

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11,
2008 AT THE BOROUGH HALL AT 7:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President George Romania.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: George Romania, Deneen Casey, Dottie Linn, Barb Reese, John Sabol, Forest McClintock, Linda Kashner, Mayor Patrick Sinclair, Borough Manager Jane Graham, and Atty. Anthony McDonald.

READING OF MINUTES:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Deb, from Baker's Cove spoke regarding the parking situation on Main St. Residents are still parking on mainstreet all day and not utilizing the off street parking they are supposed to do. After a discussion of council, Mr. Haney, Police and those at Baker's Cove it was decided to look into meters for main street and have Mr. Haney come in on his way through town to check on the parking situation. Possibly 4-5 hours extra a week. Also when tenants move in and make their meter deposit the office will inform them that they must use off street parking if available.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

- Mr. Matt Wagner presented the council with an offer for supplemental insurance with AIG Insurance.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Jim Haney reported that the Code Enforcement Office issued 4 building permits, 4 solicitation permits, 5 letters to property owners for property maintenance, 2 warnings, and 1 citation. Mr. Haney requested that the Ordinance for trash states that all trash and trash bags should be placed in containers to reduce the animals getting into the trash. Deneen Casey asked Jim what the definition of property maintenance would entail. Mr. Haney stated that properties should keep up with painting, no trash lying around, rain spouts should be attached etc. If a property owner has trouble paying for repairs there are programs available with Lori Gordner and other government programs. In regards to the Metzger property; Jane, Tony and Jim will be meeting in the next few weeks to coordinate information and will report back to council next month.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Borough Manager Jane Graham read correspondence from Catawissa Township asking for consideration of entering a contract with the Borough Police. The police committee will look into the feasibility of entering a contract with Catawissa Township to share the police force. Jane asked to be taken off the police committee because she only has authority with regards to the finance of the police and would have no say in any decisions about other aspects of the Police. Forest McClintock volunteered to take her place. Because there will be four council members on this committee all meetings will have to be advertised. George Romania thanked Mr. McClintock for volunteering and accepted the change.
- Catawissa Creek Restoration Association will be holding a meeting February 20. We are members of this organization and donate approximately \$100.00 per year. If anyone would like to attend Jane has the information.
- PSAB spring legislative conference will be held in Grantville. If anyone would like to attend let the office know and the Borough will sign you up.
- Catawissa Borough received a \$300.00 grant from Pennsylvania Council of the Arts for the concert series during the summer.
- Council instructed Atty. McDonald to research the deed to the property Walt Gosciminski wishes to purchase. There has been a question about who the owners of the property are. If the Borough owns the property council will decide if Mr. Gosciminski will be allowed to use the property for parking for the restaurant he owns on Pine St.

MANAGERS REPORT:

- Jane Graham gave the managers report for the Electric, Sewer, and Street departments.
- The Bottling Company complained that every time it rained heavily the Bottling Company is being flooded. Mr. Haney and Clair Kingston investigated the problem and determined that a slate slab over the creek on Lily Ave. is the problem and when weather permits will be removed.
- The plow truck will be purchased by the COSTARS program because they have already done the lowest bidder process.
- The fire siren at the police station is broken beyond repair. A new one will need to be purchased. The old one is covered under our Boiler insurance policy. After it is determined what caused the failure we will submit a claim.
- The door to the police station is broken. This was first brought to the council attention in November. Forest McClintock is the chairman of the buildings committee and has looked into the matter. He stated that he received a quote from Lowe's and the price with installation will be about \$420.00. This will be a commercial grade.
- Jane will be meeting with other insurance companies for comparative pricing. The finance committee and Jane will be looking at all investments to see if we are getting the best pricing. That may be something the Borough should consider doing every year. Also with the pension plan. PNC is willing to handle our pension for about \$1,000 less than what we are paying now.

WATER:

- Cindy Bachman reminded council that it will be soon to open CARA park bathrooms. In past years there have been a few problems with people clogging up the sinks and letting the water run and other vandalizing acts. Is there something we can do to prevent this from happening in the future? Possibly making the person or persons signing out the key responsible for the condition of the bathrooms upon return of the key? Or maybe a fee for the use of the facility. Barb Reese stated that when there is a Parks and Recreation meeting they will discuss this matter.

POLICE:

- Chief Mark Hardin updated council on Officer Weismen who was hit by a car in the line of duty on the 27th of January. Officer Weismen is scheduled for surgery on 2/13/08 and is not expected to return for at least a month. It will take a few more months to train the new hires until then the Police department is operating on a 4 man crew with 12 hour shifts. Chief Hardin thanked the churches and the community for their donations to Officer Weismen.

POLICE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAIRMAN:

- John Sabol report that the police responded to 151 calls placed through the county dispatch for the month of January.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Patrick Sinclair addressed the council about having a form in the office for residents to fill out for requests for handicap parking.
- Mayor Sinclair attended the PSAB conference on the 25th and 26th of January. Also on the 15th he attended the PSAB meeting at Portabella's regarding drugs in the community.
- On February 1, 2008 the Mayor married a couple at the Borough Hall.
- There was a focus group meeting on Saturday with members of the community and professionals to get the youth involved in the community. Have the youth help the elderly with sidewalks and just checking up on them.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECREATION CHAIRMAN:

- The Parks committee had meeting on January 21st to meet with the organizations that have an interest in using the softball fields to come up with a schedule for the fields use. The organizations were, Little league, Bloomsburg YMCA, and the Susquehanna Sunday Slow Pitch Softball League. Also to address concerns about the conditions of the fields.
- Discussed having a Borough wide yard sale on Saturday, May 24, 2008. Residents wishing to participate would sign up at the Borough Hall at no cost by May 16th. The office would provide maps to people wanting to find all the sales with marks of all the participating residents.
- There was a discussion about having the Farmer's Market again this year. The committee will be contacting vendors soon to begin setting up.

- The Parks and Recreation committee discussed possible signs to direct interested visitors to the Quaker Meeting House. Also the possibility of opening the Meeting House for the summer.
- Forest McClintock brought up the idea of Kids Day in the park during the summer. The committee would like to get together with Forest and the Mayor to discuss this further.
- A vote will be needed for Porta Potties. One at the Band Shell for June, July and August, one at Third St. Pavilion from the end of May thru the end of September and one at the softball field for April thru August.
- The committee also discussed the possibility of pouring concrete on the floor of the fourth street pavilion. Senior residents and handicap individuals have expressed the hardship they have of getting in and out of the picnic tables because of the unevenness of the ground.
- The Parks and Recreation Committee's next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 19, 2008 at 7:00p.m. at the Borough Hall. Anyone wishing to come to this meeting is welcome. The topics of discussion will be: Music in the Band Shell, Quaker Meeting House, The dedication of the park, The yard sale, Kids day in the park, The farmer's market, The bathroom key sign-out for CARA park, also we need to discuss the message board.
- Linda Kashner informed council that the family members of Ralf Wolfgang would be available late June, early July. After contacting Steve, the person in charge of the Catawissa Military Band they came up with the date of July 1, 2008. Linda will put something in the paper asking for volunteers to write something about how Mr. Wolfgang touched their lives.
- Dottie Linn made the motion seconded by John Sabol to order the porta potties for the parks. This money has been budgeted in the Parks budget. All aye, none opposed.
- The paving of the pavilion will be put off until next year so it can be budgeted for.

PROPERTY, SUPPLY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Forest McClintock reported that the door of the Police Station must be replaced. The wind caught it and now is damaged beyond repair. Mr. McClintock went to Lowes to price the commercial grade door and with installation it will cost \$416.00. Lowe's is the only place that he went if council would like him to go other places he will. Deneen Casey asked if Catawissa Hardware Supply would have what we needed. Woody stated that he contacted Catawissa Hardware and they did not have commercial grade and did not seem to feel inclined to try. Lowe's needs a check for \$35.00 to have someone come to the Police station to do the measurements you will get credit for this on the final bill. Jane stated she will make up a purchase order.

PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN:

- George Romania announced that the personnel committee will be getting together shortly, as soon as everyone's schedules allow.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Linda also went to the PSAB conference and was just packed full of information. It was a great program.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Forest McClintock made the motion for the generator contract for the sewer plant. The generator is 50 years old and DEP requires a contract. John Sabol seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Council instructed Atty. McDonald to investigate the question as to whether the Borough owns the property that Walt Gosciminski is asking to purchase. Atty. McDonald stated that he should have an answer for this by next meeting. Until ownership is established council tabled the discussion about Mr. Gosciminski's request for purchase.

NEW BUSINESS:

- John Sabol made the motion to retain Atty. McDonald for the fiscal year 2008 at the rate of \$2,500. The motion was seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion for the Borough to officially join with SEDA-COG for the Greenway/Canal project. Formation of citizen group to help rejuvenate Downtown Catawissa. A donation of \$1,200 will be required. The motion was seconded by Forest McClintock. The Susquahanna Greenway will be the best plan for Catawissa. Catawissa will get together with other river towns to join this grant. Forest has spoken to various homeowners and business on Main St. to participate. C.A.R.E. is a name that is being thought about for the joint venture. (Catawissa Area Revitalization and Enhancement). All aye, none opposed.
- Parking meters for Main Street were discussed but tabled for a later meeting until more information could be available.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to have the engineers start structural plans for Municipal Building to utilize the second floor for meetings and groups. The motion was seconded by Deneen Casey. The idea of also looking at plans for the second floor of the Sr. Center was tabled. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to replace the sign rotted out at the ballfield. The new Trotman sign will cost \$400.00 and be 4'*6'. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to move the Municipal Pension for Employees from PASB to PNC bank for \$1,000 less. Seconded by John Sabol. After a lengthy discussion by council Mr. McClintock recinded his motion and the pension motion was tabled until other quotes could be received.
- Catawissa council decided to ask Clair Kingston to trim the trees on 1st Street and not cut them down.

FINANCE Payment of Bills. Motion to accept as written:

- Barb Reese made the motion for the payment of the bills as presented. Seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting was adjourned.

Kimberly Rhoades

Secretary