

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

December 9, 2015

Oath: Mayor Shane Nickerson administered the Oath to newly appointed Timothy J. Martin as Councilmember.

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); Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Jolene Hall, Paul Hosszu, Timothy Martin; (absent, Stephen Wagner); Mayor Shane Nickerson; (Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett (left for Florida at 6:40 P.M.)); Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Diane Barrett – Borough Solicitor's wife; Unisatvti Hicks-Lee.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 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 Paul Hosszu; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

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

Guests: Unisatvti Hicks-Lee was attending for observation.

Mrs. Barrett came to tonight's meeting with Mr. Barrett. After the meeting, they will be leaving for a vacation in Florida.

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.

Small Town Christmas that was held on November 28, 2015 and was a success.

(C) **Mayor:** Mayor Nickerson honorably mentioned Kail Thompson. Kail is an 8 year old boy from Blossburg. He organized a fundraiser "Kail's Cookies 4 Kids" raising \$4,350.00 for St. Jude's.

Reports:

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

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

District Magistrate Fines Total - \$223.74.

Chief McCurdy requested approval on two (2) Department policies: 1) Reimbursement Agreement between newly hired patrolmen and Blossburg Borough Police Department. "The Borough will incur significant costs in connection with the hiring, training, and outfitting of the new police officer. The Agreement is to insure that the Borough receives the services of a police officer for a minimum of one (1) year in order that the Borough may recoup the investment of time and money expended" for requirements necessary in hiring a new officer (i.e. physical, psychological testing, etc.). 2) Mobil Video / Audio Recorder Policy – MVR system "provides persuasive documentary evidence and helps defend against civil litigation and allegations of officer misconduct. Motion to accept both the Reimbursement Agreement and the Mobil Video / Audio Recorder Policy was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

(E) **Police Committee:** The part-time police officer position was advertised. Two (2) candidates were interviewed for the position.

Motion to hire Officer Damon Cole part-time, 30 hours / week, was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

Officer Cole was introduced to Councilmembers.

(F) **Borough Manager:**

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

Spring Brook Century Tree Farm donated the Christmas wreaths for the front of the Borough Building and the Blossburg Monument.

The Upper Tioga River Regional Authority (UTRRA) approached the Tioga County Commissioners for a temporary loan (loan approved December 8, 2015) to fund a complete engineering study for submitting to PennVEST. Loan will be repaid to Commissioners with PennVEST funding.

A meeting is to be scheduled with municipal officials and UTRRA to discuss project and PennVEST funding requirements.

(G) **Planning Commission:** No meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(H) **Recreation:**

United Fund mailing is scheduled for January 2016.

Reports:

Trees: Seven bare root trees were delivered and planted at Island Park on November 10. A plan is being worked on to cut down more white pine trees around playground and replant different trees in the area. Proposal is as follows: Cut down seven trees at the cost of \pm \$2,000.00. Replant three sugar maples and three commemoration sugar maples, cost \$4,850.00 (\$809.00/each). Plantings around guide wires in front of Coal Museum, cost \$1,725.00. Funding request letters were sent to local organizations.

Island Park River Walk: Nothing to report.

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

Departments are in the process of planning a Christmas Party for kids.

(J) **Library:** No meeting.

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

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

(M) **Budget:**

A meeting with Steve Sumner from Gannon Associates was scheduled for December 23, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. to discuss insurance coverage packages.

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

Sewer pipe relining was done before Thanksgiving. Flows to sewer plant dropped \pm 30,000.00.

BMA to advertise for Board Member to replace Timothy Martin.

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 Judicial Sale was held on December 4, 2015. Property was sold to Bill Nickerson, Sr.

Remove from agenda. Motion of Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance No. 443: 2016 Tax Ordinance:**

Motion that the proposed 2016 Tax Ordinance be adopted as advertised: Borough 6.807 mills / Fire 0.568 mills / Library 0.250 mills, totaling 7.63 mills was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Ordinance No. 444 – Garbage:

Regulating the storage, collection and disposal of yard waste, recycling material, bulk waste and refuse, setting and imposing fees and providing penalties for violations.

Motion that Garbage Ordinance No. 444 be adopted as advertised was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

3. Resolution No. 4 – Garbage Disposal Fee Increase:

Garbage rate increase of \$.17/week. New quarterly bill will be \$34.06. Cost per extra bag of garbage will be increased from \$1.00 to \$1.10. Motion to adopt the Garbage Disposal Fee Resolution was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

New rates will become effective for the May 2016 billing.

4. 2016 Fuel Bids (Coverage Period: January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016):

Only one (1) bid received as advertised:

<u>Williams Oil & Propane:</u>	Diesel Winter Mix -	\$1.604 per gallon
	Diesel Summer Mix -	\$1.574 per gallon
	Unleaded Medium Grade -	\$1.574 per gallon

Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to accept Williams Oil & Propane bids; second, Jolene Hall. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President James Rakoski reported he will be going to Florida for the months of January, February, and March.

ADJOURNMENT: President James Rakoski closed the meeting at 7:19 P.M.

Motion of Jolene Hall; second, Paul Hosszu. All in Favor.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 4, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. in the Blossburg Borough Building Council Room.