

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
March 11, 2020

Meeting was called to Order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Attendance: President Jolene Hall, Vice- President Jill Nickerson, Pro-Temp Tonya McNamara, Council Members Jerome Ogden (Absent), Henry Bartlett, Tim Martin, James Rakoski (Absent), Mayor, Shane Nickerson, Borough Solicitor, Patrick Barrett, Police Chief, Josh McCurdy (Absent), Borough Manager, George D. Lloyd and Borough Secretary, Cheryl Bubacz.

Guests: Jean Tabor, Sharon Manikowski, Uni Hicks-Lee, Natalie Kennedy from Wellsboro Gazette, Annette Thompson and Cpl. Bob Scott.

Guests: Jean Tabor, organizer of the Canyon Music Fest for 2020, came to let Council know she was taking over the Fest on behalf of her late son, Dennis Gee. She is waiting for the Insurance Certificate and once received will forward to the Rec. Board. She is also interested in working with the School to start a music scholarship. Jill Nickerson said she would get additional information regarding this.

Sharon Manikowski, resident on White Street, expressing concern now that good weather is here, regarding dust and mud on White Street from the “old dump road”. Would it be possible to get that portion of the dirt road up to the Arbon Cemetery top entrance oiled this year. Borough Manager said that the year got away from everyone last year and that he would discuss the road with NTSWA at the next meeting. Sharon also heard that we have a street sweeper and if that is the case, would it be possible for the sweeper to be used on White Street. Also, asked if the area where the water main break occurred would be paved. Borough Manager said that it would be repaired once the ground has settled.

Uni Hicks-Lee next TNR Training will be March 24, 2020 at 6:30 at the Blossburg Memorial Library. The Training will be the actual trapping. He also had multiple vets working with the group so we have the ability to take the cats on multiple days depending on the trapping schedule.

Natalie Kennedy from the Wellsboro Gazette wanted to remind everyone the Landmark Awards will be given out on March 22, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. at a reception at the Deane Center in Wellsboro.

Minutes, Through the Consent Agenda, the Minutes of the February 12, 2020 meeting were
Treasurer’s accepted as presented, Treasurer’s Report accepted, subject to Audit, Bills to be paid,
Report, Bills, Police and the Police Report and Borough Manager’s Report were all accepted by Motion of
Report and Tonya McNamara; Second Tim Martin. All in favor.
Borough
Manager’s Report

Mayor: The Mayor has been out of the Country for several weeks. Having been in Japan during that time, he wanted to stress that everyone needs to be self-disciplined and use common sense regarding the COVID-19 Virus. The use of hand sanitizer, masks, hand washing and general hygiene will go a long way in combating the virus. Be mindful about touching your face and mouth and wash your hands and wipe down surfaces multiple times per day. Precaution and common sense are the best steps to take at this time.

Police: The Chief was on vacation. Corporal Scott did comment that the police car, which was said to have been at the upfitter in February, was actually still in Detroit at Ford's upfitter. Still unsure when the car will be at Rapid Response for their equipment installation.

Additionally, Officer Tanner has completed his probationary training period and is now patrolling on his own and is working out very well.

Police Committee: A Meeting was held on Monday, March 2, 2020 to discuss the Mechanical Device Tax and enforcement. Borough Solicitor is writing an Ordinance to repeal this tax.

Borough Manager: 1. Received a Formal Record of Action from our 457(b) plan administrator to amend and restate the plan. Motion by Tim Martin, Second Jill Nickerson to authorize the Formal Record of Action. All in favor.

Junior Council Person: The play *The Wizard of Oz* seemed to have gone well. Waiting for final figures to see what the proceeds totaled.

North Penn Liberty will be having their annual play *Young, Bold, Murdered* soon.

Committee Business Development VIBE: VIBE has received information from PennDot regarding approved signage for a Welcome sign for the Borough and they will begin work on that. They have received a grant from Visit Potter/Tioga County for advertising.

There will be art classes starting on March 14th at the Library for children. Alania McNeal will be conducting the classes.

Community Yard Sale is May 2nd and VIBE is working on restructuring the United Fund program.

Planning Commission Report: Nothing

Zoning Hearing Board: Nothing.

Properties Sold During Month: No sales.

Recreation: The Rec. Board has received requests for the following events on the Island:

- MDA Walk on June 27th;
- Coal Festival/United Methodist Church 5K Color Run on May 23rd;
- Canyon Music Fest, previously approved for July 18, 2020, has now been moved to July 25, 2020; and
- Island Park 150 Challenge for November 14, 2020

Motion by Tonya McNamara, second by Henry Bartlett that the above detailed events be authorized by the Borough. All in favor.

Rec. Board is getting the Park ready for the season. There will be additional signs deterring parking within the grounds; Borough crew is working on repairs at the large Pavilion. Question was raised about getting additional boulders to deter people from driving up to the large pavilion. We could get additional boulders or plant trees.

Rec. Board reviewed the Pool Passes for the 2020 Pool Season. The pre-sale prices will be single - \$100 and family - \$165; Tickets available at the Borough Office for presale at this time.

Borough Manager also discussed putting a small footbridge from the walk path to the little league field. This would be in the area where people have put boards across the small stream to get across already. Motion by Tonya McNamara, Second Jill Nickerson to authorize the Borough Manager to proceed with getting a footbridge for the area discussed. All in favor.

The question regarding insurance coverage for people renting and using the Park for events was raised. Solicitor suggested that we contact our insurance carrier to get their opinion. Borough Secretary will contact our insurance carrier and report back.

Playground: Waiting for new swing set to be delivered, site is ready for installation.

Tennis Court: Nothing

River Walk: General Spring maintenance is being completed on the path.

Fire: No Minutes were received prior to the meeting.

Library: Nothing. The concert pianist is playing on April 4th.

Street Committee: Hope to be able to put together the list of streets for 2020 tar & chipping for next meeting.

Shade Tree Commission: Nothing

Budget: Nothing

Blossburg Municipal Report: Plan to be able to bid the project in the next month or so. Interim financing documents were prepared and signed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION called at 7:07 p.m. – Personnel Matters

MEETING RECONVENED at 7:33 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Financial Statements: Borough Secretary still needs two (2) statements.

Ordinance: Solicitor presented a draft of the Ordinance for banning first floor residential apartments in C-1 areas. Ordinance will be advertised and prepared for public hearing.

Sesquicentennial Planning: Next meeting will be March 18, 2020 in the Council Room at 5:30

Repeal of Mechanical Device Tax: Solicitor will prepare Repeal for next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: _____

Announcements: The March TCAB Meeting will be hosted by the Borough at the KCC Building on Island Park. Guest Speaker will be Joe Bubacz discussing Cybersecurity. Social time starts at 6:00 pm with dinner and meeting to follow at 6:30 pm.

Adjournment: President Jolene Hall adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m. Motion by Jill Nickerson, Second by Tim Martin.

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary