

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

January 3, 2012

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

As required by the Borough Code, Mayor John Backman called Blossburg Borough Council Reorganization Meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Room of the Borough Building, 245 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

Attendance: Councilmembers Thomas Bogaczyk, (absent, Jill Nickerson (Illness in family)), Jerome Ogden, Jolene Hall, Paul Hosszu, Stephen Wagner; Mayor John Backman; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) Member Josh Jones; Kelsey Rudinski NPHS Student Representative (left at 6:50 P.M.); Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; James Rakoski, Bev Jones, and Kenneth Hughes.

Oath: Mayor John Backman administered the Oath to newly elected Councilmembers:

Paul Hosszu and Stephen Wagner (Each elected 4-year terms).
Jolene Hall (Elected 2-year term).
All terms were result of the elections.

According to the requirements of Borough Codes, the Mayor conducted the election of Council President and Council Vice-President:

Nomination Council President: Thomas Bogaczyk; motion of Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Nomination Council Vice-President: Jill Nickerson; motion of Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Newly elected President Thomas Bogaczyk presided over the other elections and appointments.

The recent Primary Election of Roger Bunn as Tioga County Commissioner has created a vacancy on Council as of December 31, 2011. Mr. Bunn's term would have ended December 2013. An ad was published in the Wellsboro Gazette requesting any Borough resident wishing to fill this vacancy should submit a letter of interest. Two (2) borough residents, Bev Jones and James Rakoski, submitted their letters of interest. Motion to appoint James Rakoski as a member of Blossburg Borough Council until December 2013 was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

Mayor Backman administered the Oath of Office to James Rakoski.

Appointment of Borough Solicitor: Patrick J. Barrett, III; motion Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Appointment of Borough Engineer: William S. Bray; motion Jolene Hall; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Appointment of Borough Secretary-Treasurer: Mary Signor; motion Jolene Hall; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Appointment of Tax Collector for the collection of LST (Local Services Tax): Dorothy Rakoski; motion Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Depository for Blossburg Borough: First Citizens National Bank (FCNB); motion Paul Hosszu; second, James Rakoski. All in favor.

Vehicle, Liability and Workers' Compensation Insurance Carrier: Gannon Associates; motion Paul Hosszu; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Committees of Council: President Thomas Bogaczyk read the appointed list of Committees of Council. Motion to accept appointments as presented was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL**GARBAGE: REDEVELOPMENT: SEWER: WATER:**

Thomas Bogaczyk	307 Granger Street	638-3688
Jill Nickerson	217 Parkhurst Street	638-2586
Paul Hosszu	115 Seymour Street	404-6368
Stephen Wagner	117 North Williamson Road	404-6485

BUDGET:

Jerome Ogden	262 South Williamson Road	638-2296
Thomas Bogaczyk	307 Granger Street	638-3688
Jill Nickerson	217 Parkhurst Street	638-2586
James Rakoski	133 North Williamson Road	638-3056

STREETS & ROADS: PROPERTY & BOROUGH EQUIPMENT:

Jerome Ogden	262 South Williamson Road	638-2296
Thomas Bogaczyk	307 Granger Street	638-3688
Stephen Wagner	117 North Williamson Road	404-6485
James Rakoski	133 North Williamson Road	638-3056

LIBRARY:

**(Blossburg Memorial Library Meetings are held Quarterly – Jan-April-July-October
3rd Monday of Month in the Blossburg Memorial Basement at 4:00 P.M.)**

Jolene Hall	111 Main Street	638-3565
James Rakoski	133 North Williamson Road	638-3056

POLICE:

Jerome Ogden	262 South Williamson Road	638-2296
Thomas Bogaczyk	307 Granger Street	638-3688
Jill Nickerson	217 Parkhurst Street	638-2586
Jolene Hall	111 Main Street	638-3565

FIRE:

**(Blossburg Fire Department Meetings are held the 4th Monday of Month in the
Blossburg Fire & Ambulance Building at 7:30 P.M.)**

Jill Nickerson	217 Parkhurst Street	638-2586
Jolene Hall	111 Main Street	638-3565
Paul Hosszu	115 Seymour Street	404-6368

RECREATION:

Jill Nickerson	217 Parkhurst Street	638-2586
George Lloyd	205 South Williamson Road	638-2836
Jolene Hall	111 Main Street	638-3565
Stephen Wagner	117 North Williamson Road	404-6485

KCC:

Thomas Bogaczyk	307 Granger Street	638-3688
Paul Hosszu	115 Seymour Street	404-6368

MONUMENT:

Jerome Ogden	262 South Williamson Road	638-2296
Thomas Bogaczyk	307 Granger Street	638-3688

SHADE TREE COMMISSION:

Jeffrey Everett	331 South Williamson Road	638-3554
William Novitske, Jr.	230 South Williamson Road	638-2455
Bev Jones	386 Granger Street	638-2763
James Rakoski	133 North Williamson Road	638-3056

VACANCY BOARD:

Anthony Lupkowski (Chairman)	209 Ruah Street	638-2306
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PROJECT COMMITTEE:

Jill Nickerson	217 Parkhurst Street	638-2586
Jolene Hall	111 Main Street	638-3565
Stephen Wagner	117 North Williamson Road	404-6485
James Rakoski	133 North Williamson Road	638-3056

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

January 3, 2012

Council President Thomas Bogaczyk called the Blossburg Borough Council regular meeting to order at 6:45 P.M. in the Council Room of the Borough Building, 245 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

Minutes: The minutes of the December 12, 2011 meeting were accepted on motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

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

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

Guests: Bev Jones expressed her thanks for the Granger Street potholes being repaired and the Granger Street Extension being fixed.

Josh Jones stated his appreciation for the ditches, made by rain runoff, being repaired on Granger and Hannibal Streets.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** Kelsey Rudinski gave a Student Council Activity Report.

Kiwanis Girls and Boys Basketball Tournaments were well attended.

(B) **KCC:** Second siding bid is in. Organization to vote on bids tomorrow night.

(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. No December meeting was held. The next scheduled meeting will be January 25, 2012.

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. is applying for a Tioga County Visitors Bureau grant to help with funding for the Fall Festival.

Skate Park: DCNR Grant paperwork was finalized and mailed on December 28, 2011.

(D) **Mayor:** Mayor Backman reported the South Williamson Road washout, by side of road, was repaired by PennDOT.

(E) **Police:** *Police Report was discussed at beginning of tonight's meeting, because Chief McCurdy had other commitments.*

Everyone has received a copy of the Police Report.

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

Reports:

Officer Brian Isaacson will be attending Prison Training in Harrisburg for the next five (5) weeks. He will not be on the Police Work Schedule until he returns from his schooling.

Motion to hire Robert Scott as a full time Blossburg Police Officer was made by Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

Chief McCurdy left the meeting at 6:55 P.M.

(F) Police Committee: Nothing further to report.

(G) Borough Manager:

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of James Rakoski; second, Steve Wagner. All in favor.

Mr. Lloyd reported the Code Office had received a permit application to change the Laurel Youth Services building located at 520 Ruah Street into temporary housing for homeless or displaced people / families. Borough Solicitor is to review. Subject matter was tabled until next Council meeting.

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

Planning Commission member Stephen Wagner was elected to Blossburg Borough Council. A person is needed for his replacement. Mr. Wagner's last term year is 2013. First person contacted by George Lloyd declined the position. Council suggested the next person be contacted, by Mr. Lloyd, to fill the vacancy.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(I) Recreation: No meeting.

Walking Trail: Borough crew is working on, as time allows.

Pool: Main Line Commercial Pools are PAID IN FULL.

Paperwork was submitted to DCNR for \$275,000.00 Grant money. DCNR authorized final payment on December 16, 2011. No money has been received yet.

(J) Fire: No Financial Report was received.

Councilmember Jolene Hall is to acquire an updated list of department officers and forward to Council.

(K) Library: No meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2012. Other scheduled meetings are the third Monday in April, July and October at 6:00 P.M.

(L) Street Committee: Nothing to report.

(M) Shade Tree Commission: The three (3) trees in front of the Borough Building are to be removed by Penelec subcontractors.

(N) Budget: Proposed 2012 Budget of \$674,165.00 Revenues/Expenses was advertised.

(O) Project Committee: Nothing to report.

Reports:

(P) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA): Nothing to report.

BMA is meeting tonight.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Southern Tioga School District Plans for New North Penn High School:** Nothing to report.

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

Received eight copies of the Preliminary Draft along with editorial notes for the Borough Code of Ordinances. Preliminary Draft to be reviewed. Pennsylvania plans to change Borough Code of Ordinances. If State makes changes, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett suggested waiting before Preliminary Draft is reviewed.

3. **Condemned Properties Update:**

- (1) Schuylkill Street property owner has a Demolition Permit. Property owner hasn't started work yet.
- (2) South Williamson Road properties were sold. New owner plans to remove trailer from the one property.

Another property on Schuylkill Street is in bad condition. Property to be evaluated.

4. **Sidewalk Repair Letter:** The Borough Solicitor to review and approve letter. Specifications are to be obtained from Code Official Michael Stoudt. A letter will be sent to alert properties owners of their sidewalk repairs this spring.

5. **Review New Employee Applications:**

Mr. Lloyd reported only one (1) applicant is still interested in the job. Robert Pearson has worked for the Blossburg Municipal Authority and the Blossburg Borough since June 15, 2011. Mr. Pearson took the required test and passed, as well as, being interviewed by Thomas Bogaczyk, Jerome Ogden, Jack Eckman, David Jones and George Lloyd. Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to hire Robert Pearson full time; second, James Rakoski. All in favor.

6. **New Electrical Service Behind the Downtown Monument:** Nothing to report.

7. **Borough Building Upgrades:** Contractor not able to schedule work this year. Upgrades are to be done ASAP. Upstairs windows are to be included in the upgrade.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **2012 Tax Ordinance:**

Motion that the proposed 2012 Tax Ordinance is adopted as advertised: Borough 5.807 mills / Fire 0.568 mills / Library 0.250 mills, totaling 6.625 mills was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Amend Garbage and Refuse Ordinance:

Garbage rate increase of \$.25/week. New quarterly bill would be \$31.85.

The Borough of Blossburg amending garbage and refuse ordinance to allow for the authorized increase for collection of garbage and refuse with the Borough of Blossburg. Motion to adopt the Garbage and Refuse Ordinance was made by Stephen Wagner; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

3. Councilmember Roger Bunn Vacancy on Council: Discussed earlier.

4. Resolution: Tax Collection Committee (TCC) Representatives:

Annual Resolution Tax Collection Committee (TCC) Representatives.

At the present time, the following individuals are appointed as TCC delegates for the Borough of Blossburg:

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Primary Voting Delegate: | Mayor John E. Backman |
| 2. First Alternate Voting Delegate: | Councilmember Jill Nickerson |
| 3. Second Alternate Voting Delegate: | Councilmember Jerome Ogden |

Motion for Representatives to remain the same was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

5. Tioga Tax Collection Committee / Earned Income Tax Ordinance:

Keystone Collection Group wants municipalities to consider an ordinance to make the penalties provision consistent. Mayor Backman stated TCC wants to advertise this proposed ordinance as a group. Motion to have Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett contact Attorney William Stokes in regards to the group ordinance advertising was made by Paul Hosszu; second, James Rakoski. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2012 AT PERKINS RESTAURANT, MANSFIELD, PA. FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE FORWARD ASAP.

Council President Thomas Bogaczyk and Councilmember James Rakoski will be going to Florida for a few weeks. Both Councilmembers will return in April.

ADJOURNMENT: President Thomas Bogaczyk closed the meeting at 7:35 P.M.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2012 at 6:30 P.M.