

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

November 13, 2019

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

President Jolene Hall called the Blossburg Borough Council 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 McNamara, Council Members Jerome Ogden, Paul Hosszu, Tim Martin, James Rakoski, Mayor, Shane Nickerson (Absent), Borough Solicitor, Patrick Barrett, Police Chief, Josh McCurdy, Borough Manager, George D. Lloyd and Borough Secretary, Cheryl Bubacz.

Guests: Henry Bartlett, Derek Lindquist, Uni Hicks-Lee, Natalie Kennedy from Tioga Publishing, Kevin Lindquist, Luke Tanner, Betty Woodard, Wendy Shattuck and Andrew O'Conner.

Minutes The Minutes of the October 9 and October 14 meetings were accepted as presented, by Motion of James Rakoski; Second Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report Report accepted subject to audit by Motion of James Rakoski; Second Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Bills: Bills to be paid by Motion of James Rakoski; Second Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Guests: Kevin Lindquist: The Fire Department's personnel issue has come to an end as the party involved did not attend the appeal meeting. He heard that there were letters sent to the Borough Office regarding the Fire Department and is disappointed that those letters were not shared with the Fire Department.

Question was raised if Act 13 monies are available to the Fire Department from the Borough. Following a meeting on November 7, 2019 in Mansfield, the Fire Department believes that they should be receiving a portion of the Act 13 monies.

It was suggested that the Fire Committee of the Council and the Fire Department set up a meeting to review various items, including Act 13 monies.

Derek Lindquist: Continuing with the personnel issue and the Borough Council, Derek is of the opinion that this should be settled once and for all. The Fire Department broke away from the Borough years ago and is not under the Borough Council's control. Attorney Barrett will review the Bylaws of the Fire Department to determine any issues with the Bylaws.

Additionally, both Derek Lindquist and Chief Andrew O'Conner discussed the meeting held in Mansfield and Act 13 monies not being given to the Fire Department. A question from Council was has the Fire Department ever requested any of the Act 13 monies for any projects or needs. The answer was not that they are aware of.

Jerome Ogden said that he has nothing but respect for the Fire Department and the work they perform. The Council Members concurred.

Betty Woodard: Betty is still concerned regarding the feral cat population and wanted to know what is going to be done. Council Member, Jill Nickerson said that the Borough is voting on funding later in the meeting. Jill suggested that Betty work with Uni Hicks-Lee who is spear-heading the group for the “Trap-Neuter-Release” program.

Committee
Business
Development:

Tonya McNamara reported that VIBE is working on the Small Town Christmas to be held on November 30th. Jill Nickerson reminded everyone that there will be a “Pop Up Shop” at the Small Town Christmas where you can purchase your Blossburg items such as t-shirts, mugs, etc. She urged all to support Small Town Christmas. Tonya reported that both the Fall Festival and Soap Box Derby were a success. Additionally, the Island Park 150 was held on November 9th and the turnout was a success. A new record was set for the number of 1.53 mile laps was set with 16 laps completed.

Blossburg First United Methodist Church has asked for permission to hold a 5K run on Saturday, November 30th starting at 9:00 a.m. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Tim Martin to grant permission for the 5K. All in favor.

Mayor: absent

Police The Police Report was accepted on Motion of James Rakoski; Second Tonya McNamara. All in favor.

Chief McCurdy informed the Council that Officer Ronald Warren had submitted his letter of resignation effective with the end of his shift on Friday, November 15, 2019. Officer Warren has multiple Court Hearings scheduled that he will need to attend and he will be paid by the Borough for those Hearings accordingly. A Police Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 18th to further discuss manning the department.

Chief McCurdy asked the Council for a Motion to advertise the Notice of Intent to File for a Grant for the new police car which is a requirement of the Grant application. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Jerome Ogden to advertise the Notice of Intent. All in favor.

A question was asked about the status of the delivery of the new police car. Derek Lindquist with Rapid Response explained that Ford had issues at the assembly plant and all of the production vehicle were recalled and are being worked on by Ford. At this time, we are probably looking at a January 2020 delivery time.

Police
Committee:

A meeting will be held on Monday, November 18, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

- Borough Manager:**
1. Borough Manager's Report accepted by Motion of James Rakoski; Second Tonya McNamara. All in favor.
 2. The Kubota that the Borough owns needs a cab for the winter for plowing snow. The cost is approximately \$7,500. The funds for the purchase are in the equipment fund. Borough Manager requested a Motion to purchase the cab. Motion by Jerome Ogden, Second by Tonya McNamara. All in favor.
 3. The old Police SUV was taken to auction and net proceeds of \$1,855 were received.

**Planning
Commission
Report:** Nothing

**Zoning Hearing
Board:** The variance requested by Mr. Higgins was reviewed and passed by the Hearing Board on October 29, 2019.

**Properties Sold
During Month:** There was one (1) property transferred in October.

Recreation: Southern Tioga School District accepted the Resignation of Anne Harman as the School District's representative on the Recreation Board and appointed Josh McCurdy to fulfill her term ending on 12/31/2020.

Playground: The final Report was filed and the Borough is receiving a reimbursement for expenses paid and work in kind.

Tennis Court: Nothing

Island Park River Walk: Nothing.

Fire: Minutes received prior to the meeting, Borough Secretary will forward to Council Members.

Library: Nothing

Street Committee: Nothing.

**Shade Tree
Commission:** Nothing

Budget: The 2020 Budget was prepared by the Budget Committee. The Budget was presented to the Council Members in their Council packets. A motion is needed to advertise the Budget for acceptance in December. Motion by James Rakoski, Second by Tonya McNamara to advertise the Budget for 2020. All in favor. Councilman, Jerome Ogden wanted to state for the record, that there is no real estate tax increase for 2020.

**Blossburg
Municipal Report:** The Municipal Authority has been preparing Taylor Run Property for the installation of the IMG concrete storage tank.

OLD BUSINESS: _____

Borough Website: Working on Content, actively updating the site.

Consent Agenda: Sample provided to Council members. Will review and revise. This is a work in progress.

Cybersecurity: Contacting computer companies which specialize in Cybersecurity for proposals regarding their services.

Turkey Trot 5K: As discussed in the Recreation portion, the Blossburg First United Methodist Church has asked for permission to hold a 5K run on Saturday, November 30th starting at 9:00 a.m. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Tim Martin to grant permission for the 5K. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: _____

**Board
Reappointments:** The following Board terms expire 12/31/2019.

Lisa Frederick – Reappointment to Recreation Board for additional 5 year term, ending 12/31/2024

Henry Bartlett – Reappointment to Planning Commission for additional 4 year term, ending 12/31/2023

Annie Brooks – Reappointment to Zoning Hearing Board for additional 5 year term, ending 12/31/2024

Josh McCurdy – Approve appointment by Southern Tioga School District to Recreation Board to complete term vacated by Anne Harman. Term ends 12/31/2020.

Patrick Bauman – Reappointment to Municipal Authority for 5 year term to end 12/31/2024

Motion by Tim Martin, Second by Tonya McNamara to accept the reappointments. All in favor.

**Advertise for 2020
Fuel Bids:** Motion by Jerome Ogden, Second by James Rakoski to advertise for 2020 gasoline and diesel fuel. All in favor.

Resolution 4 – 2020 As required, annually a Resolution needs to be passed for Police Pension Funding stating if it is necessary for officers to contribute to the Pension Plan. After review by
Police Pension Plan
Act 600: the actuary, no contributions are required for 2020. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second by Tim Martin to accept the Resolution. All in favor.

Executive session was called at 7:30 p.m. to discuss security matters.

Executive session ended at 8:15 p.m.

As a result of the Executive Session, the Council will sign a Security Agreement, Motion by Tim Martin, Second by Paul Hosszu.

Adjournment: President Jolene Hall adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Tim Martin.

/s/ *Cheryl L. Bubacz*

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary