

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

October 14, 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: (absent, Vice-President Jill Nickerson (meeting with vendors at new coffee shop)); Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Thomas Bogaczyk, Jolene Hall, Paul Hosszu, (absent, Stephen Wagner); Mayor Shane Nickerson; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Danielle Irwin.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 9, 2015 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 Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

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

Guests: Danielle Irwin was attending tonight's meeting to observe, a requirement for a Tioga County Leadership Program through her work.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** Nothing to report.

(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. sponsored the sixth Fall Festival on October 11, 2015. Mayor Nickerson reported the Festival was the best held, so far. Brad Hart won the Hot Dog Eating Contest, by eating 15 hotdogs in 10 minutes.

(C) **Mayor:** Mayor Nickerson had nothing to report.

(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.

District Magistrate Fines Total - \$627.22.

Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to advertise for a part-time police officer; second Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Reports:

Constable Frederick Yungwirth sent a letter requesting permission to ride along with the Department to observe / learning purposes. Constable Yungwirth has his own insurance and bonding. The Borough's insurance carrier, Gannon Insurance, will be contacted to ask if the policy allows this coverage. Jerome Ogden made a motion to permit Constable Yungwirth's to ride along with the Blossburg Police Department; second, Thomas Bogaczyk.

(E) Police Committee: Nothing to report.

(F) Borough Manager:

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

Regency Marcellus Gas Gathering, LLC will be constructing a natural gas pipeline East of the Borough and would like to access the pipeline right-of-way from four (4) borough streets to complete the work. Old Bloss Road has two access locations. The first location is east from the intersection of St. Mary's Street, across from the Arbon Cemetery. The second location is near the Township line, the access to the old landfill. The next location is off Granger Street, to the right, 720 feet north from the intersection of Taylor Street. The last location is off William B. Street, 1070 feet southeast from the intersection of Wilson Street. These noted roads to the access points will be bonded.

The Borough has received complaints on a homeowner with an outside woodstove where the smoke is a nuisance. A meeting is to be scheduled with the home owner to resolve the problem.

Some borough residents have been approached by Talisman to sign gas leases for their properties. Homeowners are unsure of the legal terminology in these leases and are hesitant to sign. Councilmembers discussed if they wanted to assist the residents in getting one blanket lease to cover all the Borough residents, but declined, because it would be too involved.

(G) Planning Commission: A meeting was held on September 27, 2015. Board Members reviewed and approved a subdivision of the Donald Trowbridge property located on Hannibal Street. A map of property was provided in Council packets for their review. Motion to approve Donald Trowbridge subdivision was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Zoning Hearing Board: A meeting was held on October 12, 2015. Board Members reviewed and approved side yard and height variance for Terry Osborne garage.

Zoning Hearing Board member Shelby Kinsey presented a letter of resignation, because she is moving out of the area. A person is needed for her replacement. Mrs. Kinsey's last term year is 2016. A few names were suggested and these people will be contacted by George D. Lloyd to see if she / he is interested.

(H) Recreation:

New donated slide was delivered for pool. Concrete pad for slide was poured.

Trees: Bare root trees are ordered at the cost of \$629.00. The delivery date is November.

Island Park River Walk: Thank you letters are to be sent to all the volunteers that have worked on Island Park River Walk.

Reports:

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

Jolene Hall President of the Blossburg Volunteer Fire Department presented a letter requesting Council approve eight (8) members for Special Fire Police. All recently completed the Pennsylvania Fire Academy, Basic Fire Police Class and successfully passed the written examination. Members are: Shawn Carey, Stephen Hall, Jolene Hall, Trevor DeRemer, Jason Jones, Anthony Mattison, Dylan Mattison, and Steven Wlock, Sr. Motion was made by Paul Hosszu to approve the names of Special Fire Police; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor. New members will be sworn in by Mayor Nickerson.

The 2015 Halloween Parade will be sponsored by the Blossburg Fire and Ambulance Departments on October 31, 2015.

Mayor Nickerson and the Blossburg Police Department would like to commend the Fire and Ambulance Departments for their outstanding and professional work during last weeks' two tragedies.

(J) **Library:** The white ash tree located on the Library property had a large limb break off the North side. After inspection of the tree, it was discovered carpenter ants have ate the inside of the tree. The tree is to be trimmed back to take the weight off the top of the tree. Hopefully, this action will help get a few more years out of the tree.

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

(L) **Shade Tree Commission:** Nothing to report.

(M) **Budget:**

Total donations received for new lawn mower for Island Park: \$6,533.28. Cost of new zero-turn mower would be approximately \$8,500.00. Mower will be ordered in spring 2016.

2016 MMO: State Aid Allocation was received on 09/30/2015 in the amount of \$60,553.77. State Allocation was enough to cover Borough's obligation for Police & Non-Uniform Pension Plans.

Proposed 2016 Budget: \$854,521.00 Revenues/Expenses. Increase Borough taxes by ½ mill. Borough: 6.807 Mills – Fire: .568 Mills – Library: .250 Mills. Effective rate: 7.63 mills.

Garbage rate increase of \$.17/week. New quarterly bill would be \$34.06. Additional bags would be \$1.10 each. The current rate is \$1.00. Increase will be effective for the bill residents receive in February 2016.

A motion to advertise the proposed 2016 Budget was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

2016 Budget to be accepted at November 2015 Council Meeting.

Borough Occupation / Per Capita Tax to remain the same.

Reports:

(N) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):

Taylor Run stream restoration was completed by Southwest Energy.

USG in town to televise sewer lines for infiltration.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Southern Tioga School District (STSD) Plans:** Nothing to report.
2. **Borough Code of Ordinances – Update:** Nothing to report.
3. **Condemned Properties Update:** 101 Post Street listed for Judicial Sale on December 4, 2015.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Permission to Purchase Thanksgiving Turkeys for Borough Employees:**

A motion to purchase Thanksgiving turkeys for Borough employees was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor. The cost to be split with the Blossburg Municipal Authority.

2. **Letter to VFW Approving Their Maintaining Cannon Located at Island Park:**

Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to send a letter, per VFW Post 8730 request, allowing the organization to take over the maintenance of the cannon located on Island Park; second Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

3. **Councilmember Thomas Bogaczyk Submitting His Resignation, Effective October 14, 2015:**

Borough Manager George D. Lloyd brought up Tim Martin's name for consideration to replace Thomas Bogaczyk, term ending December 31, 2017. Motion to have Tim Martin replace Thomas Bogaczyk was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. Question from Jolene Hall about advertising. Jerome Ogden not want to withdraw his motion. Motion to postpone vote until next meeting and advertise for Mr. Bogaczyk's replacement was made by Jolene Hall; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor.

Motion to accept Thomas Bogaczyk resignation was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Jerome Ogden, with regret. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015 AT THE HOME COMFORT RESTAURANT, ROUTE 49, WESTFIELD, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 6:30 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2015.

HALLOWEEN IS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2015. 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 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2015, 6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: President James Rakoski closed the meeting at 7:36 P.M.

Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Jolene Hall. All in Favor.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for November 11, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Blossburg Borough Building Council Room.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary