

**Catawissa Borough Council Meeting  
July 9, 2007 7:00PM at CARA park**

Council president George Romania called the meeting to order and council and attendees recited the pledge of allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Dottie Linn, Ed Rhoades, George Romania Linda Kashner, Mayor Harold Kitchen, Atty. McDonald. Absent were: John Sabol and Barb Reese.

**READING OF THE MINUTES:** A motion was made by Dottie Linn and seconded by Linda Kashner to dispense with the reading of and approve as written the minutes of the previous month meeting. All aye: none opposed.

**GUESTS TO BE HEARD:** None

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:** Jim Haney reported that he did the requested comparison report council had asked for at last months meeting comparing prices from Peters consulting and the county COG. His findings are that Peters is less expensive for inspections and also in other areas. Mr. Haney has the report for review. Tony McDonald added that Peters has 3 inspectors the COG has 1. Also Mr. Haney remarked that the new ordinance for parking on Main St. is working very well.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Kim Rhoades read the correspondence from Pennsylvania Environmental Council regarding a grant program. There will be a steering committee meeting on September 12, 2007 at 6:30 in Ringtown.

**WATER DEPARTMENT:** Cindy Bachman had nothing to report.

**ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT SUPERINTENDENT:** Harry Young reported that John Traugh attended lineman school and reported that he did very well. Also the storm damage on Hollow Road has been cleared. Thank you to all the workers for their help. Deneen Casey asked if Jonathan Traugh was training to work in the electric department? Harry Young replied that Jonathan was being trained to help in the electric just to fill in.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT SUPERINDENDENT:** Clair Kingston had nothing to report at this time.

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT SUPERINTENDENT:** George Romania stated that he talked to Dale and asked about a grant for transfer pump. The evaluation is not yet complete. The sewer workers do their own testing at the sewer plant. They received a certificate of excellence for testing ability.

**POLICE:** Chief Mark Hardin gave his report on the survey for Stop sign at Shuman & Cemetery St. The survey does not support having a 4way stop at that intersection. The full report is submitted to council. Mark was cleaning the storage room at the station and found a report from a former Fire Chief. The letter was dated 1899 from Elias Kreps.

Mark then handed over the letter to council. Doug Krum asked if stop signs are not put in to regulate speed why were they erected at the Fire Company and other places. Mark stated he was not working for the Borough at the time the stop signs were installed and the reports for the studies no longer existed. Therefore, he could not answer that question. Ed Rhoades made the motion to erect signs that say Caution Children at Play. The motion was seconded by Linda Kashner. All aye: none opposed. Jennifer Shoup thanked Mark for doing the survey.

**MAYOR:** Mayor Harold Kitchen had nothing more to report.

**COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECRETATION**

**CHAIRMAN:** George Romania reminded the council and the audience that the Fireman's Carnival will be held August 8-August 11 with the parade on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Romania reported that the White Goods next time will be picked up on the day advertised. The farmer's market is going well but it was suggested that more signs be set out at different places for more advertising around the Borough.

**PROPERTY, SUPPLY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:** Ed Rhoades had nothing to report at this time.

**FINANCE, PENSION & INSURANCE CHAIRMAN:** George Romania stated that after review of the insurances council has decided to use Benecon. The contract is based on the usage of the insurance. Other Boroughs using this insurance have received refunds. Council is still discussing the employee contribution trying to make it fair to everyone.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORTS:** Jim Haney reported that he has just finalized the last payment for the Ivan buy-out project. PEMA & FEMA have received letters from Mr. Haney and the Borough. The project came in one month early and under budget. Mr. McDonald reminded council that tax exoneration must be reviewed. Mr. Haney and Linda Kashner are aware of that and Jim has already sent the letter.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Letters of interest for the vacant council position were read: the following people submitted letters. Michael Lindenmuth, Forrest McClintock, Deneen Casey, & Gary Steinruck. A motion was made by Ed Rhoades to appoint Deneen Casey seconded by Linda Kashner. A motion was made by Dottie Linn to appoint Michael Lindenmuth the motion died because of no second. There were no other motions. Roll call vote to appoint Deneen Casey: Dottie Linn-no, Ed Rhoades-yes, George Romania-yes, Linda Kashner-yes. Motion carried to appoint Deneen Casey.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner to hire Jane Chaundy as Borough Manager seconded by Ed Rhoades. All aye: none opposed. The borough manager will be hired at \$35,000 per year salary position. Will be on call 24/7. The probationary period will last for 6 months. Benefits will be the same as the other employees.

She will start in two weeks. Will work with council and the employees to create teamwork. Shirley Brobst asked if there will also be a borough secretary position. George Romania said that council and the Borough Manager will decide about a secretary position. The job will be posted when decided.

- Executive sessions were held June 22, and on July 5<sup>th</sup> for personnel reasons.
- Linda Kashner made a motion to dedicate the band shell behind the opera house to Ralph E. Wolfgang. Dottie Linn seconded the motion. All aye: none opposed. Cindy Bachman suggested that Mr. Wolfgang's family be involved. Linda Kashner is looking into opening the restrooms at the band shell. She talked to Lori Gordner about making it handicap accessible.
- Council has decided to use the Remit Corporation to collect outstanding bills. Anything 3 months or more delinquent will be sent to Remit for 30%. If payments arrangements are made and not followed they will also go to Remit.
- A clock was presented to George Cunningham earlier in the evening for his years of service to the Borough.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Drafting a letter to inform the owners of the union cemetery that the Borough will no longer be cutting the grass unless they would like to reimburse the Borough.
- Dottie Linn asked if the handicap parking sign could be removed in front of Andy Petro's home because he no longer lives there. The ordinance regarding the handicap sign will be changed with parking ordinance change.
- Mark Hardin asked if atty. McDonald would research if there is an ordinance prohibiting metal detectors from graveyards and other areas. Also George Romania will contact PSAB in regards to this issue.

**FINANCE:** Ed Rhoades read the finance report in John Sabol's absence. Balances as of July 9, 2007 General Fund: \$215,273.04, Electric \$145,537.87, Sewer \$88,204.96, Payroll \$10,221.10.

**Bills to be Paid:** General Fund: Administrative \$11,438.96, Police \$157.60, Streets \$1,296.45, Total General Fund Bills \$1893.01 Interim Bills \$30146.32, Total \$43,039.33, Senior Center \$140.36, Electric Department \$1,973.46, Interim \$75,855.98, Total \$77,829.44, Sewer \$10,682.21, Interim \$11,928.78, Total \$22,610.99, Emergency Management Flood House Demolition \$4,663.55, Electric investment reserve \$10,813, Interim \$10,000, Total \$20,813.00, Total bills paid \$36,502.46, Interim \$132,594.63, Total \$169,096.67, Electric Department Transfer to General Fund \$35,252.92.

- George Romania announced that he and Harry will be going to a meeting for the electric company on 7/10/07. They will be joined by other PMEA members.
- An announcement will be made as to where next months meeting will be held.
- Ed Rhoades talked about the blues concert being held on July 24, 2007

- A request was made by Barb Savage about having something for the teenagers in town. Ideas were discussed.
- The question was asked about the insurance regarding private use of the Borough owned flood demolition property. The borough is looking into this.
- A motion was made by Ed Rhoades and seconded by Dottie Linn to pay the bills as read. All aye: none opposed.

The motion to adjourn was made by Dottie Linn seconded by Ed Rhoades. All aye: none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

Kimberly Rhoades  
Acting Borough Secretary

DRAFT