

# BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

## June 13, 2018

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, Timothy Martin, James Rakoski, (absent, Paul Hosszu); Mayor Shane Nickerson; Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett; Junior Council Person Eion Hicks-Lee; Chief Joshua McCurdy; Borough Manager George D. Lloyd; Borough Secretary Mary Signor; Natalie Kennedy Wellsboro Gazette; Unisatvti Hicks-Lee; Blossburg Ambulance Crew: Myra Kreger, Lakota Cummings, Tucker Beck.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the May 9, 2018 meeting were accepted on motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:** Report accepted subject to audit on motion of James Rakoski; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

**Bills:** Bills to be paid on motion of Jerome Ogden; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

**Guests:** Blossburg Ambulance Crew / 1<sup>st</sup> Responders presented the Blossburg Police Department with two (2) 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Bags, one bag for each patrol car, as a thank you for their assistance in helping with on scene emergencies. All four (4) officers in the BPD are qualified in 1<sup>st</sup> Aid and CPR.

Chief McCurdy presented a Certificate to the Blossburg Ambulance Department for their donations of medical equipment to the BPD.

Unisatvti Hicks-Lee updated Council on the issue of feral cats in Blossburg. Six (6) adult cats have been caught using the Trap-Neutered-Release process.

### **Reports:**

**(A) Junior Council Person:** Eion Hicks-Lee plans to request the Recreation Board to purchase an automated external defibrillator (AED) for the Island Park Pool. Jerome Ogden suggested a letter be sent to Williamson Road Foundation requesting funding for the AED.

### **(B) Committee Business Development:**

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) meetings are held on fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:00 P.M. Meeting locations are different each month. Check the V.I.B.E. website for meeting place.

V.I.B.E. proposed upcoming events: October 14, 2018 – Fall Festival  
November 24, 2018 – Small Town Christmas

V.I.B.E. projects: (1) Communication Plan. (2) PA Downtown Center Membership of communities along Route 15 corridor (Route 15 Coalition).

**Reports:**

(C) **Mayor:** Mayor Nickerson reported V.I.B.E. received \$8,000.00 from the Jones Foundation. The monies are to be used to coat the surface of Island Park Skatepark and to add a new piece of equipment.

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

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

District Magistrate Fines Total: \$497.58.

Prior to tonight's meeting, the Police Committee met to discuss the rehiring of Officer Ronald Warren. Police Committee agreed and recommends rehiring Officer Warren, part-time 32 hours per week and to sign an 18 month contract.

Motion to rescind Officer Ronald Warren resignation and rehire was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor.

Motion to have Office Warren sign an 18 month contract, contingent on Borough Solicitor's review, was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Timothy Martin. All in favor.

Officer Warren requested permission to attend an AR15 firearm instructor class. Cost is \$260.00. Council agreed.

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett reviewed new police procedures for Fire Arms and Body Cameras and policies are ready to accept. Motion was made by Jerome Ogden to accept the new policies for Fire Arms and Body Cameras; second, James Rakoski. All in favor.

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

(F) **Borough Manager:**

Borough Manager Report accepted. Motion of James Rakoski; second, Jerome Ogden. All in favor.

Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett to review Repsol Lease Agreement for new Borough building located at 241 Main Street.

**Riparian Planting Habitat Restoration Agreement:** Blossburg Borough will allow Endless Mountains RC&D and/or its Partners to undertake riparian tree planting activities on land owned by the Blossburg Borough. Site assessment is located on Island Park. The estimated total cost of EMRCD/DCNR Buffer Grant is \$6,000.00, with Borough match of 50% or \$3,000.00. Motion to move forward with Agreement was made by Timothy Martin; second, Jill Nickerson. All in favor. A date is to be scheduled to meet with Shade Tree Commission and Jerome Ogden to discuss placement of tree plantings.

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

**Zoning Hearing Board:** No meeting.

**Reports:**

**(H) Recreation:**

Motion to purchase two (2) dog waste stations with roll bag systems, to be placed on areas along walking trail, was made by Jill Nickerson; second, Timothy Martin. All in favor. Edwin Gillmore, former Borough Council Person, has offered to reimburse the Borough for the units.

Playground: Plantings are done. Topsoil area around playground, then area seeded and mulched. Brick will be installed at bench areas. The personalized Brick Fundraiser Order Form can be found on the Borough Website and Facebook. A personalized brick with your name, business, organization, friend or loved ones name can be purchased at \$25.00 per brick.

Tennis Courts: Nothing to report.

Trees: Planting of trees at park is on hold until new playground is completed.

Island Park River Walk: Nothing to report.

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

Blossburg Fire Police schedule was presented to Council, so Borough's Worker's Compensation will provide coverage. Motion to approve Blossburg Fire Police participation in outside borough limits events was made by Jill Nickerson; second, Timothy Martin. All in favor.

2019 will be 150 year anniversary for the BFD. Celebration planning has started. Date of festivity is July 13, 2019. Activities will be presented to Blossburg Recreation Board for their approval.

**(J) Library:** The Blossburg Memorial Library / "Turning Outward" is still ongoing. Training is under Harwood – The Institute for Public Innovation.

*Presented by Tonya McNamara ...*

Community Conversation Results so far:

People want Blossburg to be a thriving, supportive, caring, connected community with opportunities for all ages. But they're concerned that lack of communication and volunteers are in the way of meeting those aspirations. They talk specifically about empty storefronts, lack of living wage jobs, younger people not moving in, new leaders not stepping forward or, if they want to step up, they don't know who to contact or where to go for information. They believe we need to focus on improved communications of events and activities, more frequent activities for all ages and encourage new citizen and youth involvement in the community. And if (an undetermined) group(s) played a part in those actions they would be more likely to trust the effort and step forward.

I would like to challenge council and all borough employees to help this community move forward. The Blossburg Memorial Library and Blossburg VIBE have taken on this challenge and we would like the Borough to join us.

**Reports:**

**(K) Street / Building Committee:**

A list of 2018 proposed streets for tar & chipping was reviewed. Total miles and cost: 2.00 miles at ± \$49,006.00.

7,359 Gallons – E-Oil:	\$14,718.00
332 Tons – 1B Stone:	\$11,288.00
200 Tons – Blacktop:	\$15,000.00
Contractor Equipment:	\$ 8,000.00

Motion to accept 2018 proposed street repairs was made by Jill Nickerson; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

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

**(M) Budget:** A letter was sent to Benecon, Borough’s health insurance provider, informing them the Borough is exploring other options for health insurance for 2019, and may be terminating coverage with PMHIC.

A meeting was scheduled for June 21, 2018 at 5:00 P.M. to discuss telephone carriers for new Borough building. Motion for the Budget Committee to have the authority to approve the telephone carriers (phone and internet) was made by Jill Nickerson; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

New Financial and Utility billing programs are being reviewed.

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

BMA discuss Engineering Agreement with William S. Bray for new sewer plant.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Borough Code of Ordinances – Update Keystate Publishers:** Nothing to report.

Remove from agenda. Motion of Jerome Ogden; second, James Rakoski. All in favor.

**2. Borough Website:** Timothy Martin is working on a new website and talked to Brad Zehr to cease work on the old website. A meeting was scheduled for June 25, 2018 at 5:00 P.M. to discuss developing another website.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Resolution No. 3 2018 Subdivision Borough Property:**

The Blossburg Borough conveyed a portion of own property to become part and parcel with another parcel owned by the Borough of Blossburg, which was conveyed to it by Deed recorded as Tioga County Instrument No. 201800379. Motion to approve Resolution No. 3 2018 was made by Jerome Ogden; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2. Tioga County Planning Commission:**

County of Tioga intends to apply for a State grant on a Baseline Water Quality Data Program. The objective is to establish a baseline for ground water quality data on private water supplies. Local residents with wells are to be asked to participate.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**TIOGA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHs DINNER MEETING WILL BE HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2018 AT THE LAWRENCEVILLE FIRE HALL, 9 – 11 MECHANIC STREET, LAWRENCEVILLE, PA. SOCIAL HOUR BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER AT 6:30 P.M. R.S.V.P. BY THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2018.**

**LEWIS AND CLARK CIRCUS: JULY 2, 2018 TWO SHOW TIMES: 5:00 P.M. AND 7:30 P.M. EVENT WILL BE HELD ON ISLAND PARK, 10 WATER STREET, BLOSSBURG, PA.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** President Jolene Hall closed the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

Motion of Timothy Martin; second, James Rakoski. All in Favor.

**Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at 6:30 P.M. in the new Blossburg Borough Building Council Room, 241 Main Street.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED BY BOROUGH SOLICITOR AT END OF MEETING. PERSONNEL ISSUES DISCUSSED. NO ACTION TAKEN.**

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Mary C. Signor, Borough Secretary