

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2007
AT THE BOROUGH AT 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President George Romania.
- The Pledge was said by all.
- Roll call was as follows: George Romania, Deneen Casey, Dottie Linn, Barb Reese, John Sabol, Ed Rhoades, Linda Kashner, Mayor Harold Kitchen, Atty. Anthony McDonald and Borough Manager Jane Chaundy.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Wayne & Linda Kashner made a donation to the Borough of a drawing of the old railroad station in Catawissa by Larry Mordan.
- Forest McClintock asked council why they wanted to hire a treasurer in addition to sending out payroll to an outside company. Jane Chaundy explained that using the outside payroll company will, in the long run, save the Borough money. Paychex (the payroll company) also pays the payroll taxes and all the forms that go with payroll. They also ensure accuracy. They are bonded and insured for millions of dollars. Hiring Paychex would also cut down on the treasurer's

hours also saving the Borough money in that regard. Mr. McClintock thanked the council for the explanation.

- Gail Hummer asked why we were paving Creek Road. Council answered that we were seeking a grant for paving Creek Road and in order to apply council needed to vote on it. Ms. Hummer asked if it was imperative that it be paved. She questioned the reason for wanting Creek Road paved expressing a concern that the paved road will make it more dangerous for kids to play in the parks. It was suggested that speed bumps may help. She was told that one of the reasons to pave is because of the dust. The street department puts calcium chloride down to help keep the dust down for people using the parks but that is costly and not that effective. Council said Penn Dot will have suggestions on the safety issue and the flooding issue for this paving project.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- James Haney updated council on the Metzger property. Mr. Haney reported the property has been condemned with the proper posting and roping. There will be a meeting between Mr. McDonald, Jane Chaundy and Mr. Haney next week to discuss the next step. Jim will update council further after the meeting. Mr. Metzger has signed the papers regarding the property.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Jane read a thank you note from Jonathan Traugh to the council for the wedding gift.

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The note had a photo of Jonathan and his new wife Ann.

- Catawissa Creek Restoration Association is having a Holiday remembrance inviting the council to attend.
- Columbia Montour Area Agency on Aging is raising the amount they give the Borough for rent for the Senior Center to \$477.00 per month.

MANAGERS REPORT:

- Employee evaluations are mostly done with just a few more to complete.
- Jane applied for a grant for the belt press for the sewer plant. And if the council votes to do so she will apply for the grant to pave Creek Road.
- In the coming week, the Borough will be conducting CPR classes for the employees and the fire police.
- Thursday, December 13, 2007 there will be a meeting with the business in the town and the SEDA-COG for the purpose of gathering information regarding a Main St. grant. Jane along with Stewart Hartman of the Chiropractors Office visited businesses on the main street inquiring who would be interested in participating. There is a one time fee to have SEDA COG write the grant. The grant is for \$100,000 per year to spruce up the main street. It is a five year grant process. This is a wonderful opportunity for the community. The question will be asked if residents may also apply that live on

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Main St. The meeting will be held at 4:00 P.M. at the Borough Hall.

- The street department is still picking up leaves and sealing cracks in the streets. The CARA park bathrooms were broken into and vandalized. This was done after the winterizing had been completed. Repairs were needed and security concerns will need to be addressed.
- Sewer department needed repairs to the outside wiring to the holding tanks. Creco Electric made the repairs. Jane spent much time at the Sewer plant witnessing the tests and work that the sewer plant does.
- The Diffuser Digester bids were opened. The results were more expensive than anticipated. The lowest bid was \$67,000 and the highest bid was \$88,000. The grant came in for \$40,000 so we either use \$20,000 from the reserve or not go through with the project that Dale said is very much needed.
- The electric department removed the Halloween flags and put up Christmas decorations. They also changed several street lights and changed the traffic signals to the LED light which is saving well over \$200.00 per month. The pole barn is being erected. Right now there are just poles in the ground in the upcoming weeks it should be completely erected.
- The final budget is ready to be adopted after many hours from the finance committee (Linda Kashner, Deneen Casey and Barb Reese). Jane thanked the committee for their hours of work.

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- On a final note Jane thanked Ed Rhoades for his support in the last months. She also thanked Harold Kitchen for his support and advice.

George Romania explained that the reason the light expense has gone down is the use of LED lights. We are looking into the use of LED lights in more places around the Borough.

WATER:

- Cindy Bachman reported that Catawissa is no longer on a drought watch.

POLICE:

- Chief Mark Hardin had nothing to report at this time.

POLICE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAIRMAN:

- John Sabol reported the month of November was not a quiet month; the department had 148 activity reports. Tony Kopitsky reapplied for a grant for the police department. Because no decisions were made, he had to reapply.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Harold Kitchen thanked council for the pleasure of working with them. He remarked, "Jane is doing a wonderful job here. You can't fix in one year what it took 25 years to screw up."

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COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECREATION CHAIRMAN:

- Barb Reese reported the only thing happening is the SEDA-COG meeting that Jane already touched upon.

PROPERTY, SUPPLY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Ed Rhoades reported that the Halloween photos are now on-line. Jane already reported regarding the construction of the pole barn. Ed also said "It hasn't always been fun, but it has been an honor to work with you. I am sure Forest will do a great job here. Good luck to everyone."

FINANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Linda Kashner stated that she would like council to adopt the final budget. She commented that the sewer plant was \$23,000 in the red. We must increase the sewer rate to \$25.00.
- The electric company is \$128,000 in the red. This is because of the \$218,000 given out in April to residents for high electric bills. Harry has done a great job with cutting expenses. Right now we are \$207,126 in our budget expenses that he has not spent. Now we are going to have power bills. Harry has done a great job in cutting expenses.
- The street department has done a fantastic job as far as their budget. Right now they are \$44,532 under budget. They are doing a great job.

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- The police department is also doing a great job. They are \$26,000 under budget. All in all the departments are doing a great job cutting expenses.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Mr. Haney asked if the SEDA-COG grant was only for business. Jane explained that she did not know the answer, but other people have asked the same question. She will ask them and give the answer before the meeting.
- A motion was made by John Sabol to accept the resolution to vacate the .06 area on South Second Street below the 100 block. Seconded by Linda Kashner. All aye, none opposed. Atty. McDonald stated that we must notify liquid fuels.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Dottie Linn made the motion to hire part-time police officers. John Sabol seconded the motion. Deneen Casey asked how many officers we needed to hire. The answer was two officers. All aye, none opposed.
- John Sabol made the motion to advertise for the officers' part-time position. Seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to hire a new treasurer Carol Sue Snyder. Seconded by Barb Reese. Deneen Casey asked what the hourly wage was going to be set at. Jane stated that it

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was going to be up to council because of the difference in experience in the two candidates.

- Numerous council persons contributed to the discussion. Jane explained each person's experience and qualifications.
- Linda Kashner rescinded her motion to hire Carol Sue Snyder. Linda Kashner made the motion to hire Cindy Stabley at a wage of between \$10.00 and \$11.00 per hour. Seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed.
- John Sabol made the motion to contract Paychex Company to handle payroll for \$3,400 annually. Seconded by Deneen Casey. Jane explained the best reasons to use this company. All aye, none opposed.
- A motion was made by Dottie Linn to go ahead with the sewer Digester project. The grant was for \$42,000 the lowest bid came in at \$67,000 the Borough will have to make up to extra \$25,000. The motion was seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed.
- John Sabol made the motion to have Jane apply for the \$40,000 grant to pave Creek Road. Seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed. Safety will be taken into consideration.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to put in effect the resolution the increase of sewer rates. Seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed.

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- John Sabol made the motion to adopt the budget for the fiscal year of 2008. Seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.
- John Sabol made the motion to hire an Emergency Management Coordinator at \$1,000 per year. Deneen Casey asked if the qualifications were the same for both candidates. Jane stated that both men are very qualified for the position. The motion was seconded by Linda Kashner. All aye, none opposed.
- Deneen Casey made the motion to hire Michael Lindenmuth for the EMC position. Seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.
- A motion was made by Dottie Linn and seconded by Ed Rhoades to accept the payment of the bills as written. All aye, none opposed.

George Romania thanked Ed Rhoades and Harold Kitchen for their years of service saying they will both be missed. Mr. Romania also wanted to welcome Forest McClintock and Patrick Sinclair to the Borough council and Mayor positions.

Harold Kitchen congratulated Mr. Sinclair.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Ed Rhoades made the motion to adjourn.
Seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by

Kimberly Rhoades, Secretary