

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2010
7:00 P.M. BOROUGH HALL**

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President Scott Keefer.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Forest McClintock, Barb Reese, Linda Kashner, Scott Keefer, Barry Krum, Skeeter Helwig, Tim Benner, Mayor Jeff Achy, Atty. Anthony McDonald and Jr. Councilperson Michael Gregorowicz. None were absent.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

- Tim Benner made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months meeting. The motion was seconded by Skeeter Helwig. All aye, none opposed.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Steve Rossell of CET Engineering gave a presentation regarding the Act 537 Sewer Plant study.
- Gail Hummer gave papers to Scott Keefer. Gail asked Atty. McDonald what is the legal definition of stalking? Ms. Hummer wanted to make it clear to everyone that she is not stalking the Borough employees.
- Karen Drake wanted to let the council know that she appreciated the work that the street department did in cleaning the streets during and after snow storms. She has been to other neighboring towns and our streets are the most maintained.
- Kristy Yohey expressed her concern about the cars parking on Railroad St. by the restaurant to the stop sign at 2 ½ St. The cars are parking on the wrong side of the road and she is concerned that children will get hurt while playing. Skeeter Helwig Committee Chairman and Chief Kopitsky will look into Ms. Yohey's concern.
- Charles Hummer asked who the wood belongs to at the gun range. Council answered that Harry W. Young was given permission to store his wood at the gun range by a previous council president. Mr. Young has written permission and a written sales slip for the wood.
- Linda Kashner made the motion for Forest McClintock to compose a letter to Harry telling him he must move this wood by April 1st because of liability issues. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Savage produced photos of a truck with a cap belonging to the sewer plant. Residents stated that one of the Borough employees has been keeping aluminum cans in the truck. Barb Reese made the motion that nothing personal can be stored on Borough property. Tim Benner seconded the motion for a policy. All aye, none opposed. James Haney added that the borough workers did not pocket this money they used it for coffee for the workers and other items for the shed.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney had nothing to report at meeting time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Secretary Kimberly Rhoades informed council and the audience that AMP has scholarships available for Borough seniors. For more information stop at the Borough Hall.
- Columbia County used grant money for stop signs at intersections in the Borough that intersect Rt. 42 or Rt. 487. After the initial purchase the Borough must maintain the signs.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman was not available.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE:

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock had nothing to report.

POLICE:

- Chief Anthony Kopitsky reported that the police responded to 189 incidents.
- Officer Price has finished his training and is now on the schedule. He is doing well.
- Officer Weisman is still on Worker's Comp.
- The 1999 cruiser has been striped and is ready for sale.
- Officer Holtzapple has handed in her resignation effective 1/27/10. There are no plans to replace her at this time.
- The two remaining police cruisers are running well.
- 120 training has begun. 3 officers have finished their training the remaining are scheduled. Officers able to receive training through their other job are doing so.
- Chief is still looking for grants for cruisers.
- Chief is aware of Kristy and Curt's concern and is looking into the solution to the problem.

POLICE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Skeeter Helwig had nothing new to report.

MAYOR:

- Skeeter, Scott and the mayor contacted Catawissa Township regarding police coverage. Jim Molick will contact them after he meets with the other supervisors.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECREATION CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese reported that Dollar General Stores has turned down a location in Catawissa again. The Sr. Vice President stated to contact them again in 2011 and they will reevaluate a location in Catawissa.
- Letters have been sent to 5 additional businesses concerning the former Lumber Company property.
- There was a Parks and Recreation meeting February 1st. The committee met with the 3 groups that will be utilizing the ball fields. There are some major concerns regarding the safety of the ball fields. Some of the things that need to be done Clair will be able to do. Others will need to be done professionally. Barb and Linda will be going to a grant workshop pertaining to ball fields.
- The Borough-Wide yard sale will be May 29th.
- Kid's Day will be held June 12th 10a.m.-2p.m. with a rain date of June 19th.
- The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be held March 10th at the Borough Hall at 6:30 p.m.
- Mike Gregorowicz made the suggestion to contact the Eagle Scouts for some of the projects needed done at the ball field.
- Also Mike suggested a box with possible projects in for Scouts to choose from be kept at the Borough Hall.

PROPERTY, SUPPLY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Barry Krum had nothing to report at meeting time.

PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Scott Keefer gave the monthly work report for the electric, sewer and street departments. The accident costs have been reported to the insurance company of the person involved.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported that the income for electric revenue for 2009 is \$75,000 less than reported in 2008. Purchased power amount was up by \$25,000. Losing Catawissa Lumber has made a huge impact. \$100,000 had to be transferred from the reserves to cover the expenses.
- Linda and Barb went to a PSAB meeting regarding Fire Company Workers Compensation. The fire company must have a non emergency events list approved by the council in order for them to be covered by Workers Comp. Insurance. Also any Jr. Fire fighters must have their work papers filed in the Borough Office to be covered by the insurance. Mr. Kitchen will be making sure the borough has these items.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to terminate the recycling program. The motion was seconded by Linda Kashner. After a discussion and comments from the audience the motion was passed to terminate the recycling program as of March 1st. All aye, none opposed.
- Skeeter Helwig made the motion to appoint Barry Krum as an alternate to the Act 32 Earned Income Tax Committee. Tim Benner seconded the motion. Mr. Krum will attend meetings if Linda Kashner is unable to attend. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Reese made the motion to accept the highest bid of \$650 received by Christopher Brock for the 1999 police cruiser. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed. Bids were: Albert "Rick" Russo \$257.00, Showroom Shines by Petch \$526.00, Christopher Brock \$650.00.
- Barb Reese made the motion to accept the resignation of Police Officer Julie Holtzapple. Barry Krum seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to pass the Ordinance for joining PLGIT. Skeeter Helwig seconded the motion. After discussion, all aye, none opposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Linda Kashner made the motion to table the SEDA-COG energy study proposal. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. After discussion of other options, all aye, none opposed.
- Barry Krum made the motion to table the utility billing software purchase until other companies can be contacted. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to forgive penalties for the electric billing due to the high cost of electricity this month. Barry Krum seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Linda Kashner-no, Forest McClintock-yes, Skeeter Helwig-yes, Barb Reese-no, Tim Benner-yes, Barry Krum-yes, Scott Keefer-yes. Motion passed. No penalties will be applied to the electric bill for the billing period Dec. 15-Jan. 19.
- Borough resident Edward Shannon asked council to forgive part of his bill because of a possible problem.
- Barry Krum made the motion to allow Forest McClintock to look into the situation and make a decision on the adjustment of this bill. These will only be done on a case by case basis. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

FINANCE:

- Linda Kashner made the motion to accept the payment of bills as written. The motion was seconded by Tim Benner. All aye, none opposed.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Barb Savage asked how the Borough will make sure readings are read on the 15th?
- Scott Keefer will speak to Harry regarding the reading of meters.
- Barb Savage asked why the meters were not read on the 15th. Council will look into the question.
- Linda Kashner alerted the residents that there will only be 3 workers here for the snow storm predicted on Wednesday due to an employee on being on vacation. Residents will have to be careful.
- Gail Hummer asked about the water bills. She was referred to the Water Authority.
- Kristy Yohey asked Forest McClintock to explain something from an article he placed in the newspaper. Mr. McClintock stated he would address that after the meeting because this was not an item for the meeting. Ms. Yohey asked again and Mr. McClintock explained that in order for the Borough to have more than one health care plan 20 or more employees are needed. The Borough does not have that many employees so they all have to be on the same plan.
- Harold Kitchen asked if the Borough was going to have a meeting with the Fire Company and the surrounding Townships. Mr. McClintock stated that Mr. Traugh was to get in touch with Forest and he has not done so. Mr. Kitchen stated that either he or Mr. Traugh will be in touch soon. Harold also stated that the bids should have been opened at the meeting.
- Karen Drake asked about outdoor furnaces. Mr. Haney will look into the situation. Mr. Haney will discuss the option of raising the chimney.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned
Submitted by
Kimberly Rhoades