

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

November 12, 2014

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, Jolene Hall, Paul Hosszu, Stephen Wagner, (absent, James Rakoski); Mayor Shane Nickerson; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Keith Youmans; Mataya Nickerson.

Minutes: The minutes of the October 8, 2014 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, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

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

Guests: Keith Youmans was attending for discussion on the Joint Municipal Agreement for Law Enforcement Services. Mataya Nickerson was attending for observation.

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. projects: (1) Working with Anderson Group on Branding Project. Next meeting will be held on November 18, 2014, 6:00 P.M. at Nickerson Construction Office. (2) A Small Town Christmas will be held on November 29, 2014. The hours will be from 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

(C) **Mayor:**

On November 5, 2014 Mayor Nickerson and Chief McCurdy attended a Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) class, in Wilkes-Barre, on Managing a Professional Police Department. The seminar was very informative. One topic covered was foot patrols and how important they are and an excellent way in meeting the public. Chief McCurdy and patrolmen are to include foot patrols as part of their daily routine patrols.

(D) **Police:** Everyone has received a copy of the new detailed Police Report. Councilmembers commented on the additional listings of activities and events.

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

Reports:

New hats and attire were purchased for and by Police Officers. Councilmembers support the Police Department for looking professional.

Joint Municipal Agreement for Law Enforcement Services:

Joint Municipal Agreement for Law Enforcement Services between the Borough of Blossburg and Hamilton Township requesting Blossburg Police Department to patrol Hamilton Township area. Hamilton Township will pay Blossburg for the services provided at the rate of \$30.00 per hour for 20 hours per month (\$600.00) and amount will be paid monthly in installments of \$600.00. The Agreement period is six (6) months, commencing on November 12, 2014 and end on May 12, 2015. The Agreement will automatically renew for an additional six (6) month term, unless either party has given prior notice of early termination. The Joint Police Committee will meet annually in the month of June to discuss any changes to the terms and conditions of the Agreement. Agreement was passed at the Hamilton Township Meeting on October 13, 2014. Motion was made by Paul Hosszu to pass Joint Municipal Agreement for Law Enforcement Services between the Blossburg Borough and Hamilton Township; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Blossburg Borough's bid, in the amount of \$15,100.00, was accepted by Wellsboro Borough for the 2013 Ford Explorer. Wellsboro Borough will not sell vehicle until they have received and placed their new vehicle in service, which will approximately be the end of November 2014. Councilmember Jerome Ogden requested a final inspection of 2013 Ford Explorer before accepting vehicle and payment is made.

(E) Police Committee: Nothing to report.

(F) Borough Manager:

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

Mr. Lloyd was contacted by a Talisman representative requesting permission to use old landfill entrance for access to land they will be working on.

A community meeting on New Flood Study will be held on November 25, 2014, from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. in the Conference Room, Tokishi Training Center, 10 Nypum Lane, Wellsboro, PA 16901.

The second Upper Tioga River Regional Authority meeting will be held on November 13, 2014 at the Covington Township Building located at 114 East Hill Road, Covington, PA. There is a possibility the Authority will be requesting \$5,000.00 "seed" money. Mr. Lloyd will know more after the meeting tomorrow night.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(H) Recreation:

Blossburg Area United Fund to start in January.

A \$44,000.00 Tennis Court Resurfacing Project is being reviewed by a local group. \$11,000.00 has been already raised. Project to include resurfacing, lighting, and bleachers.

Reports:

Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP) Grant application was reviewed and rejected. Remove from agenda. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

Councilmember Jill Nickerson reported she will be attending a Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) Grant writing class at Penn State, utilizing the class information to apply for a Grant to be used for Island Park playground equipment.

Recreation Board is looking for a building to hold YMCA activities at in Blossburg.

Councilmember Jerome Ogden reported Williamson Road Foundation granted monies to the Blossburg Monument Electric Project, Fall Festival, Blossburg Fire Department to promote Fire Prevention, and Small Town Christmas.

Island Park River Walk: River Walk pamphlets were created and distributed by JoAnn Davis.

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

The 2014 Halloween Parade was sponsored by the Blossburg Fire and Ambulance Departments.

The Departments participated in the Fall Festival promoting Fire Prevention.

(J) **Library:** Sink holes in parking lot were repaired by the Borough crew.

The white ash tree, located on the Blossburg Library grounds, had a preliminary measurement placing it as the fourth largest ash tree in Pennsylvania and the largest in Tioga County.

Joann Ogden announced she is stepping down as President on the Library Board of Directors, a position she has held for years. Councilmembers commended Mrs. Ogden for all the years of service, dedication, and expertise while serving on the Library Board of Directors. She will truly be missed.

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

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

(M) **Budget:**

Proposed 2015 Budget: \$946,492.00 Revenues/Expenses. Increase Borough taxes by ½ mill. Borough: 6.307 Mills – Fire: .568 Mills – Library: .250 Mills. Effective rate: 7.125 mills.

A motion to advertise the proposed 2015 Budget was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Borough Occupation / Per Capita Tax to remain the same.

Last Borough tax increase was in 2009.

(N) **Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):**

Department of Environmental Services did a performance test on Bellman Filter. DEP will notify BMA when test results are back.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

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

Keystate Publishers sent completed "Final Draft". Councilmembers reviewing information for changes. Attorney William Stokes is reviewing Final Draft, also.

3. **Condemned Properties Update:** 101 Post Street.

AT END OF MEETING, AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT. NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution No. 9 – Blossburg Police Pension Plan Act 600:**

Annual requirement for record: Resolution for Police Pension Fund stating if necessary for officers to pay into the Pension or not. No payment required for 2015.

RESOLUTION NO. 9 – Motion to adopt Police Pension Fund Resolution was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

2. **Advertise for Vehicle Fuel Bids:** Motion to advertise for vehicle fuel bids was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

3. **Resolution No. 10 – Opposing a Severance Tax on Natural Gas:**

The Act 13 tax was put in place to help offset the increase of local government costs directly due to Gas Industry related impacts. Proposed Resolution is opposing a severance tax on Natural Gas which would replace Act 13 funding. Council and the Mayor would stand against any effort on the part of any Legislative group, committee, or person to remove, restate, or repeal Act. 13.

RESOLUTION NO. 10 – Motion to adopt Resolution was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

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

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

7. **Re-Appointments to Committees and Boards (Last Term Year 2014):**

Re-Appointment to Planning Commission: Ralph Mundis (agreed to re-appointment); 4yrs. – Term ending 2018.

Re-Appointment to Planning Commission: Patrick Marriner (agreed to re-appointment); 4yrs. – Term ending 2018.

Re-Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board: Annie Brooks (agreed to re-appointment); 5yrs. – Term ending 2019.

NEW BUSINESS:

Re-Appointment to Blossburg Municipal Authority: Benjamin F. Jones (agreed to re-appointment); 5yrs. – Term ending 2019.

Re-Appointment to Blossburg Recreation Board: Lisa Frederick (agreed to re-appointment); 5yrs. – Term ending 2019.

Motion was made by Paul Hosszu to approve all re-appointments to Committees and Boards; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: President Thomas Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 7:46 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. in the Blossburg Borough Building Council Room.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary