

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

October 9, 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; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; (absent, Tylia Porter NPHS Student Representative (working)); William Meyers President Riverside Homeowners Association; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 11, 2013 meeting were accepted on motion of Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Report accepted subject to audit on motion of James Rakoski; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

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

Guests: William Meyers President Riverside Homeowners Association was attending for observation.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** Tylia Porter is the new NPHS student representative for Council. Ms. Porter did not attend tonight's meeting, because she had to work.

(B) **KCC:** Council President Thomas Bogaczyk announced the Kiwanis Club will close in November, due to declining membership.

Councilmember Jerome Ogden recommended sending a letter of appreciation to the Kiwanis. All councilmembers agreed.

(C) **Committee Business Development:**

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) meetings are held on fourth Wednesday of the month at the Brick Tavern at 6:30 P.M.

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

V.I.B.E. Officers are: President – Heidi Jones, Vice President – Jill Nickerson, Secretary – Josh Jones and Treasurer – Kelly Rossell.

V.I.B.E. upcoming events: (1) October 20, 2013 Fall Festival.
(2) November 30, 2013 Small Town Christmas.
Time: 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

(D) **Mayor:** Nothing to report.

Reports:

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

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

Officers to qualify at the range tomorrow.

Chief McCurdy and Borough Manager George Lloyd are reviewing stop signs throughout town. After the revised list is completed, it will be submitted to Keystate Publishers.

Councilmembers agreed to make a portion of St. Mary's Street and Granger Street one-way. The area to be made one-way is in the vicinity of Nevins Street. St. Mary's Street will be south only and Granger Street will be north only.

Officer Robert Scott will be out on medical leave for eight (8) weeks. The Police Department is in need of part-time officers. Council agreed to advertise for new part-time officers.

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

(G) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Jill Nickerson; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

A meeting is scheduled at Richmond Township on October 17, 2013 at 3:00 P.M. to discuss regionalization of water to Mansfield.

Discussed a proposed ordinance regulating commercial / residential sidewalk and yard sales.

The Laurel Youth Services building on Ruah Street may have a possible buyer. No plans have been presented to Blossburg Code Officer yet.

The Borough was notified by STV Energy Services for PVR Marcellus Gas Gathering, LLC. A permit application from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) was applied for PVR Wellsboro Phase II – Gas Gathering Line involving Liberty, Hamilton, Covington Townships and Blossburg Borough.

Mr. Lloyd asked authorization to re-bid the 1985 old garbage truck. Councilmembers agreed to advertise the equipment.

The Blossburg Borough received a letter from the Tioga County Commissioners stating they were forced to deny applications for Preferential Tax Assessment Plans. The problem is from the differences in application requirements between municipal Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA) ordinances and the county Preferential Tax Assessment Plan ordinance. The Board of Commissioners requested that municipalities consider developing an ordinance following the requirements of LERTA. Blossburg Borough's Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA) was reviewed by Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett and was found to be in compliance and requires no further action by the Borough. Also noted, applicants must apply **before** structure is built.

Reports:

(H) Planning Commission: Meeting of September 24, 2013.

Reviewed and approved Bruce Toothaker's special exemption request to repair and sell small equipment at 114 South Williamson Road.

Zoning Hearing Board: A meeting is to be set up for Bruce Toothaker's special exemption request.

(I) Recreation:

Blossburg Area United Fund donation letters are being discussed for new mailing procedures.

Resolution No. 4 2013 Young Lungs at Play:

Proposed resolution was reviewed and a few changes were made. Motion to approve the Young Lungs at Play: Tobacco-Free Park and Playground Resolution was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Island Park River Walk: Nothing to report.

Pool (Splash Pad): Nothing to report.

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

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

(K) Library: Sidewalks are being worked on.

The 7th Annual Blossburg Memorial Library book sale is scheduled for October 20th through the 26th.

(L) Street Committee: Nothing to report.

(M) Shade Tree Commission: Jill Nickerson is working on the Main Street trees presentation. A Public Meeting will be scheduled when Mrs. Nickerson is ready.

(N) Budget: A meeting is scheduled with Gannon Insurance on October 15, 2013 at 2:30 P.M.

Next budget meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2013 at 9:00 A.M.

(O) Project Committee: Working on Comprehensive Plan and Main Street trees presentation.

(P) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):

More sewer main and lateral lining to be done in October / November.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

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.

Chief McCurdy and Borough Manager George Lloyd are reviewing stop signs throughout town. After the revised list is completed, it 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 to be evaluated by an independent contractor and mortgage holder to be contacted on sale of property. Lien is already on property. Borough to get grass cut. Labor and equipment costs to be added to lien.
- (3) 134 Taber Street – Property is in bad condition.

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. V.I.B.E. applied for funding through the Williamson Road Foundation.

5. Update Comprehensive Plan:

On October 16, 2013 RETTEW is to meet with Borough officials in the morning, with a Public Meeting in the Blossburg Memorial Library at 7:00 P.M.

6. Talisman Agreement to Use Borough Streets:

Talisman would like permission to access surrounding areas by using Borough streets. A Road Maintenance Agreement with Talisman to be negotiated.

Talisman drill rigs are moved out and will contact Borough office when they return.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Dorothy Rakoski – Blossburg Borough Tax Collector:

Ms. Rakoski recommended eliminating the Borough Occupation / Per Capita Tax with the difference being made up by increasing the Local Service Tax from \$36.00 to \$52.00. Ms. Rakoski presented information supporting her proposal. Council will review these tax proposals in the budget meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2013 AT THE BEAR TRACK TAVERN, 203 EAST MAIN STREET, WESTFIELD, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 7:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY OCTOBER 11, 2013.

BLOSSBURG FALL FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 20, 2013.

HALLOWEEN IS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2013. THE PARADE IS AT 5:00 P.M. – STARTING BY THE FORMER BLOSSBURG AMBULANCE BUILDING LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF HANNIBAL AND MORRIS STREETS. THE PARADE WILL PROCEED WEST ON HANNIBAL STREET – THEN TURN RIGHT ONTO MAIN STREET AND PROCEED NORTH TO THE NEW FIRE & AMBULANCE BUILDING, 324 MAIN STREET, WHERE THE JUDGING OF COSTUMES WILL TAKE PLACE. HALLOWEEN HOURS ARE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2013, 6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: President Thomas Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 8:17 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2013 at 6:30 P.M.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary