

The Bloomsburg Town Council held their regular meeting on Monday, June 24, 2024 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall and via teleconference. The public joined by dialing: +1 646 558 8656 U.S. and included the meeting ID: 456-920-3798. The public could also join online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4569203798>.

Mayor Justin Hummel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., present were Council members Toni Bell (Zoom), James Garman, Bonnie Crawford, Jaclyn Kressler, and Nick McGaw. Town Manager / Secretary/ Treasurer Lisa Dooley, Chief of Police Scott Price, Public Works Director John Fritz, Director of Code Enforcement Mike Reffeor (Zoom), Fire Chief Scott McBride, Airport Coordinator BJ Teichman and Administrative Assistant Christine Meeker (Zoom). Also present were MJ Mahon, Andrew Barton, Alex Dubil, Vince DeMelfi, Diane Levan, Phillip Polstra, Tina Welch, Steve Welch, Dan Broadt, George Dalious, Dennis Garrison, Sylvia Costa, David's Ipad (Zoom), Steve Coladonato (Zoom), Dennis (Zoom), Stacy Wagner (Zoom), Andrew King (Zoom), Brendan Lucus ( Zoom), Mollie and Sam Faus (Zoom), and Lonnie (Zoom). Absent was Jessica Jordan.

#### **Citizens to be heard.**

Diana Levan was present to address the issue of vandalism at the Town Park. Ms. Levan stated that these youths must be held accountable for their actions and charges should be filed. Lack of effective enforcement of the law will just encourage other kids to act out in the same manner. S. Price noted that prosecution of the individuals is in the hands of the district attorney.

Phillip Polstra addressed the Council on the impact that closing the airport would have on the community. Several school districts started aviation programs due to the availability of a flight school at the Bloomsburg airport. Since the start-up of the EAA Chapter \$92,000 in scholarships have been awarded to students to get their pilot's license. P. Polstra's reading is enclosed for the minutes.

Tina Welch member of the EAA Chapter and fundraising chair outlined the many benefits of the airport with the flight school, Columbia Aircraft, the Angel flights and the economic benefits to the surrounding community. T. Welch's reading is enclosed for the minutes.

Dan Broadt stated that the Bloomsburg airport played an important part in training pilots during the WWII and continues to this day to be used as an asset to the military. Mr. Broadt's son got his pilot's license there which in turn led him into military service. D. Broadt's reading is enclosed for the minutes.

George Dalious mentioned that if the airport were to close the Explorer Post at N13 would be disbanded. Many young people in the region participate in numerous programs that are held at the facility.

John Yohey stated that he has been involved with the airport for 50 years and his father was involved before that. He questioned what will happen to the hanger and lease agreement that

he and Dave Ruckle have with the Town. Where will the owners of planes that currently have leases with the Town put their planes.

Richard Klingerman stated that the airport provides tremendous opportunities for the community. Mr. Klingerman stressed that the good of the community sometimes outweighs the need to balance the budget. Endless economic possibilities exist for the airport to remain an airport, the Town just needs to think outside the box.

Steve Welch stated that the airport is an economic benefit. He urged Council to explore the benefits the airport is bringing to the local area. S. Welch's reading is enclosed in the minutes.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council went into recess at 8:04 p.m. to hold the final CDBG public hearing.

#### **FINAL CDBG HEARING – JAMIE SHRAWDER.**

Jamie Shrawder called the public hearing to order at 8:05 p.m. Ms. Shrawder outlined the details of the FFY 2024 annual action plan. There was one public comments regarding the action plan. A. Dubil had questioned his arrest at Weis Markets could be a violation of the grant dollars. The public hearing closed at 8:09 p.m.

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council reconvened the council meeting at 8:10 p.m.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 10, 2024 MEETING.**

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the minutes from the June 10, 2024 meeting.

#### **APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 06.24.2024.01- HANDICAP APPROVED AREAS.**

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved Resolution 06.24.2024.01 – Handicap approved areas.

#### **ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 15 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG, ENTITLED "MOTORED VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC".**

On a motion by T. Bell, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council approved adoption of an ordinance amending Chapter 15 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Bloomsburg, entitled "motored vehicles and traffic".

#### **PROCLAMATION- JULY 15, 2024 TO RECOGNIZE SYLVIA COSTA'S 30 YEARS OF SERVING THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG SHADE TREE COMMISSION.**

Mayor Hummel read a proclamation recognizing Sylvia Costa's 30 years of service to the Bloomsburg Shade Tree Commission.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE LAUREN MARTZ VS. TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG LAWSUIT IN THE UNITED STATES COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, DOCKET NUMBER**

**4:22-CV-01490. TABLED FROM 5/13/2024. RECOMMENDATION FROM BUCHANAN TO KEEP IT TABLED AS OF 6/20/2024.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford and voted on unanimously, Council approved to table any action on the resolution of the Lauren Martz vs. Town of Bloomsburg lawsuit in the United States Court of the middle district of Pennsylvania, Docket Number 4:22-CV-01490.

**APPROVAL TO HIRE A PART-TIME PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.**

On a motion by J. Kressler, seconded by J. Hummel and voted on unanimously, Council approved to advertise for a part-time parking enforcement officer at the rate of \$15.00.

**REVIEW OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LIST. THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE LIST ON 6/17/2024.**

Council reviewed and acknowledged the service list that was approved by the Commission on 6/17/2024.

**A MOTION TO HIRE FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE LIST PER UNION CONTRACT PAY, BENEFITS, ETC. THIS WOULD BE PENDING PSYCHOLOGICAL, BACKGROUND AND MPOETC PHYSICAL FITNESS.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to hire from the civil service list per union contract pay, benefits, etc. This hiring would be pending the psychological, background and MPOETC physical fitness.

**APPROVAL OF EACH BACKGROUND SEARCH WITH SARATOGA ADVISORS GROUP, LLC FOR THE COST NOT TO EXCEED \$3,000 PER CANDIDATE.**

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved each background search with Saratoga Advisors Group, LLC for the cost not to exceed \$3,000 per candidate.

**APPROVAL OF APPOINTING ANDREW KING TO THE CODE APPEAL BOARD WITH A TERM EXPIRING 12/31/2025.**

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the appointment of Andrew King to the Code Appeal Board with a term expiring 12/31/2025.

**APPROVAL OF AN INVOICE FROM MARK CONNER ELECTRIC LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,578.21.**

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved an invoice from Mark Conner Electric LLC in the amount of \$10,578.21.

**APPROVAL OF ENTERING INTO AN ENGINEERING AGREEMENT WITH LIVIC CIVIL FOR THE PICKLEBALL COURT.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved entering into an engineering agreement with LIVIC Civil for the pickleball court project for \$21,500.

**APPROVAL TO SELL A 2012 FORD F550 WITH A 10' PLOW- VIN #1FDUF5HY2CEB81869.**

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to sell a 2012 Ford F550 with a 10 ft. plow-vin # 1FDU5HY2CEB81869.

**APPROVAL TO SELL A WIRE TIER FOR THE RECYCLING BALER AT A MINIMUM OF \$10,000.**

**NOTE: SCRAP VALUE WAS GOING TO BE \$300.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to sell a wire tier for the recycling baler at a minimum of \$10,000.

**APPROVAL OF A QUOTE FOR DISPOSING PROPERLY OF THE AIRPORT JET FUEL TANK. PLEASE NOTE: AT THE ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING B. TEICHMAN AND L. DOOLEY RECEIVED NEWS OF A 90/10 GRANT OPPORTUNITY THAT WOULD COVER THE DISPOSAL.**

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a quote for the proper disposal of the airport jet fuel tank.

**APPROVAL OF A QUOTE FIXING THE CONCRETE AT THE BLOOMSBURG AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING.**

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by T. Bell and voted on 0 to 6 Council voted not to repair the concrete at the Bloomsburg airport until an actual quote is received.

**APPROVAL OF A QUOTE FIXING THE WINDOW AT THE BLOOMSBURG AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING.**

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a quote to fix the window at the Bloomsburg airport terminal building.

**APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG TO CHANGE THE SPELLING OF "GLENN AVENUE" TO GLEN AVENUE". TABLED FROM 6/10/2024. NOTE: L. DOOLEY ASKED GENERAL CODE FOR A COST. ENCLOSED IN THE PACKET REFLECTS COSTS TO NOT EXCEED \$695.**

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by T. Bell and voted on 0 to 6, Council voted not to authorize the change of spelling for "Glenn Avenue".

**APPROVAL OF IMPLEMENTING SIX PORTA POTTIES AT THE TOWN PARK AND CLOSING OFF THE PERMANENT BATHROOM LOCATIONS.**

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by T. Bell and voted on 0 to 6, Council voted not to authorize the closing of the town park restrooms at this time. Should the vandalism continue, this issue may be revisited.

**APPROVAL OF THE PULL THE PLANE EVENT WITH BLOOMSBURG EAA CHAPTER 1641 FOR SEPTEMBER 14, 2024. NOTE: L. DOOLEY IS RECOMMENDING A WAIVER BE INSTITUTED FOR THE APPROVAL OF THIS EVENT.**

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the pull a plane event with the Bloomsburg EAA Chapter 1641 for September 14, 2024 at the Bloomsburg Municipal Airport.

**COUNCIL APPROVED THE ENCLOSED INVOICE TO HEPKO CONSTRUCTION INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,503 FOR RESURFACING THE BLOOMSBURG NORRIS E. ROCK MEMORIAL**

**POOL. DOES COUNCIL WISH TO HAVE THIS FLOORING DONE MID-SEASON AND SHUT DOWN THE POOL OR HAVE THIS PERFORMED IN AUGUST OF 2024?**

No motion was made on this item, therefore the bathhouse floor resurfacing will be done at the end of the season.

Motion to adjourn to an executive session was made by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council adjourned the meeting to an executive session at 9:15 p.m.

Motion to reconvene the meeting was made by B. Crawford, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council reconvened the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE PERMANENT EASEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN DILLON FLORAL CORPORATION.**

On a motion by N. McGaw, seconded by B. Crawford, and voted on unanimously, Council approved the permanent easement agreement between Dillon Floral Corporation.

**APPROVAL OF ACCEPTING PENNDOT'S RECOMMENDATION AT THE INTERSECTION OF RAILROAD AND MAIN STREETS FOR RIGHT TURNS ONLY. TABLED FROM 6/10/2024. CHIEF PRICE SENT AN E-MAIL ON 6/11/2024 DETAILING THE DATA THAT PENNDOT COLLECTED.**

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on 0 to 6, Council voted against accepting PennDOT's recommendation at the intersection of Railroad and Main Street for right turns only.

**APPROVAL OF A QUOTE FROM KRANSON UNIFORM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,675 FOR 9 AXII VEST CARRIERS.**

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by N. McGaw, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a quote from Kranson Uniform in the amount of \$9,675 for 9 AXII vest carriers.

**APPROVAL OF A QUOTE FROM KRANSON UNIFORM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,835 FOR 9 EXTERNAL CARRIERS.**

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved a quote from Kranson Uniform in the amount of \$2,835 for 9 external carriers.

**APPROVAL OF EXTENDING THE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG AND SEDA-COG IN RELATION TO THE HOME CONTRACT TO RUN UNTIL MAY 19, 2025.**

On a motion by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved extending the professional and technical services agreement between the Town of Bloomsburg and SEDA-COG in relation to the HOME contract to run until May 19, 2025.

**APPROVAL TO REMOVE THE DEED RESTRICTION AS SHOWN ENCLOSED FOR 472 W. MAIN STREET FOR FLOODPLAIN COMPLIANCE CONDITIONAL UPON THE BUILDING PERMIT BEING SATISFIED.**

On a motion by J. Garman, seconded by J. Kressler, and voted on unanimously, Council approved to remove the deed restriction for 472 W. Main Street for floodplain compliance conditional upon the building permit being satisfied.

A motion to adjourn was made by B. Crawford, seconded by J. Garman, and voted on unanimously, Council adjourned the meeting at 9:43 p.m.

Good Evening Everyone,

For those who don't know me, I am Dr. Philip Polstra, President of EAA Chapter 1641 at the Bloomsburg Municipal Airport (or as it is known to pilots N13). I wanted to speak to you briefly tonight about the impact of our beloved N13 on the local community. Now, I could talk about the 39 jobs and \$2.4 million dollars in payroll that N13 brings to the community, but I won't. I could talk about the \$6.5 million dollars of total economic impact to community that N13 represents while literally costing the town nothing (with revenue exceeding expenses), but I won't delve into these readily available facts provided by the Commonwealth. Rather, I would like to speak to the impact on people in our community.

Our EAA chapter was founded just four short years ago in January 2020 at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of our primary objectives in founding this chapter was to educate people and get them involved with aviation, with an emphasis on young people. Many would say we have succeeded in this goal. In four short years we have awarded over \$92,750 in scholarships to nine young people in order to help them become pilots. Four of these scholars are female and/or members of other underrepresented groups in aviation. Two have been accepted into the Air Force Academy and at least two anticipate an aviation career.

Our EAA chapter has given hundreds of children aged 8-17 free plane, gyroplane, and helicopter rides during its existence through the EAA Young Eagles program. This has sparked some to pursue careers in aviation. Last year we implemented the Young Eagles Build and Fly program in which children constructed an RC plane which was later successfully flown. Our chapter has worked with the Children's Museum in the past as part of the EAA Young Eagles Workshops program. Through this program children complete various aviation-related STEM projects, such as building wing ribs and learning about aerodynamics. We are currently in discussions with the Children's Museum about partnering to deliver more STEM activities through EAA's AeroEducate program.

While we have an emphasis on children and young adults, we do help people of all ages. Several times per year we have offered a free Private Pilot ground school to members of our community. The closest flight school offering such a class charges in excess of \$350 to students. We offer this for free to serve people in our community that might have an interest in aviation, but aren't sure enough they will become a pilot to spend the money or perhaps they are enthusiasts that will not likely pursue certification as a pilot. We also hold a couple Flying Start events each year in which we educate people on the process of becoming a pilot and offer them a free flight. When our community lost a dear friend to an agricultural spraying accident last year our chapter held a fly-in and drive in breakfast fundraiser to help his widow and small children (including one that was not yet born).

This is just a sampling of the kinds of things our EAA chapter is involved with at N13. We are not the only aviation organization at this airport, however. There is Civil Air Patrol, and Aviation Explorers, for example, also operating at N13. All of us need N13 to continue to operate as an Airport in order serve the local community.

Thanks for your time.

My Name is Tina Welch. I've been a community member of Bloomsburg since June 2015, so a short timer compared to many of you. I own my own business, and serve employers in Columbia, Montour and many surrounding counties and communities helping them create great workplaces and strategically grow their businesses. I am also a Private Pilot with high performance, complex and Technically Advanced aircraft endorsements and am certified as an Instrument Rated pilot. Yes I am one of the underrepresented communities in aviation. And, I serve as the fundraising chair of our local EAA chapter that operates out of N13.

Many of those speaking tonight about the airport will mention the amazing success N13 has had on growing and developing aviation, bringing economic realities to our communities, and positively influencing the passions and careers of literally hundreds of individuals, which I wholeheartedly also believe. I want to focus on 2 additional things this evening. The first being the opportunities I believe Bloomsburg will miss should they move away from operating a community airport; and the second being the impact N13 has had on me personally.

I was deeply disappointed that the Town is considering closing N13 after there have been so many advancements, and improvements that have come in just the last 5 or 6 years. In working with businesses to grow them strategically the first question I ask is whether they have a vision for the future and what their strategic plan is? I implore the Town to give as much if not more effort to working to develop a long-range plan for the airport that explores those opportunities for additional revenue, economic development partnerships and advancement of OUR community through the value that

having a local airport affords a community. I'm a member of the Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce. Have you gotten them involved in assessing the economic impact, or a strategic plan? I would imagine that they or another economic development entity would have a vested interest in participating in this effort. Not doing so and turning to other opportunities first is unwise and unfair. I would be happy to participate in any efforts the Council pursues.

The second item I want to discuss is how N13 has changed my life here in Bloomsburg. As a transplant I found it difficult to make friends, develop a sense of belonging and find my place in a new area. I put forth significant effort to fit in. However, it wasn't until my husband and I decided to "check out what they do at the airport" one day that our lives as community members changed. The power of a place like N13 is not just in the mechanics and economics of its operation; but in the community and culture it builds. As we became involved in aviation, our connection to and pride in our community grew. We give back. We volunteer. We raise money that goes directly into the Town community. We help build a positive reputation and image of the Town across the NE and mid-Atlantic region of the country. The community and culture of N13 has a glowing reputation, which reflects on the Town of Bloomsburg. My story is not unique. I would bet that every person who has attended a pancake breakfast, participated in a run on the runway, attended community day, participated in an educational event, flew in for a fuel stop and a courtesy car ride to one of the local restaurants, landed here so they could go close a business deal with a local company, or who's ill loved one was transported free of charge, without the crowds and threats to their frail immunity at large airports, to

medical centers of excellence in major cities across the country via Angel Flights would say the same.

I urge you to consider exploring options that enable N13 to continue to thrive in our community, before considering those that serve to end its progress, such as the proposal you are currently considering. You owe your constituents and your Airport that effort. Remember a bird in the hand is worth 2 in the bush.

Thank you!

I will preface this statement by saying that I'm not much of a public speaker or one to voice my opinion unless I feel very passionate about the matter. In this case, I am very passionate about aviation as a whole and very passionate about local aviation and the Bloomsburg Airport.

Each one of us here this evening have been blessed to live in the freest country in the history of the world, however, that freedom has come at a price of the brave people who fought and died for the freedom that we enjoy today. Many of those brave people, from the past, were trained right here at the Bloomsburg airport and even today, we are training future freedom fighters. Most recently in the airports newsletter, two newly minted pilots obtained their private pilots license and also have been accepted into the air force academy. On a personal note, my son Josh received his PPL in 2019 at age 17, and became a third generation pilot in our family. Since then he recently has commissioned as an officer in the Marine Corp, and has been granted a flight contract to start flight training with the Marine Corp. All this because he had access to a small municipal airport, to begin that process. So yes, the airport may not be a huge revenue generator, (but with full support it could be). Please don't lose sight of the big picture and the history. But keep in mind the role, that this airport and many others just like it, all over the country do to support our military and in turn our freedom.

Two weeks ago when Josh was home briefly we got to meet his girlfriend. During conversation to get to know her we, of course, asked her where she was from and what her parents did, etc.... I learned that she was from the Scranton area and her father ran a construction business in the area. She stated that he may retire soon because the work that he has been involved in the 10+ years is drying up. When I asked what kind of construction he did, she stated that he moved earth and constructed commercial greenhouses. She also stated that the market has been saturated with commercial growing and he no longer has any work lined up for the future.

If I recall correctly, According to the local press, this is what this counsel wants to do with this property, to help generate more tax revenue. Being in the Ag industry my entire life, it has always been my understanding that ag/farm land that produces food, is often taxed very conservatively, therefore not really creating much tax revenue, if any for the town.

I would caution the counsel, before making such a decision, which could make a drastic impact not only on the History here at Bloomsburg Airport, but to the future of this area as well.

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Hello

I'm Dr. Steve Welch. I am a Professor in the Zeigler College of Business at Bloomsburg University and teach Leadership, and Entrepreneurship to our students. I am also a Pilot with endorsement in high performance, complex, and technically advanced aircraft. I also serve as the Vice President of our local EAA chapter, which many of you are familiar with. Thank you for supporting our events.

I wanted to speak tonight to ask the Council several questions regarding the proposal to close our airport and repurpose the land to something agricultural. It seems that any information that has been shared on this issue came not from openness, inquiry and transparency, but from investigation and unearthing by local reporters who brought this issue to light. And now we are scrambling to properly defend and preserve the significant asset to our community that is Bloomsburg Municipal Airport.

I have several questions that require answers because I believe the public needs to know tonight the background and the path forward on this issue.

- Is there a formal motion being brought forward to council? If not yet, when is that expected?
- What is the driver behind even considering this option when other discussions to close/sell the airport in the recent past went nowhere?
- What effort has been put forth to identify the economic impact, both hard and soft impacts N13 has on our community?
- Has any potential buyer of the land been communicated with by either the Engineering firm (Livic) or members of Town Council or Town Staff? If so, is there serious interest or is this a proposal without actual backing?
- Has the FAA been contacted about the reality of even pursuing this plan? And what is their stance regarding the ability to even close this airport?
- What efforts have been made to involve vested parties in these discussions? Have hangar owners & tenants, business owners that operate or use the airport, organizations such as the EAA, Civil Air Patrol, Explore Post or others been consulted? Will their input be

sought? I know I haven't and any organization I'm involved with at the airport has not been contacted.

- Should this move forward, what happens to the improvements and grant agreements that we have in place? Who absorbs the costs and commitments?
- If this measure fails, which I hope it does, what are the steps forward to ensure N13 has a viable future with a robust long-term strategic plan so that this issue can be put to rest once and for all?
- If it moves forward, what are the additional steps and timelines for clearing all the other hurdles? Should we expect to disperse from the airport in a couple of months or will this take years to complete?

You can tell from my questions that the picture painted is one of an ill-thought out, and incomplete proposal. It seems like this effort is raising the concerns of the community for no good reason and without proper planning and consideration. This is not good practice, does not serve the people, businesses and larger community of Bloomsburg well, and reflects poorly on the judgement of those leading the efforts.

I would expect answers to these questions to be forthcoming and part of any plans or considerations going forward.

Thank you.