

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY,  
JANUARY 7, 2008 AT THE BOROUGH HALL AT 7:00 P.M.  
REORGANIZATION MEETING**

**ROLL CALL:**

**The pledge**

- Roll call was called by Jane Graham (Chaundy) as follows:
- George Romania, Deneen Casey, Dottie Linn, Barb Reese, John Sabol, Forest McClintock, Linda Kashner, Mayor Patrick Sinclair, Atty. McDonald, Borough Manager Jane Graham.

Mayor elect Patrick Sinclair swore in the council members. Mr. Sinclair opened the floor for nomination of President. Dottie Linn nominated George Romania. The motion was seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed. George Romania is Catawissa Council President and assumed control of the meeting.

Deneen made the motion to nominate John Sabol as council Vice President. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed. John Sabol is Catawissa Council Vice President.

- Linda Kashner made the motion to appoint Linda Haines to the Zoning hearing board. The motion was seconded by John Sabol. All aye, none opposed.
- A motion was made by Deneen Casey to appoint Richard Mark to the Water Authority Board for a five year term. This term will extend from 2008-2012. The motion was seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed.

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

- A motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months meeting was made by Dottie

Linn and seconded by Linda Kashner. All aye, none opposed.

**GUESTS TO BE HEARD:**

- Gail Hummer complained about being warned about not having lids on her trash cans. She showed photographs of surrounding properties without lids on their cans and no warnings on their doors. Gail also had photos of council member's homes. Mr. Haney replied that he has been doing this job for 11 years. Mr. Haney explained that because of the abundance of skunks and cats in the Borough lids on trash cans are a must. If you use bags they must not have any rips or tears in them because of this problem. Bags should be put on the curb on the day of pick-up and if for some reason they are not picked up than they should be placed back to the container they came from.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:**

- Jim reported that he issued 13 warnings during the month. He had no citations. Catawissa had 6 permits issued.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- There was no correspondence for this month.

**MANAGERS REPORT:**

- The month of December has been rather busy for us. The electric department has been busy working on the new pole barn. It is coming along well and is beautiful. Saving the concrete for the spring so no cracks will appear. The electric department took down the Christmas lights. If people noticed there were no lights on Mill Street due to the really dilapidated condition. There is a budget item for new Christmas decorations that go on sale in February. Several outages occurred none of these were in the Borough infrastructure. They were all in PPL.

- The street department responded to the first snow storm of the year. We are using salt and cinders rapidly. A new truck is in the budget for this year. Liquid Fuels will be paying for half of the purchase of the truck. The truck will go out for bid using the State Piggy back program. This program does the bid process therefore the Borough does not have to bid the truck out. A new plow and spreader will come with the truck and we will be selling the old one after the new one is purchased and inspected.
- The new “Welcome to Catawissa” signs have been installed and look wonderful. The guys did a nice job with the installation.
- The sewer plant has been granted its’ yearly license to operate. Danville is raising their rates 200%. Catawissa only raised their rates by 5%. Because of the work the guys do at the sewer plant we do not have to put in the upgrades to the plant other places have to put into theirs.
- On January 14, at 3:00 p.m. we are hosting a meeting for the Main Street grant project. The meeting will be run by SECA-COG.
- The Christmas decorating contest was fantastic. Our guest judge was the Regional Manager of McDonalds Shawn Raup it was his decision solely. The winners of the contest were Woody and Christine Heaps. With honorable mention to Steve Velenchick and although they could not win Harry and Jackie Young.

**WATER:**

- Cindy Bachman had nothing to report at this time.

**POLICE:**

- Chief Mark Hardin has submitted his report in writing and has nothing new to add.

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

- John Sabol commented that for 2007 the department had 1852 reports that were recorded through the Emergency Communication Center. December counted for 126 of those reports.

## **MAYOR:**

- Newly elected Mayor Patrick Sinclair was happy to see the amount of people in the audience showing their support. He expressed his hope that more people would show their interest in the Borough government. Thank you to all that voted for me and I'm happy to be here.

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

- In addition to the main street program the committee will be meeting with those interested in using the softball fields to set up a schedule.

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

- A chairman for this department will be announced at a later date.

## **FINANCE CHAIRMAN:**

- We will be having a pre audit meeting in January. Police were a little under \$10,000 under budget. The streets were \$37,625 under budget. The electric expenses were \$90,000 under budget. Linda wanted to thank the superintendents of all departments for the help this year.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- There was no unfinished business at this time.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A motion was made by Linda Kashner seconded by Forest McClintock to re-open the budget to make year end adjustments and transfers and to accept the newly revised budget. There was an 8% increase in health care costs. There was also a \$1500 yearly maintenance fee for cemetery that we get money in so this had to be added to the receipts. We do not pay social security for our full time officers we recalculated for the part-time officers. There was \$9,000 more in the checking account than budgeted. For a total of \$10,500 to cover the cost of the increase of the insurance bill increase. We took \$40,000 from our checking and moved it into the Sewer budget just for them to start up for the year. All aye, none opposed.
- A motion was made by John Sabol seconded by Barb Reese to table the decision about Walt Gosciminski's wish to purchase land for additional parking for his restaurant until further information was available. All aye, none opposed. Council requested Atty. McDonald and James Haney to make sure the Borough owns the property. Mr. Haney will also look into how much the property may be worth. Mr. Gosciminski is only interested in part of the parcel. He will not be able to put a building on the lot unless he goes through a zoning hearing board. Mr. Haney will get together with Jane to see if the deed is available.
- A motion was made by Dottie Linn to service the support generator at the sewer department by Cleveland Brothers Equipment for \$1,138. The motion was seconded by John Sabol. After some discussion there was confusion among the council about this motion. Darren Trump a resident of the Borough questioned the need for this servicing. Harry Young was also questioned. The council was still confused. Linda Kashner made the motion to table this service until

- more information could be imparted. The motion was seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to elect Peters to be the Engineers for Catawissa Borough for the year 2008 seconded by Dottie Linn. Linda Kashner asked Jim Haney if he was happy with Peter's Consulting. Mr. Haney answered that yes he is satisfied with Peter's. Forest McClinock asked Jim if the response time for Peter's was good. Mr. Haney replied that Peters gets back to him promptly in most instances. Mr. Romania stated that they seemed to be comparable with other firms. All aye, none opposed.
  - Barb Reese made the motion to hire 2 part-time police officers, Julie Holtzapple and Joseph Eister, seconded by Linda Kashner. Forest asked what the rate of hire was. John Sabol responded \$11.75 per hour with a 6 month probation. The probation can be extended if necessary. After further discussion all were in favor none were opposed.
  - Dottie Linn made the motion to table the Union Cemetery proposal until someone from the Church would be able to attend a meeting. The motion was seconded by John Sabol. All aye, none opposed.
  - A motion was made by John Sabol and seconded by Forest McClintock to go ahead with the Mutual Aid Agreements between our municipality and 17 neighboring municipalities to cooperate and share resources in case of a disaster. This will make our Fire Dept. and Borough up to date on NIMS initiatives. All aye, none opposed.
  - A motion was made by Linda Kashner and seconded by Dottie Linn to enact the PSAB Junior Council Person program. It allows a Borough student in high school to sit in on Council meetings and help deliberate issues affecting their communities. This would be done by Resolution not Ordinance. All aye, none opposed.

George Romania informed everyone that there was an executive session to discuss personnel matters. Also George and John got together to discuss committee assignments. Jane was asked if she would share the DPW chairperson position since she has daily interaction with the workers. Also, if Forest would take over the positions that were previously held by Ed, such as; DPW and Building Maintenance. Forest could also replace Deneen Casey on the Finance committee. Forest replied that he would be happy to serve on these committees.

John addressed the council regarding the eligibility of Scott Fronk for the rank Corporal with a \$1,700 bonus. This is contingent on his passing the state tests required for the position.

- Forest McClintock made the motion to promote Scott to Corporal with a \$1,700 bonus. Seconded by Dottie Linn. The question was asked if the bonus would be lump sum or salary. Linda stated salary would be better because of taxes and so fourth. All aye, none opposed.

Dottie Linn stated that the Christmas decorations were well done. Dottie especially liked Harold & Barb Savage and Abe Adams house. Jane stated that she liked Steve Velenchik.

#### **TREASURERS REPORT:**

- Linda Kashner made the motion to accept the bills and sign seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

- Dottie Linn made the motion to adjourn seconded by John Sabol. All aye, none opposed.