

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 @ 7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order by Council President George Romania.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: George Romania, Dottie Linn, Barb Reese, Forest McClintock, Linda Kashner, Scott Keefer, Gary Steinruck, Mayor Steve Atherton, Atty. Anthony McDonald.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

- Dottie Linn made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months meeting. The motion was seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Dr. Stuart Hartman spoke to Council regarding grant options for the trees on Main St. He will need someone from Council and possibly volunteers from the town to help maintain the trees once they are in place or properly trim the trees that are now in place. Also Kim has information regarding the SEDA-COG meetings. If anyone is interested in attending the meetings she will provide the information. The meetings are every other month on a Thursday.
- Council President George Romania announced there were two executive sessions of council one on 9/1/09 and the other was prior to this council meeting. The reasons for the executive sessions were personnel and financial reasons.

CONDE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer Jim Haney reported he issued 6 building permits and investigated 13 complaints.

WATER:

- Catawissa Water Authority Cindy Bachman stated that the renewal of the meter reading software has not increased. The price is the same as last year at \$660.
- The water authority will be flushing hydrants on October 5th.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Mark Hardin announced that the Halloween Parade is October 31st this year and the rain date set for the following day (November 1st). The permits have been approved by Penn Dot.

POLICE & MEERGENCY RESPONSE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock reported that the police responded to 208 dispatches in the month of August.
- Jonna Hagenmeyer has been hired as a part time police officer and has begun training.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Steve Atherton handed over his paycheck back to the Borough because of the financial difficulties the Borough is having at this time.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECREATION
CHAIRPERSON:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese reported that the Catawissa Heritage Day Festival was postponed until September 19th due to the weather. Mel Endy will speak about the Quaker Heritage there will be a walking tour at 1:30 Ann Diserod will do a tour of the Quaker Cemetery.
- The Garden Club and “Things We Like” will be selling note cards of the Meeting House. The proceeds will benefit the upkeep of the Meeting House.

PROPERTY, SUPPLY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRPERSON:

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck chose to address his issues when they come up on the agenda.

PERSONNEL CHAIRPERSON:

- Committee Chairperson George Romania announced the restructure of the council committees. There has been a change of the DPW committee. The name has been changed to “Utility Committee” the chairperson for this new committee is Scott Keefer with Gary Steinruck, and Barb Reese. Gary will be in charge of the buildings while Scott will oversee the billing and delinquents etc.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Linda Kashner asked Scott if any progress has been made with the delinquent accounts. Scott and Gary informed Linda and council that this new procedure is

still in the early stages but progress has been made. Roughly 50% of the total delinquent amount has been collected. It will take a few months for there to be a noticeable difference in the amount of delinquent accounts.

- Council discussed the possibility of a Street Light Tax.
- Electric Rate increase could not be discussed until information was received from the engineer.
- Committee Chairman Linda Kashner discussed the possibilities of a tax mills rate increase with different options of mill rates. Rate increase would not be able to be implemented until January.
- Linda Kashner has asked all department heads to submit a budget for next year by September 30th so the Finance Committee will be able to begin budget talks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to turn off selected street lights. The motion was seconded by Linda Kashner. Forest understood that 60 lights could be turned off with no safety issues. George Romania asked to make sure that no security lights were being turned off. If residents have issues or if security becomes a problem the light could be turned back on. Other alternatives were discussed. The motion to turn off 60 street lights was passed. All aye, none opposed.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to lay off two full time employee for an undetermined amount of time. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. Forest McClintock mentioned that during the negotiation meetings the Personnel committee asked for volunteer lay offs and other concessions but received no feed back from the workers. We are in a tough situation with revenue being down and expenses going up. George Romania stated the lay offs will follow the non uniform contract. All aye, none opposed. Effective September 16th.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Linda Kashner made the motion to accept the MMO Actuarial Pension requirement for 2010. \$54,568 for non-uniform and \$20,175 the state will pay a portion of this amount. Dottie Linn seconded the motion. After further discussion. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to discontinue the recycling program. The motion was seconded by Forest McClintock. Linda Kashner reported that canceling would save \$750 till the end of the year. After discussion Linda withdrew her motion and the issue was tabled.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to provide flu shots to the Borough employees, Firefighters, and Ambulance volunteers. Spouses will pay for their flu shots. Barb Reese seconded the motion. After discussion. All opposed. The motion was not passed.
- Barb Reese made the motion to pay \$660 for the renewal of the software program shared by the Water Authority. Dottie Linn seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

- Forest McClintock made the motion to accept option B (2) for the PennDot recommended guide rails at the bridge over Catawissa Creek. The motion was seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Reese made the motion to replace the variable frequency drives at the sewer plant at the cost of \$3,156. Dottie Linn seconded the motion. The valve repair will be handled at a later date. All aye, none opposed.
- Dale Shobert Sewer Superintendant has asked Council to direct Code Officer Jim Haney to ask the businesses in town to make sure that they do NOT dump oil or grease down the drains. There has been an abundance of grease lately. Council directed Jim Haney to address this situation.
- Dottie Linn nominated Forest McClintock as Vice President of Council. Linda Kashner seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. All aye, none opposed. Forest McClintock is now Vice President

FINANCE:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to accept as written the payment of the bills. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye, non opposed.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Dottie Linn made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed.

MEETING ADJOURNED
SUBMITTED BY
Kimberly Rhoades
Secretary