L) Shade Tree Commission: Nothing to report.

(M) Budget: Mr. Lloyd made contact with a Self-Funded Insurance Company that can offer the same health benefits / coverage that employees have now. A meeting is to be set up with Budget Committee to discuss rates.

(N) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):

A ± 35,000 gallons per day leak was repaired along Taber Street.

Frank Wasowicz resigned from the BMA Board. Tim Martin was voted by BMA members to be Mr. Wasowicz's replacement. Motion of Paul Hosszu to appoint Tim Martin to fulfill Frank Wasowicz's remaining term to year ending of 2017; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

BMA member John Eckman requested at the February 11, 2015 Council Meeting for Council to consider increasing the BMA members from 5 to 7, for more input. Councilmembers agreed that any increase of the BMA members should come from the entire BMA Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Southern Tioga School District (STSD) Plans:

STSD is looking into quotes for tearing down the two story section of old high school. Also, they are having the existing administration building appraised for possible sale.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. Borough Code of Ordinances – Update:

Keystone Publishers sent completed "Final Draft". Attorney William Stokes is reviewing Final Draft. Mr. Lloyd to meet with Attorney Stokes on a few additional items: (1) 1 way streets (St. Mary's and Granger). (2) No snow or grass put onto streets. (3) A survey of property must be included in sale of any real estate in the Borough. (4) Hamilton Township Police Protection.

Mr. Lloyd has not met with Attorney Stokes yet, but he would like to get done soon.

3. Condemned Properties Update: 101 Post Street. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett is not having any luck with having Wells Fargo returning his calls.

4. Floodplain Ordinance: Mr. Lloyd working on Floodplain Ordinance with Borough Engineer William S. Bray and Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett to get done before June. Deadline to have ordinance done is July 16, 2015.

Motion to advertise Floodplain Ordinance, when ready, was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

5. Tax Collector Classes:

At the March 11, 2015, it was discussed the cost of \$200.00 for required classes that Tax Collectors attend. Mr. Lloyd asked Council's approval for any funding toward the class. Councilmember Jerome Ogden asked for a total cost the Borough pays Tax Collector each year. Ms. Rakoski's wages were \$6,914.80 for 2014, 3% of all Real Estate Taxes she collects. Motion to pay 50% of required class was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

6. Worker's Compensation:

A Worker's Compensation meeting was scheduled for April 28, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. to discuss Worker's Compensation policies concerning Fire & Ambulance members.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The Upper Tioga River Regional Authority (UTRRA):

The Blossburg Borough received a letter from the Upper Tioga River Regional Authority (UTRRA) asking financial assistance, in the amount of \$5,000.00, to keep moving forward with the Authority's mission to confirm that existing permitted and soon-to-be permitted water sources are adequate to supply water to the new service areas. Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to contribute \$5,000.00 to the UTRRA, contingent on all the other municipalities contributing \$5,000.00; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015 AT TWO LOCATIONS; THE ELKLAND BUSINESS COMMUNITY CENTER, 117 COATES AVENUE AND THE PARKHURST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 302 WEST MAIN STREET. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 5:30 P.M. AT THE ELKLAND BUSINESS COMMUNITY CENTER. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE PARKHURST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. R.S.V.P. BY FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2015.

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH SPRING CLEANUP WEEK OF APRIL 27 - MAY 1, 2015.

**BLOSSBURG BOROUGH ISLAND PARK SPRING CLEANUP ON MAY 2, 2015.
RAIN DATE: MAY 9, 2015 – STARTING TIME: 8:00 A.M.**

ADJOURNMENT: President James Rakoski closed the meeting at 7:37 P.M.

Motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Jill Nickerson. All in Favor.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Blossburg Borough Building Council Room.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary