

CATAWISSA BOROUGH REORGANIZATION  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2010  
7:00PM CATAWISSA BOROUGH BUILDING

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Mayor elect F. Jeff Achy
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Forest McClintock, Barb Reese, Scott Keefer Barry Krum, Willard (Skeeter) Helwig, Tim Benner, Mayor F. Jeff Achy, Attorney Anthony McDonald. Absent was Linda Kashner.
- Mayor Achy asked for a nomination to the office of Vice President.
- Forest McClintock made a motion to nominate Scott Keefer to the Office of Vice President. Barb Reese seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Forest McClintock-yes, Barb Reese-yes, Barry Krum-no, Skeeter Helwig-no, Tim Benner-no The motion was not passed.
- Tim Benner made the motion to nominate Barry Krum to the Vice Presidential Office. The motion was seconded by Skeeter Helwig. Roll Call vote: Forest McClintock-no, Barb Reese-no, Scott Keefer-yes, Skeeter Helwig-yes, Tim Benner-yes. Motion carried to appoint Barry Krum as Vice President of Council.
- Mayor Achy asked for a nomination to the office of President of Council.
- Barry Krum made the motion to nominate Scott Keefer to the office of President of Council. The motion was seconded by Tim Benner. Roll call vote: Forest McClintock-no, Barb Reese-yes, Barry Krum-yes, Skeeter Helwig-yes, Tim Benner-yes. Motion carried.
- Council President Scott Keefer took over running the meeting.

READING OF THE MINITUES:

- Tim Benner made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve as written the minutes of the previous months meeting. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

#### GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Barb Savage and Attorney Pat O'Connel, felt that the meeting held December 21 was in violation of the Sunshine Law. Attorney O'Connel requested that the council rescind the acceptance of the non uniform contract because of the violation. Attorney McDonald disagreed with attorney O'Connel that there was a violation of the Sunshine Law that would negate the non uniform contract.
- Gail Hummer asked if the new Council would be doing away with the meetings before and after the regularly scheduled meetings. Attorney McDonald answered that council is trying to eliminate such meetings to make things more public assessable.
- Tim Benner asked why a special meeting was necessary. Forest McClintock answered that the contract was due to expire at the end of December.
- Kristy Yohey, Pat Hess, Barb Savage, Harold Kitchen and other guests questioned why George Romania's vacated position was not filled according the Borough Code. Attorney McDonald answered that because of the timing Council decided the election in November would be sufficient to fill the position.
- Linda Neyer asked if the union accepted the contract. Forest McClintock that the contract was signed after the December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney reported that his office dealt with 17 complaints and issued 3 building permits.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

- There will be a Columbia/Montour Boroughs Association Meeting Tuesday, January 19, 2010 6:30pm at Portabella's Catering. The speaker is B.J. Gianguilio, Jr. President, H.A. Thomson speaking about worker's compensation for fire fighters

#### WATER:

- Catawissa Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported that she is still looking into the meter reading software options. She will let council know when information is available.
- The Authority would like council to appoint Nick Fletcher to the Water Authority Board for a 5 year term.

#### UTILITIES COMMITTEE:

- Committee Chairman Scott Keefer reported that delinquent accounts are reduced. Hillside Village lien has been placed. Hillside contacted Atty. McDonald for the final amount owed to satisfy the lien this suggests that the sale is going through.

#### POLICE:

- Police Chief Anthony Kopitsky reported that the station handled 158 dispatches recorded by County Communication.
- Officer Price has been certified and is training with other officers.
- Officer Weisman is still on Workers comp leave. His evaluation is scheduled for middle January or February.
- The unmarked car has been stripped of equipment and is ready to be advertised for bid.
- People are putting their garbage into the cans on Main St. An ongoing investigation is underway.

#### POLICE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAIRMAN

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock had nothing new to report at this time.

#### MAYOR:

- Newly Elected Mayor F. Jeff Achy had nothing to report.

#### COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECREATION CHAIRPERSON:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese had nothing new to report at meeting time.

#### PROPERTY, SUPPLY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Nothing to report at this time.

#### PERSONNEL CHAIRPERSON:

- Nothing new to report at this time.

#### FINANCE CHAIRPERSON:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner was absent for the meeting.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to allow Verizon the Right of Way for a power line and pole at the cell tower site. The motion was seconded by Barb Reese. Sharon Krum asked why the tower was not being built on a hill. The answer was that the engineers decided where the towers would be built.
- Barb Reese made the motion to table the appointment of and alternate for the Act 32 tax board until Linda Kashner was available for explanation. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Barry Krum made the motion to appoint George Nick Fletcher to the Catawissa Water Authority Board for a 5 year term. Barry Krum seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Council President Scott Keefer announced that the CDGB grant is open. Ideas for grant possibilities will be discussed with Dale, Clair, and Harry to see what projects would have priority. Kim and Scott will work on the grant application. Deadline for applications is February 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Barb Reese made the motion to replace and move the trip light electric system at the sewer plant at a cost of \$1,600. The motion was seconded by Tim Benner. After discussion all aye, none opposed.
- Tim Benner made the motion to advertise for a volunteer resident to preside on the Vacancy Board. Barry Krum seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Gail Hummer asked how many workers should ride in a plow truck at a time. Electric Department Superintendent Harry Young explained that for safety reasons two workers ride in a salt and cinder truck at one time. During plowing only one worker is in a truck.
- Skeeter Helwig made the motion to rescind December 21<sup>st</sup> vote to accept the non uniform contract. Tim Benner seconded the motion. After discussion a roll call vote was called: Forest McClintock-no, Barb Reese-yes, Skeeter Helwig-yes, Tim Benner-yes, Scott Keefer-yes. The motion to rescind the acceptance of the non uniform contract was passed.

FINANCE:

- Barb Reese made the motion to accept as written the payment of the bills. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

ADJOURNMENT:

- Skeeter Helwig made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Forest McClintock. All aye, none opposed.

MEETING ADJOURNED

SUBMITTED BY:

Kimberly Rhoades

Secretary