

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
February 13, 2019

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 Blossburg Borough Building, 241 Main Street, Blossburg, PA.

Attendance: President Jolene Hall, Vice- President Jill Nickerson, Pro-Temp Tonya McNamare, Council Members Jerome Ogden, Paul Hosszu, Tim Martin, (absent James Rakoski) Mayor Shane Nickerson, Borough Solicitor Patrick Barrett, Chief Josh McCurdy, Borough Manager George D. Lloyd, Borough Secretary Cheryl Bubacz.
Guests included Corporal Bob Scott, Officer Ronald Warren, Officer Brian Isaacson, Henry Bartlett, Uni Hicks-Lee, Jamie McCurdy and sons, Justice McCurdy and Joel McCurdy.

Minutes The minutes of the January 9, 2019 meeting were accepted as presented. Motion of Jill Nickerson; second, Tim Martin. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report Report accepted subject to audit by motion of Paul Hosszu; second, Tim Martin. All in favor.

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

Guests: No topics for discussion.

Reports:

Junior Council Reported that the spring musical will be held March 8th, 9th and 10th. The
Person: musical will be *Little Shop of Horrors*.
The date for Prom has not been set yet.

Committee Business Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business and Entertainment) Dates have been
Development: set for the various community activities:
Community Yard Sale will be held April 27, 2019;
Fall Festival will be held on October 13, 2019;
Shop Small Town Christmas will be held on November 30, 2019;
Light Up the Town Christmas light contest will be judged on
December 15, 2019
The Island Park 150 has two (2) dates in mind, but have not set a firm
date yet.

Local news and announcements can be seen at news@blossburg.org

Mayor: The Mayor commented on the Police Department being very active and progressing and moving forward with the SRO (School Resource Officer). In keeping with the progressing theme, the Officers designed new badges. Badges need to be replaced periodically due to everyday wear and tear. The Officers designed the new badges which are black, representing the history of the town with the coal heritage. Following a re-affirmation of each of their Oaths of Office, Chief McCurdy, Corporal Bob Scott, Officer Ronald Warren and Officer Brian Isaacson received their new badges.

Following the presentation of the new badges, Chief McCurdy expressed his appreciation to the Officers for their excellent work and continued professionalism on duty. He challenged each Officer to be the best that they can be and to strive to achieve and excel.

Police 1. Everyone has received a copy of the Police Report.

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

2. Chief McCurdy announced that each Officer has been re-certified with Tasers.

3. The new Police Car, Car #3, is in service.

Police Committee: No Meeting

Borough Manager: 1. Borough Manager report accepted on Motion from Paul Hosszu; second, Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

2. Several residents have complained about not being able to park on Main Street during business hours. Previously a letter was sent to business owners asking them to have their employees refrain from parking on Main Street. The letter will be revised and resent to business owners on Motion of Jerome Ogden and seconded by Paul Hosszu,

Planning Commission Report: No Meeting

Zoning Hearing Board: No Meeting

Recreation: Meeting held in December, no Minutes provided.

The Board is getting ready for the United Fund mailing.

The Board discussed the Southern Tioga School District board Appointees. The Board decided to keep the Appointees as they are.

The Board is working on job descriptions and policy forms. Also, when the Pool is set for opening we need to contact the phone company about accessing voice mail. The code has been lost or misplaced.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is February 25th, however that meeting has been moved the March 4th at the Borough Hall starting at 6:00 pm.

The Borough Manager reported that a new sign will be installed at the entrance to the Park notifying the public of the hours of the park. The gate is currently left open due to the weather so that the workers don't have to lock and unlock the gate when going for plows and cinders. Also, the ambulance and fire trucks go on and off the Park to refill their gas tanks.

The meeting with Kim Gridley was held on January 17, 2019. There was a discussion about planting trees along the bank of Johnson Creek along the River Walk. Hope to have the School District participate in the project.

Playground: The playground is completed and need to submit the necessary paperwork to the state for funds.

Tennis Court: Nothing to Report

Trees: Planting of trees by the playground area is on hold until new playground in completed.

Island Park River Walk: Jerome commented that the walk looks very good and has been well maintained. A Special Thank You to Bob Metarko for his maintenance of the Walk. It is greatly appreciated.

Fire: Minutes received. New Officers are in place.

The annual Fire and Ambulance Banquet is February 16th at the Fire Hall. Jolene also announced that the Department now has a Chaplain, Scott Rossell.

The Fire Department continues to plan for the 150th celebration slated for July 13, 2019.

The renovations to the Fire Hall are proceeding well.

Library: At the most recent Meeting, the Board reviewed repairing and/or putting in new steps and sidewalk from the Parking Lot to the Main Sidewalk. Jerome suggested that once they have quotes, to submit an application to the Williamson Road Foundation for funding. Paul suggested the Legions and VFW for additional funding as well.

The Mayor also asked the Borough Manager when there is some paving material left, the end of the Library Parking Lot needs a small amount.

The Library is hosting an "Outward Initiative" on February 19, 2019 at 6:00 pm at the Library. This Initiative is to initiate a discussion among teens in the area about what they want to see happen in town and to get this group of young adults to take ownership and be a part of the organization and suggest new ideas for implementation in town.

A new program “Rhyme Time” is being setup for children ages 0 to 5 with grant monies from the Jones Foundation.

The Board also thanks the Borough employees for salting and plowing during the recent storms.

Street Committee:

The Borough Manager reported that we did not receive the grant monies from the Conservation District to work on East Creek Road. He will reapply in the Fall.

**Shade Tree
Commission:**

Nothing to Report

Budget:

The Borough Manager asked for a Budget Meeting to review the reports and other information available from QuickBooks for Council to review monthly. A meeting was set for February 20th at 4:30.

**Blossburg Municipal
Report:**

Engineering work being done for a new water storage tank on Taylor Run Property adjacent to the old sand bank. They are hoping to be able to bid that out in 2020. At the reconvened meeting of the Municipal Authority, the Authority appointed Pat Bauman to complete the term of office left open with the passing of Ben Jones.

Henry Bartlett asked if there was a residency requirement to be a member of the Municipal Authority. George said he did not believe so as one member is a resident of Hamilton Township, however, both applicants to fill Ben’s position were Borough residents. Jerome asked if the Borough needed to vote and confirm the appointment of Mr. Bauman and Attorney Barrett said not if he is filling a term.

OLD BUSINESS:

Borough Website:

The existing websites needs to be revised.

Jill initiated a conversation about partnering with residents of the community. She said that the perception and “talk” on the street is that the local government can’t be trusted. She would like to setup a Communications Team to address several communication issues:

Facebook – deleting current presence and creating a new presence
Newsletter – creating a newsletter for residents getting more information to residents either through email, mailing, social media, whatever their presence is. We should include a questionnaire with the next billing to obtain information on how residents want to receive information, bills, make payments, set up payment plans, etc. With the new billing program, we can email municipal bills to those that would like to receive their bills electronically. We will also have the ability to receive e-payments and/or credit card payments. This is the type of information we need to get out to the consumers.

Suggestion boxes – establish suggestion boxes in different locations so that consumers can put a suggestion, issues or questions that they may have, and how they would like the Council to respond.

Coffee with Council – setup a coffee hour once a month at various locations where Council members would be available in a neutral setting to answer questions that residents may have.

Once a committee is selected, deadlines will be set for various communication ideas.

**QuickBooks and
Diversified
Technology Utility
Billing Programs:**

QuickBooks is up and running. Diversified will be running a parallel to the water bills and the garbage bills recently sent out. A new computer was purchased. The current system is 6 years old and does not have the capacity to run all of the programs necessary.

Consent Agenda:

A form was passed around to Council Members to obtain their preferred contact information.

Baptist Church Light:

Completed.

NEW BUSINESS:

**Building Permit
Agreement with
Covington Township:**

The Covington Township approved the Blossburg Permit Officer to handle the Covington Township Permits. A revised Permit Application was sent to Covington Township for their review.

**Advertise Council
Meeting Dates for
2019:**

Meetings were advertised January 17th and 24th in the Wellsboro Gazette; this included the Borough Council, Municipal Authority, Recreation Board, Planning and Zoning Commission meetings.

**TCAB Meeting held
by Blossburg March
21, 2019**

The TCAB meeting for March will be held in Blossburg on March 21st. Quotes were obtained from Momma's, the Fire Auxiliary and Custom Catering from Wellsboro. After review of the quotes and discussion, it was determined that the meeting would held at the KCC Building with Momma's catering. Cheryl will contact Momma's and make arrangements.

A discussion was held about a speaker, Jolene suggested that Mayor, Shane Nickerson, speak regarding the Opioid Epidemic and related issues. Shane agreed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The TCAB Meeting for February will be held at Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Tioga on February 20, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Jolene Hall adjourned the meeting at 7:29 pm by motion of Jerome Ogden and seconded by Paul Hosszu. All in favor.

/s/ Cheryl L. Bubacz

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary