

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

July 8, 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: Vice-President Jill Nickerson; Councilmembers Thomas Bogaczyk, Paul Hosszu, Stephen Wagner, (absent, Jerome Ogden, Jolene Hall); Mayor Shane Nickerson; (absent, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett); Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; (absent, Borough Secretary Mary Signor); Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette.

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

Minutes: The minutes of the June 10, 2015 meeting were accepted on motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: No Treasurer's Report was available, because Mary Signor was absent with four broken vertebrae after a fall over the weekend. Since two of the breaks were in her neck, doctors thought she may need an operation. However, no bones were displaced so she is able to use a neck brace and let bones heal naturally. Mary plans to come back to work tomorrow.

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

Guests: None present.

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. upcoming events: Started planning Fall Festival.

(C) **Mayor:** Mayor Nickerson read a thank you note from Carol Johnson about Island Park facilities and how nice everything is.

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

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

Addition to the Police Report: District Magistrate Report was not received.

Reports:

Received a letter of resignation from Patrolman David Krape. His last working day was June 22, 2015. Borough hopes to replace him later this fall. The process used for his replacement will be through advertising and / or look at new recruits that will be graduating from Mansfield University this fall.

(E) Police Committee: Nothing to report.

(F) Borough Manager:

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Mr. Lloyd asked for a moment of silence for two (2) former borough employees; David Grinnell and John Nowakowski, both passed away within the last week.

Application for County Aid:

At the April 21, 2015 Tioga County Commissioners Meeting, the Commissioners made the decision to allocate County Aid to each political subdivision in Tioga County. The total allocation for 2015 County Aid for Blossburg Borough is \$2,843.50. Councilmembers agreed to make application to the County for allocation of County Liquid Fuels Tax Funds. The county aid will be used for tar & chipping and paving of borough streets, if funds are granted.

Discussed David Bogaczyk letter about a rock that was placed along Kuster Lane by Geoff Rakoski. Mr. Lloyd has talked to Mr. Rakoski and he is willing to move the rock, if necessary. Council agreed to let Mr. Lloyd talk with Mr. Rakoski about the situation.

(G) Planning Commission: Meeting of June 30, 2015.

Discussed William Novitske request for a subdivision. Planning Commission recommended approval and was taken to Tioga County Planner.

George D. Lloyd reviewed subdivision with Tioga County Planner Jim Weaver and he recommended subdivision for approval. Mr. Lloyd explained to Council that Bill & Michelle Novitske purchased an adjoining property (old Matreski property) and subdivided a piece of that property to add to their existing property. The remaining acreage of the old Matreski property would still exceed the required 12,000 sq. ft. as required by ordinance.

Motion to approve William Novitske land subdivision was made by Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

President James Rakoski to sign subdivision maps after tonight's meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(H) Recreation:

Recreation Board recommended approval to Amber Wetzel to teach up to 8 dogs for obedience classes at Island Park. Motion for approval, contingent on Mr. Lloyd contacting Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett about a Hold Harmless Agreement and discuss liability insurance, was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor. Also, may have to look into any issues on legality of a profit business doing work on public property.

Reports:

Trees: Borough Manager George D. Lloyd reported three (3) sugar maple, one (1) red oak, and three (3) crimson red maple trees were planted at park using grant funds from Williamson Road Foundation. One (1) crimson red maple tree was paid for by Blossburg Lodge #350. All trees look good and are doing well, due to all the rain we have had. Mr. Lloyd needs to call Dale Martin about type of bare root trees that will be ordered this fall.

Island Park River Walk: Nothing to report.

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

Department is working on fundraiser to purchase a six-wheeler with trailer.

Mayor Nickerson and Paul Hosszu stated how younger adults are getting involved in Fire and Ambulance Departments.

(J) **Library:** Garden Party is scheduled for July 19, 2015 from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Mayor Nickerson and Jill Nickerson are selling tickets.

Councilmembers commented on nice blacktop job done at the Library parking lot. Mr. Lloyd said some areas along blacktop have to be filled in with topsoil.

(K) **Street Committee:** Tar & chipping work should start when weather cooperates.

Nothing on sidewalks.

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

(M) **Budget:** A Budget Meeting was held before tonight's Council Meeting.

Ordinance No. 442: Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative (PMHIC):

Motion to approve the Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative (PMHIC) Ordinance was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Thomas Bogaczyk. All in favor. Health insurance coverage will stay the same for employees, plus Borough has potential to save money.

Revenues / Expenditures Budget Report was reviewed and most line items are on track to date.

Mr. Lloyd brought up purchase of 2016 F550 dump truck for the 2015 budget, \$35,000 was allocated for a used single axle truck. After Mr. Lloyd discussed this with employees, they felt a small dump truck would be more convenient on jobs, than a bigger truck. Because Mr. Lloyd was going to try and budget for a F550 in the 2016 budget anyway, he agreed to approach Council on the change. Cost of a 2016 F550 chassis is \$40,217.00, cost of stainless steel dump box, spreader, and plow is \$37,268.68, for a total of \$77,485.67. After applying the \$35,000.00 budgeted for a single axle truck in the 2015 budget, it would leave a balance of \$42,485.67. This could be paid from the Act 13 Funds of \$140,634.00 that the Borough just received on July 1, 2015. Purchase would be through costars, so no bidding is required. After some discussion, motion was made by Thomas Bogaczyk to purchase the 2016 F550; second, Stephen Wagner. All in favor.

Thomas Bogaczyk discusses purchase of a new Kubota, zero turn, 60", and gas engine mower for Island Park. Mr. Bogaczyk sent out letters to local establishments, as well as Southern Tioga School District, to help pay for mower. So far, \$1,200.00 has been received from the American Legion Post 572. Mr. Bogaczyk explained that a lot of money is being spent on mower repairs that could go toward new mower. Mr. Lloyd had checked on price and it would be under \$10,000.00, so no bidding is

Reports:

required. After some discussion, a motion was made by Thomas Bogaczyk to purchase new Kubota lawn mower for Island Park; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

(N) Blossburg Municipal Authority (BMA):

Borough Manager George D. Lloyd reported there were sewer bypasses done on June 30, 2015 of 78,000 gallons, because of 4.12" of rain received from June 26 to June 30. STP was holding its own until July 4 when Blossburg got 1.68 " of rain in two (2) hours. Sewer bypasses happened again on July 4 and July 5, 2015, totaling 1,346,000 gallons. Information has to be reported to DEP.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Southern Tioga School District (STSD) Plans:** Nothing to report.
2. **Borough Code of Ordinances – Update:** Noting to report.
3. **Condemned Properties Update:** 101 Post Street – on hold per Borough Solicitor recommendation.
Home on McIntyre Street – torn down.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Wellsboro Gazette Article on Borough Manager George D. Lloyd:**

Councilmembers commented about the Wellsboro Gazette article on Borough Manger George D. Lloyd. Mayor Nickerson thanked reporter Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette for giving Blossburg coverage in paper.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TCDC) 22nd ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 27, 2015 AT MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY, MANSFIELD, PA. SOCIAL RECEPTION 5:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY JULY 17, 2015.

TIOGA COUNTY VISTORS BUREAU CELEBRATE THE END OF FISCAL YEAR AND KICK OFF THE 2015 – 2016 SEASON WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2015, FROM 5:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M. AT THE TIOGA COUNTY VISTORS BUREAU, 2053 ROUTE 660, WELLSBORO, PA. R.S.V.P. BY FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2015.

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING, SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2015, AT RIVERSIDE PLAZA.

ADJOURNMENT: President James Rakoski closed the meeting at 7:09 P.M.

Motion of Thomas Bogaczyk; second, Jill Nickerson. All in Favor.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Blossburg Borough Building Council Room.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary