

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2007 7:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

- The meeting was called to order by Council President George Romania.

**ROLL CALL:**

- George Romania, Deneen Casey, Dottie Linn, Barb Reese, John Sabol, Ed Rhoades, Linda Kashner, Mayor Harold Kitchen, Atty. Anthony McDonald.

**READING OF MINUTES:**

- The motion to dispense the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months meeting was made by Linda Kashner, seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.
- A motion was made by John Sabol and seconded by Dottie Linn to skip ahead in the agenda to 17a under new business. All aye, none opposed.

County Commissioners Chris Young, Bill Soberick and David Kovach presented the Halloween Parade committee with a proclamation for their outstanding work with the 100<sup>th</sup> annual Catawissa Halloween Parade. The committee was commended for having an event worth being proud of every year. A special thanks was given to Janice Longenberger, Barb Valencik, Stephanie Reel, and Sandy Richenderfer.

A motion was made by Dottie Linn and seconded by John Sabol to return to the regular order of business. All aye, none opposed.

**GUESTS TO BE HEARD:**

- Gary Steinruck asked what progress has been made in the employees' contribution to medical benefits. George Romania explained that it is still a work in progress.
- Barry Krum asked the council before voting for the LST tax increase to please consider not increasing the tax.
- Patty Hess asked about the reimbursement to Heritage Trek. George Romania said it will be discussed later in the meeting.
- Cindy Bachman expressed concern for raising the LST tax.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:**

- Jim Haney reported that he issued 7 permits last month and handled 12 issues.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Jane read correspondence from PENNDOT regarding milling and paving of route 42 which will go through the town starting in the summer of 2008. It was reported that a company is coming to Catawissa to work on Melick's Aquafeed and that they are putting in a scrubber to help reduce the odor from the plant.

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### **MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- Jane Chaundy reported that she read meters with Bob Dunkleberger during the month. The electric department was busy installing the flags, witch and moon for the Halloween Parade. Next month they will be busy taking those things down so that Christmas decorations can be installed.
- A grant was written for the sewer plant for new pumps damaged in the flood. \$19,000.
- Street Department is getting ready for winter by putting away all the benches at the parks. Making necessary repairs to equipment and also doing leaf pick-up. They will be repairing road cracks soon.
- Employee evaluations will be starting this month. Jane will work with each person in each department to see how their jobs are done and what it takes to do the job. She will be posting doors with the light department, collecting leaves with the street department and testing with the sewer department.
- Cara Bathrooms are in need of repairs. A sink fell off the wall and other minor repairs need done. Neil Clossen will come in to do the work.
- There is a new council member program for anyone that is newly elected including Mayors. The Borough pays for the 2 day program. George Romania stated that these programs are very good and informative.

### **WATER:**

- Cindy Bachman stated that Catawissa is still in a drought watch along with most of the state. 5% voluntary reduction in usage is recommended. The drought will most likely carry on through winter. Hope for snow.

### **POLICE:**

- Chief Hardin thanked the local police departments and fire police for assisting during the parade. He reported that there were no major incidents thanks to their help.

### **POLICE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAIRMAN:**

- John Sabol reported that the police responded to 150 incidents during the month of October.

### **MAYOR:**

- Mayor Harold Kitchen also thanked everyone for the help they gave to the Halloween Parade helping to make it a big success.

### **COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECREATION CHAIRMAN:**

- Barb Reese thanked everyone for their help with Heritage Trek. She reported that there were about 60 Canadians that came for the parade, and that they loved the town and hope that the communication between Uxbridge and Catawissa continues in the future.

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- Again, she thanked everyone for all of their help and said the guests really enjoyed being in the parade and entertaining for the town of Catawissa.

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

- Ed Rhoades reported that the Borough received the bids for the Pole barn and that it will be of no cost to the Borough.

### **FINANCE CHAIRMAN:**

- Linda Kashner advised council that a preliminary budget was available for review to the council. The budget should be voted on next meeting.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Anthony McDonald updated the council on the title search on the Metzger property. One option is to have the Code Enforcement officer condemn the property after inspection. Second option is to wait for the property to come up on Judicial Sale. Then the borough could acquire it then. Another thing is talk to Mr. Metzger and see if he is willing to give the property to the Borough. The problem with that is the Borough would assume the liens to the property. Unlikely that the lien holders will be willing to forgive the Borough of the amounts owed. The two options are to buy the property from Mr. Metzger or tear it down put a lien on the property knowing that you will never get the money back. Barb Reese asked if the Borough had already had someone look at the property to see how much it would cost the tear it down. Mr. Haney has contacted the home owner and gave him ample time to fix the property. Mr. Metzger declined to do any repairs. Jane Chaundy answered that we did have several people look at the property and the lowest estimate came in at \$2,800.00. Linda Kashner asked what the liability was to the Borough if we did not tear the property down. Tony replied that yes, the Borough would be liable. Deneen Casey asked if it was an option to contact the lien holders with a deal. Tony said it was worth looking into. In the long run the least expensive to the Borough would be to condemn and tear down. The council directed Code Enforcement officer Jim Haney to go ahead with the condemning proceedings.
- Dottie Linn made the motion to provide a handicap parking spot in front of Mr. Charles Troy's property at 225 Pine St. Seconded by John Sabol. If Mr. Troy should move or if something else should happen the sign would be removed. All aye, none opposed.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner and seconded by Barb Reese to keep the LST tax rate at \$10.00. All aye, none opposed.

Bids for auditors were opened by George Romania. One by Herring and Roll was opened by mistake by Jane. Brewer, Gehrig and Johnson had to pull out giving a proposal because of receiving a large account that would prevent them from being able to handle our Borough. Herring & Roll are our current auditors, \$5,750.00. They dropped it from last years of \$6,050.00. J.H. Williams, J.H. Williams are the auditors for Berwick. Shane Peppe is happy with them.

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### NEW BUSINESS:

- \$6,900 plus postage costs incurred. Schaeffer, Ines, Eicher and Wagner they do the Water Authority. \$6,000 varies according to degree of personnel assigned. Herring & Roll \$5,750, Wagner was \$6,000 and J.H. Williams was \$6,900. John Sabol made the motion to continue with Herring & Roll. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. After much discussion all aye, none opposed.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner and seconded by John Sabol to invest the CD coming due with the highest interest fund. How much is the CD for? \$750,000. Deneen asked if it would be better to break up the CD instead of keeping it in one lump sum. Jane will look into this. Also look into the insurance for the CD's. All aye, none opposed.
- Dottie Linn made a motion seconded by Barb Reese to reimburse the Heritage Trek for gift bags to Uxbridge officials. Deneen Casey stated that with all that the people from Uxbridge did for the borough. Such as, entertainment at the Legion and in the parade and other places in the Borough it is worth the price. George Romania suggested that from now on Heritage Trek should be an ad hoc committee. Jim Haney offered to donate the \$304.00 for the Heritage Trek committee. Dottie Linn withdrew her motion to reimburse the money for the Heritage Trek gift bags due to Mr. Haney's donation.
- Jane read the resignation letter from Diane Holenda the Borough treasurer. Linda Kashner made the motion to accept the resignation of Diane. George Romania explained that he has worked with Diane and we will be losing a good person. Seconded by Deneen Casey. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to accept the job description of treasurer and to advertise for the part-time position. Seconded by Ed Rhoades. All aye, none opposed.
- Council asked Tony to write an ordinance regarding the vacation of an old road.
- John Sabol made the motion to adopt the "Call-out-policy" written by Jane. Seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed.
- A motion was made by Dottie Linn and seconded by John Sabol to donate the Borough flag to the fire company. All aye, none opposed.
- Mayor Harold Kitchen thanked the Borough Council on behalf of the fire company.
- Dottie Linn made the motion to absolve the police for pension contribution for the year 2008. Seconded by John Sabol. All aye, none opposed.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese and seconded by Linda Kashner to sponsor a Christmas decoration contest. The best decorated home will win a \$100.00 refund on their December electric bill. A non-resident would do the judging. Prizes for other categories are still pending. All aye, none opposed.
- George Romania announced that there will be an executive session on 11/12/07 at 7:00 p.m. at the Borough Hall. Also there is a conference with the Columbia Montour Borough's Association for information on crimes involving drugs on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

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**FINANCE:**

- A motion was made by John Sabol and seconded by Barb Reese to accept the payment of bills as written.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Kimberly Rhoades  
Secretary

DRAFT