

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 10, 2020

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

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

Guests: Natalie Kennedy from Wellsboro Gazette, Sharon Manikowski, Luke Tanner, Betty Woodard, Wendy Shattuck, Linda Johns, Kelly Stemcosky, Laura Clarson, present at meeting, and Josh Jones, by teleconference.

Prior to the start of Meeting, a moment of silence was held in memory and honor of former Councilman, Thomas “Tom” Bogaczyk, who recently passed away.

Guests: Sharon Manikowski: Asked for an update on White Street and the grading and oiling for the dust. Borough Manager said that the oiling would be done the 2nd week of July. Sharon asked if the sweeper could be run over the area in the meantime. Borough Manager said yes.

Betty Woodard: Issues with fireworks being shot off. Chief McCurdy explained the noise Ordinance prohibits loud noises between the hours of 10:00 pm and 6:00 am. During those hours, if there is an issue, please call 911. Chief McCurdy explained that leaving a message at the office will not suffice as the messages would not be heard immediately. Ms. Woodard said the bottle rocks have landed on her roof and she is afraid a fire will start.

Betty Woodard, Luke Tanner, Wendy Shattuck, Linda Johns, Kelly Stemcosky and Laura Clarson: Feral cat issue. Kelly and Laura have started a non-profit organization known as the “Tioga County Cat Project” (TCCP) and have worked with other communities to trap, spay/neuter and release feral cats. They are willing to work with the Borough with the feral population. Jill Nickerson asked that they work with Wendy Shattuck who has graciously offered to help with the project. A tentative date of June 23rd has been set for the first trap date. Wendy has located 9 colonies of cats having an approximate total of 150 cats in town that need to be addressed. TCCP said that they can take between 25 and 30 cats to the vet at a time to be spayed or neutered, given rabies vaccines and have their ears tipped. The cost is \$55 per cat. Donations can be made to the Borough Office or to TCCP.

Question was raised about trapping someone’s pet. It was suggested that if you have a cat that you let out of your house, put a collar on it. If a cat is in a trap without a collar, it will be taken to the vet to be spayed or neutered and will have its ears tipped.

Council members applauded TCCP and Wendy for this work and are behind the project 100%. Jill Nickerson reiterated that the Borough has set aside \$5,000 to help with this project.

Minutes,
Treasurer's
Report, Bills, Police
Report and
Borough
Manager's Report

Through the Consent Agenda, the Minutes of the May 13, 2020 meeting were accepted as presented, Treasurer's Report accepted, subject to Audit, Bills to be paid, and the Police Report and Borough Manager's Report were all accepted by Motion of Tonya McNamara; Second Henry Bartlett. All in favor.

Mayor: Thank you to Wendy Shattuck for her hard work with the Community Garden, we appreciate all of her help.

Covid Task Force for Tioga County now meeting every other week by teleconference. Although three (3) new cases have surfaced, they were all in the same family.

The conversion by Jim West of the former St. Andrews is stunning. If you have an opportunity, please stop and check it out.

Police: On June 11, 2020, the Chief and Corporal Scott will be traveling to Annville, PA to pick up the "new" police car. The up-fitter has completed their work. The second car is in Detroit being built.

Police
Committee: No Meeting

Borough Manager: The Municipal Authority purchased a new Cat Excavator. It should be here in about 6 weeks.

The Borough received a letter from Mighty Mike Entertainment regarding his ability to provide a loudspeaker system for music or announcements should we need or want it. Council agreed this should be passed on to VIBE.

Jerome Ogden mentioned to the Borough Manager that there is a tree limb blocking the stop sign at the corner of Lynd and Morris Street. Borough Manager will address this.

Junior Council
Person: Not Present.

Committee
Business
Development
VIBE: Community Garden being worked on and looks great. The next meeting will cover the Fall Festival and if it can take place.

VIBE is looking for an ice cream truck to travel around town.

Planning
Commission
Report: Nothing

Zoning Hearing
Board: Nothing.

Properties Sold No properties sold in May according to Register & Recorder's Office.
During Month:

Recreation: The Rec. Board meeting was held and the reopening process and procedures for the Pool were discussed. Jill Nickerson provided a handout of the procedures to each Council member for their review, if you have any changes or suggestions, please forward them to Jill.

The Music Festival previously scheduled has been cancelled by Ms. Taber.

The Pool will be hosting a lifeguard certification June 26th, 27th and 28th for those who need to be certified or have their certification renewed. The evening of the 26th will be the written portion and the in-water training will be the 27th and 28th.

Art Camp will be in the Pavilion in the near future. Dates will be posted online.

The last "emergency" food pantry is scheduled for June 26th on the Island Park. Following this food pantry, the only monthly food pantry will be the Matthew 25 Pantry which is the 3rd Monday of each month. It is our hope to move this food pantry to the Borough Garage and operate it similar to the Military Share program. Then the Community Building can be cleared out and prepared for renting and football season.

Playground: Concrete for the swing set has been poured, wood carpet will be delivered soon and then swings can be put up. There will be four (4) swings for older children and two (2) infant/toddler swings.

River Walk: Nothing

Fire: Minutes were not received. The Ambulance Association has voted on and passed a motion to increase their monthly payment on their loans by \$500 per month in order to pay off the loan quicker. They have also set up a "to go bag" for Liberty which includes everything Liberty would need when responding to an ambulance call.

Fire House Subs was a big hit and it is believed to have raised over \$2,000 for the fire department.

Library: The Library is open on a "grab and go" system. The State has not approved libraries in general to be open to the public yet.

Street Nothing
Committee:

Shade Tree Nothing
Commission:

Budget: A five-month report showing actual versus budgeted numbers was provided for review.

**Blossburg
Municipal
Report:** The culvert for the new sewer plant will be installed June 18th.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ordinance: A public hearing will be held once the Pandemic phase allows it.

**Sesquicentennial
Planning:** Meeting will be scheduled in the next few weeks start this planning again.

**Repeal of
Mechanical
Device Tax:** By Motion of Tim Martin, Second James Rakoski, the Mechanical Device Tax is hereby repealed. Resolution to be signed in July. All in Favor. Motion by Tim Martin, Second by James Rakoski to remove this item from the agenda. All in Favor.

COVID – 19: This will be incorporated with the Mayor’s section in the future. Motion to remove this from the agenda by Jerome Ogden, Second by Tim Martin.

VIBE has collected over \$18,000 of donations for the various food pantries, masks, etc. that have been provided to citizens. Fifty (50) masks were provided to Partners in Progress recently and our mask makers continue to make more. The school lunch program is now completed. During the time the program was running, the program served over 250 children per week.

A big thank you for the signs that were hung in front of the Borough Office for the Southern Tioga School District graduating seniors and the 6th Grade graduates from Blossburg Elementary.

**SHARED
SERVICES
AGREEMENT:** Solicitor is currently reviewing the Agreement.

**MUNICIPAL
AGREEMENT:** Solicitor is currently working on the Agreement.

NEW BUSINESS:

**DOG LEASH
ORDINANCE:** Does the Borough have a dog leash Ordinance? It has recently become a matter of topic on social media. Solicitor will review our Ordinance and provide an opinion.

Announcements: Remember to complete the 2020 Census. Your responses help the Borough get funding from the government.

Mayor Nickerson asked for a short Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Meeting can be adjourned.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned by Vice President Jill Nickerson at 7:40 p.m. Motion by Tim Martin, Second by Henry Bartlett.

Executive Session started at 7:41 and was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

/s/ Cheryl L. Bubacz

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary