

BLOSSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
July 8, 2020

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

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

Guests: Betty Woodard, Wendy Shattuck, Kevin Lindquist, Derek Lindquist, Commission Roger Bunn, Kim and Jericho Sexauer.

Kevin Lindquist: Kevin was present on behalf of the Fire Department. The Fire Department is purchasing a 2009 Pierce Pumper Truck from a fire department near Pittsburgh. The new pumper truck would replace the two (2) pumper trucks currently owned by the Fire Department which are both over 20 years old and having to be repaired quite frequently. The financing for the purchase is through Community Leasing Partners from Kansas due strictly to the interest rate. The leasing company is requiring the municipalities covered by the Fire Department to acknowledge they are aware of the financing as part of their documentation. Letter has been provided to the Council's Solicitor for his review. Motion by Tim Martin, Second Henry Bartlett to authorize the Borough to sign the letter once approved by our Solicitor. All in Favor.

Jericho Sexauer: Jericho gave a progress report on his Eagle Scout project for the identification of trees on the walking path at Island Park. He will have between 12 and 14 signs identifying different trees and will include rubbing stations for leaves. Current timeframe is July 15 -16 and July 18-19 for installation of signs and bench. All of the work will be performed by the Scout Troop under the supervision of the Scout leader. Chief McCurdy stated that if Jericho ran short of funds, he would gladly donate. Mayor Nickerson thanked Jericho for his project and said he thought it will be a great addition to the Park.

Derek Lindquist: Derek and Andrew O'Connors are thinking about different ideas to bring people into town and to help raise funds for the Fire Department. One thought is an annual Softball Tournament. They were thinking July 4th weekend. Would want to include food trucks and/or other food vendors and last one to two days. Mayor Nickerson asked them to put a plan together and present it to the Recreation Board.

Wendy Shattuck: Wendy reported on the first trapping of feral cats which took place June 22, 2020. Twenty-seven (27) cats and five kittens were caught and taken to be spayed or neutered. It was a learning experience. She would like to take fewer cats at a time, suggested between 5 and 10, as that number is easier to handle. She has spoken with another vet who will do between 5 and 10 cats at a time for \$67 per cat. Wendy believes there to be approximately 10 colonies of cats with a total of about 250 cats. With the existing budget provided by the Borough, they can spay/neuter approximately 51 more cats. Wendy would like to have a donation link set up on the Vibe Facebook page so people can donate. Councilwoman McNamara stated that in the interim, people could send a donation to the Borough Office, payable to the Borough with TNR or Cat Project in the memo. There are currently four (4) more planned trappings: July 23rd (have

appointment with vet for 5 cats) and August 3, 14th and 24th (have appointments for each for 10 cats). Wendy wanted to thank volunteers that have been consistently helping her. Mayor Nickerson thanked Wendy for her work on this project.

Betty Woodard: Betty came as a follow-up to the Dog Ordinance discussed during the June 10th meeting and specifically wanted to discuss her neighbor's dog. The neighbor will put the dog, which is a German Shepherd, on a leash but then not hold the leash and the dog will wander in the yard and in and out of the street. Chief McCurdy explained the Ordinance to Betty that a dog needs to be under "direct control" of its owner, not necessarily on a leash. Betty is concerned because the dog barks at people and other dogs and the dog scares and intimidates people. Chief McCurdy said he would go and talk to the owner.

Roger Bunn: Commissioner Bunn came on behalf of the Census 2020 Complete Count Committee. The 2020 Census is very important for municipalities to obtain funding through the CARES Act. The more complete the census numbers are the more funding monies are made available for municipalities. Blossburg Borough currently has a 62% Census response rate. For each uncounted person, the funding is decreased by \$20,000. Would the Borough further promote getting responses sent in from residents? Mayor Nickerson, said the Borough would absolutely promote the Census completion and we will put it on our media pages and ask our residents who have not responded to the Census, to please respond.

Minutes, Treasurer's Report, Bills, Police Report & Borough Manager's Report:
Minutes and Reports were all accepted as presented by Motion of Tonya McNamara; Second James Rakoski. All in favor.

Mayor:

The new Police Car is here and is in use. It is a very nice car.
Pastor Lon Williams from Liberty asked permission to run 50 miles on the Park on July 9th for his 50th birthday. Mayor told him that would not be a problem. Pastor Williams will start at 4:00 a.m. and end no later than 2:00 p.m.

Police:

Chief McCurdy said the new Police Car is the best vehicle he has ever had! The second car is in Michigan going through the assembly line.
May was a very busy month with 72 calls/stops, June was even more so with 101. July has been very busy as well.

Police Committee:

No meeting

Borough Manager:

We would like to see the Borough's Facebook page changed to an "information only" page. The reason is to stop comments, that may be inappropriate, from being posted.

We received our Act 13 money for 2019. Borough received \$97,900, which is down approximately \$25,000 from the prior year. All the distributions were down for 2019 by approximately 20%.

Junior Council Person:

Not Present.

VIBE:

During the most recent meeting, the Fall Festival for 2020 was cancelled.

VIBE would like to hold three (3) outdoor movies on the Park. The dates would be July 13th and 27th and August 10th. Equipment for the movies will be loaned by the Vineyard Church and movies will be near the football bleachers. Motion by Tim Martin, Second James Rakoski to allow movies on the Park. All in Favor. Tonya will work with Borough Manager for a convenient site.

Planning Commission Report:

Nothing

Zoning Hearing Board:

Nothing.

Properties Sold During Month:

County Report not received prior to meeting.

Recreation:

The Pool is open and working well following the restrictions from the State.

The Methodist Church will be having all future Matthew 25 Food Pantries at the Church beginning in August

Thank you to Bob Metarko for continuing to keep the mowing done at the Park.

Playground: Swing set installed, waiting for delivery of wood carpet.

Riverwalk: Nothing to report.

Fire:

Minutes were not received prior to meeting.

Library:

The Library is open on a “grab and go” system. The State has not approved libraries to be open to the public yet.

Street Committee:

Commissioner Bunn asked about the curbing by the Green Bridge. Borough Manager has requested a permit from PennDot to fix the curbing.

Shade Tree Commission:

Nothing

Budget:

Nothing

Blossburg Municipal Report:

New Excavator is here. Municipal Authority is still waiting for RUS Approval to bid out the sewer project.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ordinance First Floor Apartments:

The public hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. on August 12th prior to the regularly scheduled Council Meeting.

Sesquicentennial Planning:

Meeting held on July 1, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. was attended by Jeff Benson and Borough Secretary. Next meeting is August 3, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Room. It was suggested that the Fire Department's first softball tournament be held during the Sesquicentennial Celebration for the first year.

Repeal of Mechanical Device Tax:

Need Resolution from Solicitor, repeal approved during June 10, 2020 meeting.

Shared Services Agreement:

Solicitor is reviewing agreement.

Municipal Agreement:

Solicitor is reviewing agreement.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dog Leash Ordinance:

This was covered by Chief McCurdy during comments by Betty Woodward. Nothing further to be addressed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Remember to complete the 2020 Census. Your responses help the Borough get funding through the Cares act.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned by President Jolene Hall at 7:23 p.m. Motion by Tim Martin, Second by Henry Bartlett.

/s/ Cheryl L. Bubacz

Cheryl L. Bubacz, Borough Secretary