

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

March 11, 2015

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council Vice-President Jill Nickerson 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: President James Rakoski (in Florida); Councilmembers Jerome Ogden (left at 7:30 P.M. for another meeting), (absent, Thomas Bogaczyk (in Florida)), Jolene Hall, Paul Hosszu, Stephen Wagner (left at 7:15 P.M. for another meeting); Mayor Shane Nickerson; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Corporal Robert Scott; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; (absent, Borough Secretary Mary Signor); Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Joanne Ogden, Donna Wilson, and Sara Kelly Blossburg Methodist Church.

Since Mary Signor was absent tonight, Borough Manager George D. Lloyd took the minutes.

Vice-President Jill Nickerson allowed the Methodist Church ladies to talk before meeting items were discussed. Blossburg Methodist Church members are reaching out to the community. The group has been to the Southern Tioga Administration Office, Blossburg Elementary School, Head Start, and Blossburg Memorial Library. Bags of candy with a prayer were given to everyone attending tonight's meeting. Then cake and brownies were served. The ladies left the meeting at 6:37 P.M.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 11, 2015 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 Stephen Wagner; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

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

Guests: Mike and Kathy Nickerson arrived at 7:15 P.M. They were attending to question the \$5.00 per person Per Capita Tax. They were told the Per Capita Tax has been in effect for 40 – 50 years. Each resident or inhabitant of the Blossburg Borough over the age of 18, shall be taxed in addition to all other taxes levied and assessed.

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) Donor Appreciation Dinner to be scheduled in April. (2) Community Yard Sale to be held on April 25, 2015.

(C) **Mayor:** Mayor Nickerson has a meeting scheduled on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. with Steve Hoover to look at ash trees around town. If available, Borough Manager George D. Lloyd will also attend meeting.

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 Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Addition to the Police Report: District Magistrate Fines Total - \$544.89.

Chief McCurdy discussed camera purchased for second police vehicle, at the cost of \$700.00. Camera can be used in car or as a body camera. Chief wants to see how camera works out, then will get back to Council if another one may be needed.

Motion to bid / sale old police car was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor. Mayor Nickerson said new constable may want to bid on the car.

(E) Police Committee: Nothing to report.

(F) Borough Manager:

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Jolene Hall; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Discuss classes that Tax Collectors have to attend. Cost is \$200.00. Mr. Lloyd asked if Council would approve any funding towards the class. Councilmembers will think about and discuss again next month. Councilmember Jerome Ogden asked for a total cost the Borough pays Tax Collector each year. Mr. Lloyd is to gather information and report back to Council at the April 8, 2015 Council Meeting.

Congratulations to Masonic Lodge #350 on their 150th Anniversary, which was celebrated at the Blossburg Fire Hall on March 8, 2015.

On behalf of Blossburg Improvement Association, Mr. Lloyd presented the new proposed design of the Riverside Plaza façade. Bids for work will be submitted by March 13, 2015. All property owners are agreeable on the design, just have to figure out the cost.

The Upper Tioga River Regional Authority (UTRRA) will be deciding, tomorrow night, between the engineering firms of Hanover or Larson Design to do the water study for the area to be served by UTRRA. After the firm is selected, the municipalities will be approached for funding to help pay for the study.

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

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(H) Recreation:

Stephen Wagner asked if March 27, 2015 the KCC Building was available for the Little League to use for a chicken barbecue. Mr. Lloyd will check and get back to Mr. Wagner.

Reports:

Advertising for Pool Manager position for the 2015 season, because Nathan McNamara is not able to work this year. Deadline for receiving letters of interest is March 23, 2015. Recreation Board hope to review applications before next Recreation Meeting.

Council suggested Borough acknowledge North Penn-Mansfield girls basketball after playoffs are finished.

Island Park River Walk: Mayor Nickerson suggest a letter be sent to Robert Metarko thanking him for volunteering his time to help keep River Walk plowed off.

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

The old rescue truck that was hit by a vehicle, while on the scene of an accident on new Rt. 15 / I99, is being repaired.

(J) **Library:** Planning to do a Capital Campaign soon.

Received donations from Masonic Lodge #350 and V.F.W. Post 8730. Paul Hosszu will check about funds from the American Legion Post 572.

Lisa Frederick resigned from the Library Board. Jeremy Jones to be asked for Mrs. Frederick's replacement.

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

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

(M) **Budget:** Nothing at this time.

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

Bellman Filter Plant is 1 of 13 small water treatment plants in Pennsylvania to receive an Area Wide Optimization Program Award for 2014.

BMA is dealing with some frozen pipes / lines throughout town, but not as bad as 1979.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Southern Tioga School District (STSD) Plans:

Mrs. Nickerson attended STSD Board meeting on Monday night. Board is working on a long term plan on what they anticipate in next 10 years. Board would like to have plan done in eighteen months.

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 must be included in sale of any real estate in the Borough. (4) Hamilton Township Police Protection.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Lloyd has not met with Attorney Stokes yet, but he would like to get done before May Council meeting.

3. **Condemned Properties Update:** 101 Post Street. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett is not having any luck with having Wells Fargo returning his calls.
- May need to look into having property on McIntyre Street condemned.
4. **Floodplain Ordinance:** Mr. Lloyd working on with Attorney Stokes to get done before June. Deadline to have ordinance done is July 16, 2015.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution No. 1 – Blossburg Police Pension Joinder Agreement:**

The Borough of Blossburg, on October 3, 1949, established a retirement plan for certain of its employees known as the Borough of Blossburg Police Pension Plan (the "Prior Plan"). Effective June 11, 2014 the Blossburg Borough desires to adopt the restated Master Plan and Trust currently administered by The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Municipal Retirement Trust (the "PSAB Municipal Retirement Trust"). In accordance with such purpose, the Blossburg Borough hereby adopts the PSAB Municipal Retirement Trust and the accompanying Joinder Agreement, which documents together shall constitute the retirement plan known as the Borough of Blossburg Police Pension Plan (the "Plan"). The Plan shall be deemed to be a continuation of and a successor to the Prior Plan.

The Blossburg Police Pension Joinder Agreement is necessary due to the hiring of the third full time police officer and mandates a Pension Plan subject to Act 600.

Motion to adopt the Blossburg Police Pension Joinder Agreement was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

2. **Worker's Compensation:**

Fire and Ambulance members – possible Borough liability brought up after discussion with new claims adjuster. Councilmembers discussed liability issues and Worker's Compensation claims. Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett suggest Mr. Lloyd contact Gannon Associates about any policies they may have. Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs may also have useful information. A meeting with Gannon Associates and Councilmembers to be scheduled, before drafting a written policy.

3. **Maintenance Agreement for Subdivision of Old State Hospital Property:**

Use and Maintenance Grant for Shared Utilities grant application submitted to Council for their final approval of subdivision for Old State Hospital. Due to the infiltration problems in the buildings, additional language was added to the approval and recorded into the Borough minutes.

"Borough Council approves the use and maintenance grant for shared utilities at the old state hospital and hereby notifies Subdivider that infiltration and inflow problems exist in the private sewer that serves the facility. These issues must be addressed within six months or Owner (s) mat be billed based on penalties passed by the Blossburg Municipal Authority through a Resolution. Present Owner is responsible for notifying and future Owners or Tenants of this requirement."

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to approve Use and Maintenance Grant for Shared Utilities was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paull Hosszu. All in favor.

4. DCNR Grant:

Councilmember Jill Nickerson is applying for a Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) grant for playground equipment at Island Park. No funding requested from Borough. Mrs. Nickerson hopes to cover any matching funds through private donations. Need approval from Council to apply for grant.

Motion was made by Paul Hosszu to start DCNR grant paperwork; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGH DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015 AT THE BLOSSBURG FIRE & AMBULANCE BUILDING, 324 MAIN STREET, BLOSSBURG, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 6:30 P.M.

TIOGA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 19TH ANNUAL TCDC LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST AT THE PENN WELLS HOTEL, 62 MAIN STREET, WELLSBORO, PA ON THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2015 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M. (BUFFET OPENS AT 7:30 A.M.). R.S.V.P. & PAYMENT DUE BY MARCH 30, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT: Vice-President Jill Nickerson closed the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Blossburg Borough Building Council Room.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary