

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2008 7:00 PM  
307 MAIN ST CATAWISSA, PA 17820

**CALL TO ORDER:**

- The meeting was called to order by Council President George Romania.
- All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

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

**GUESTS TO BE HEARD:**

- Mr. Herb Maurer asked the Borough Council to consider a Resolution or Ordinance to protect the Historical buildings of the Borough. Buildings to be considered included the old Cleaver residents which is a Cracker Jack style home one of a very few in existence and structures such as the memorial statue in the Union Cemetery, cemeteries including the Quaker, Eyer, and others. Atty. McDonald stated that cemeteries are covered by State Law and cannot be removed or damaged by penalty of law. Forest McClintock asked Mr. Maurer who would pay for restoration if the building would come into disrepair. Mr. Maurer stated that would be something the council would have to decide. Herb was not asking for the resolution to dictate what color to paint the building or what type of roof to be put on. He is just asking for a policy that states that you can not tear down the building or structure. Mr. Maurer suggested that grants may be available for owners of Historic property.
- Barb Savage expressed a complaint about the handling of the problem she had with someone plowing of their driveway and removing the stone. Council suggested a complaint form to be located at the Borough Office for residents to fill out. After the complaint form is filled out with the resident's recommendation for fixing the problem, Jane will investigate the complaint and act on it accordingly.
- Mr. Jeff Achy asked that the public be notified when the Street Department was going to pave or patch a street.
- Jen Shoup suggested someone should be in charge so that if a supervisor is not doing well someone in authority can evoke change.
- Scott Keefer asked why his electric bill raised \$64.00 in one month. The council responded that one of the reasons was that the PPAC rate was especially high this month and that it was an extremely cold billing period.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:**

- James Haney had nothing to report at this time.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- There was no correspondence for this meeting.

**MANAGERS REPORT:**

- Jane gave the Managers Report for all departments. To view this report see the minute book filed at the Borough Hall.

**WATER:**

- Source Water Protection Plan. The water company is forming a committee to investigate the project. The committee will decide where the threat of contamination might be and what monetary obligations need to be followed. There are grants for the educational process. DEP offered to use Catawissa as a test subject so the engineering fees and DEP fees will be waived. Catawissa Water Authority Board is part of the committee if council would like to be part of this committee would be welcome. George Romania expressed interest in being part of the committee as did Forest McClintock. There is not a set date for the committee to meet as of yet. Cindy or someone from the Authority Board will be in contact. In the beginning the meeting dates will most likely be staggered.

**POLICE:**

- Chief Hardin had nothing to add to the report filed.

**POLICE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAIRMAN:**

- John Sabol added to the report, last month the police had 134 activity reports as recorded thru the communication center.
- The two new officers are almost prepared to go solo. Some people may have seen two police cars in the Borough in one shift. This is because of training. The trainee will respond to a call the seasoned officer will follow to assist if needed. This helps train the officers more thoroughly.

**MAYOR:**

- Mayor Patrick Sinclair reported that he and Mike Lindenmuth went to Danville to check the siren system. The Danville siren is similar to the one Mike and Jane worked to get the grant for.
- Mr. Sinclair informed the council and the parks and recreation committee that the VFW will be able to attend Kids Day in the Park to hand out helmets.
- March 4<sup>th</sup> was the youth committee. The official committee name is "Catawissa Youth Committee". When the kids become more involved, the committee will be renamed to appeal to the youth.
- The Mayor is working on a handicap parking procedure.

- Chief Hardin and the other workers did a great job during the power outage on Saturday evening into Sunday morning. Even though the mayor was not required to be part of the outage process he chose to participate for the experience.

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

- Barb Reese asked Jane to report for her in her absence. The Parks & Recreation committee has been meeting frequently.
- May 24<sup>th</sup> is the planned day for the Borough wide yard sale. Interested residents register at the borough hall at not cost. The office will provide a map with stars and addresses for visitors participating in the sale.
- For Kids Day in the Park the state police will be able to participate along with the Sheriff's Posse.
- Cameras at the park are going to be expensive.
- The Borough may buy Porta Potties instead of renting. Jim Achy will give Jane the contact information about how much this will cost the Borough and Jane will report to council at April's meeting.

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

- Forest McClintock announced the door at the police station is scheduled to be installed on Wednesday.

**PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN:**

- George Romania stated that the personnel committee did meet and would give their recommendations later in the meeting.

**FINCANE CHAIRMAN:**

- Linda Kashner had nothing to report at this time.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Atty. McDonald researched the ownership of the Union Cemetery as requested by the Borough Council. His research indicated that the cemetery was owned by the group G.A.R. (which is now the Armed Services). They no longer own this cemetery and the ownership is unclear at this time. The Borough has some options. There is an Ordinance in the Borough Code that states 1. The Lutheran Church can sign a "Quick Claim Deed" to transfer ownership over to the borough. Since there is not an actual deed, this is a fast and easy solution. 2. The other option is a Quiet Title action. With this action the Borough would sue any and all owners of the property all the way from the church to the Grand Army of the Republic. The Borough would have to file a motion to the court the Borough would have to advertise the motion and if no one comes forth the Court would say that Catawissa Borough owns the cemetery. This process is expensive and lengthy. Dottie Linn stated that the Borough does already own the monument. It was suggested that maybe it would be best to just take over the cemetery also. Atty McDonald suggested that Jane call the insurance company to see if the workers comp. insurance will cover the workers while they are mowing

the cemetery without proof of ownership. If Workers Comp. will cover them then the Borough just proceeds as before. If they need proof of ownership then the Borough will have to decide which procedure to pursue.

- The property #4002 that Walt Gosciminski would like to utilize as a parking lot for his restraint, the Borough defiantly owns. The council asked Tony McDonald to compose a permit that Mr. Haney can control. If it does not work out then Mr. Haney can pull the permission for the permit. Mr. Haney, Jane and Tony McDonald will come up with a permit and letter for this agreement.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A motion was made by Forest McClintock to table the request to adopt a resolution to protect Historic Buildings from being demolished until further research could be done. John Sabol seconded the motion to table. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to retain CET engineers for the sewer plant for the FY2008. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.
- John Sabol made the motion to table the pay half or the cost of installation for the upgrade to ADA ramps at every street corner on Rte. 42 at a cost of \$23,700. This money was not budgeted, and there may be grants available in the future. Deneen Casey seconded the motion to table. All aye, none opposed.
- Dottie Linn made the motion to advertise for a part-time street department laborer. This position will be at least 32 hours per week at a rate set by council with no benefits. Motion seconded by Forest McClintock. All aye, none opposed.
- John Sabol made the motion to end the lawsuit with PPL. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to add the Heart and Lung coverage to our Police insurance at a cost of \$1,700 per year. John Sabol seconded the motion. This coverage will help a police officer whom is injured during the line of duty. All aye, none opposed.
- A motion was made by Dottie Linn and seconded by Linda Kashner to utilize the Columbia County Prisoners to clean up the debris and garbage in the Catawissa Creek. All that is required of the Borough is to provide a substantial meal for the workers. There will be 10 prisoners coming to clean the Creek bed the first week of April. They will be supervised the entire time, and they are not hardened criminals only minor offenders. All aye, none opposed.

#### **FINANCE:**

- Linda Kashner made a motion to accept the payment of the bills as written. Seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

SUBMITTED BY  
KIMBERLY RHOADES  
SECRETARY

DRAFT