

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

February 10, 2016

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Council President Jolene Hall 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; Pro Temp Tonya McNamara; Councilmembers Jerome Ogden, Paul Hosszu, Timothy Martin, (absent, James Rakoski (in Florida)); Mayor Shane Nickerson; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Jason Przybycien Wellsboro Gazette; Unisatvti Hicks-Lee; Robert Kelly; Jeff Benson.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 4, 2016 meeting were accepted on motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

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

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

Guests: Unisatvti Hicks-Lee, Robert Kelly, and Jeff Benson were attending for observation.

Jeff Benson asked Chief McCurdy if the Blossburg Police Department sent a letter to the Blossburg Coal Festival requesting the Fire Police assist with traffic control during the Blossburg Coal Festival activities. Chief McCurdy will see to the correspondence being completed.

Reports:

(A) **NPHS Student:** Jill Nickerson is working on recruiting students from Blossburg that attend North Penn-Mansfield and North Penn-Liberty asking if they would be interested in attending the Council meetings.

(B) **Committee Business Development:**

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) meetings are held on fourth Wednesday of the month at 242 Coffee Company at 6:00 P.M.

Tonya McNamara reported on the topics discussed at last V.I.B.E. meeting: (1) The organization set dates for their sponsored yearly events. (2) Work on setting up a V.I.B.E. website. (3) Branding Project. (4) Blossburg Community Yard Sale will be held April 30, 2016.

(C) **Mayor:** Mayor Nickerson reported that he is a member of the a new I-99 task force created by Tioga County Development Corporation (TCDC). The task force is trying to get Route 15 designated as interstate I-99.

Reports:

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

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

District Magistrate Fines Total: January \$446.44 and February \$171.73.

Officer Damon Cole finished his orientation training and is patrolling on his own.

(E) **Police Committee:** Nothing to report.

(F) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Committees of Council: Mr. Lloyd discussed limiting Committees of Council members to only three people per Committee. Anyone can attend meetings if they want. Borough Solicitor agreed not to have a quorum on Committee due to the Sunshine Law and cost of advertising upcoming meetings. Mr. Lloyd to revise the current list and have Councilmembers review.

On February 4, 2016 the Upper Tioga River Regional Authority met with municipal officials from Blossburg Borough, Covington Township, Putman Township, and Richmond Township to discuss water line extension from Blossburg, North toward Mansfield.

Blossburg Fire & Ambulance Department Annual Banquet will be held on February 20, 2016. Borough received a letter from Paul Hosszu requesting donations from businesses to cover banquet expenses. Borough Council's invite was for only two members from Council to attend. Mr. Lloyd suggested the Borough pay for Councilmembers attending the banquet. Jolene Hall is to check on attendance request, price per dinner, and get back to Mary Signor.

A letter was received from Dorothy Rakoski Tax Collector stating the Tioga County Assessment Office will do the sorting and mailing of this year's tax bills. Ms. Rakoski feels the Tioga County Assessment Office should have consulted the boroughs and townships before they decided to make these changes.

(G) **Planning Commission:** Meeting of January 26, 2016.

Planning Commission Board reviewed and recommended approval for James Wagner, owner of Jim's Service Station, 314 Main Street, to add an addition onto business. Mr. Wagner's request to be reviewed by the Zoning Hearing Board

Zoning Hearing Board: No meeting.

(H) **Recreation:** Blossburg Area United Fund donations requests were mailed.

Reports:

Received grant award (Park Rehabilitation Development Project) in the amount of \$184,100.00 from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program administered by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). Start date is January 1, 2016. End date is December 31, 2019. Proposed ground breaking is September / October 2016.

DCNR Grant:	\$184,100.00
Matching Money:	\$150,000.00 Ward Manufacturing
	\$ 30,000.00 Blossburg Borough (Labor / Equipment)
	\$ 4,100.00 Volunteers
Project Total:	\$368,200.00

Project covers redeveloping the 20 year old playground, tennis courts, Island Park trees, and improving the picnic facilities.

Trees: Funding request letters were sent to local organizations. No responses received.

Discussed removal of some trees in vicinity of proposed new playground.

Island Park River Walk: Nothing to report.

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

Applied for a Federal Grant for a new rescue pumper vehicle.

(J) **Library:** The white ash tree, located on the Library property, is scheduled to be trimmed back to take the weight off the top.

Fundraiser: Chicken Barbecue – March 26, 2016.

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

A meeting is to be scheduled in the spring to discuss sidewalks.

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

(M) **Budget:**

New zero turn lawn mower for Island Park to be ordered in spring.

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

Tioga County received a grant to map water / sewer lines in Blossburg, Mansfield, and Wellsboro.

BMA advertised for Board Member to replace Timothy Martin. Two (2) applicants applied: Stephen Hall and Robert Kelly. BMA recommended Stephen Hall as Mr. Martin's replacement. Motion to appoint Stephen Hall to the Blossburg Municipal Authority, term ending December 31, 2017, was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Tonya McNamara. Jolene Hall abstained.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

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

Due to the recent passing of Kenneth Rotz, President, Keystate Publishers is closing down. March 31, 2016 is the last day. Keystate has forwarded some contacts that may be able to assist in either finishing up current codification or update codification in the future. Also, they sent .pdf and .doc files of the “final draft” for Blossburg Borough.

3. **Resolution No. 2: Tioga County 2015 Emergency Operations Plan:**

Tioga County’s 2015 Emergency Operations Plan complies with all applicable State and County Laws, Regulations and provides the policies and procedures to be followed in dealing with natural or human-caused events or disasters. This Plan supersedes all previous Plans.

Motion to adopt Tioga County 2015 Emergency Operations Plan was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution No. 3: TCAB – Funding Attendance for PSAB Conference:**

Resolution is to assist a Tioga County Association of Boroughs (TCAB) member in attending a Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) Conference with expenses and help bolster TCAB voices with the PSAB. TCAB will fund an attendee to the Conference under the following conditions: (1) Funds in treasury are sufficient. (2) Attendee has been to a minimum of five (5) TCAB meetings in that year. (3) TCAB will pay for conference and room for attendee only (guest and extra meals must be funded separately).

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 3 – TCAB – Funding Attendance for PSAB Conference was made by Paul Hosszu; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

2. **Tioga County Association of Boroughs Resolution Proposing a Change to the Assessment of Lands Divided by Boundary Lines:**

Resolution is to encourage our legislature to make needed changes to the way lands divided by municipal boundary lines are assessed for taxes.

Councilmembers have questions and want to review before adopting.

3. **TCAB Dinner – Blossburg Borough Host Meeting for March:**

Thursday, March 24, 2016 was decided as the date. Location is to be the Blossburg Fire and Ambulance Building. The Blossburg Fire Department Auxiliary to provide the meal. Mayor Shane Nickerson is to find a program speaker.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. Spring Cleanup:

Spring Cleanup is scheduled for May 2 – May 6, 2016. All spring cleanup items will be picked up by Friday, May 6, 2016.

Island Park cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2016, with the rain date set for May 14, 2016.

5. Blossburg Borough Website:

Tonya McNamara suggested the Borough create its own website. Website would be used for Blossburg area information (i.e. contact information, town's codes, ordinances, etc.). Jerome Ogden questioned the work of keeping the website updated. Mrs. McNamara agreed to chair the committee. Mrs. McNamara is to get more information on cost to start the website and monthly fees.

6. Business Development Committee:

Timothy Martin proposed a new committee titled "Business Development" for the purpose of promoting growth in Blossburg. Mr. Martin suggested removing Redevelopment from the Garbage: Sewer: Water: Redevelopment: Committee and make the Business Development Committee into a single committee. The old committee would change to Garbage: Sewer: Water: Committee. Mayor Nickerson, Tonya McNamara, and Timothy Martin agreed to be on it. Motion to separate committees as mentioned was made by Timothy Martin; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016 AT THE TRINITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 6 BOARD STREET, TIOGA, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 6:30 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY FEBRUARY 12, 2016.

BLOSSBURG FIRE AND AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL BANQUET WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2016 AT 6:00 P.M. RSVP BY FEBRUARY 10, 2016.

TIOGA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 20TH ANNUAL TCDC LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST AT THE PENN WELLS HOTEL, 62 MAIN STREET, WELLSBORO, PA ON THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2016 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 18, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jolene Hall closed the meeting at 8:03 P.M.

Motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Jill Nickerson. All in Favor.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. in the Blossburg Borough Building Council Room.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR PATRICK BARRETT, AT END OF COUNCIL MEETING. NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN. PERSONNEL ISSUES DISCUSSED.

Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary