

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday, April 07, 2008 307 MAIN ST.**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**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, Barb Reese, Forest McClintock, Linda Kashner, Mayor Patrick Sinclair, Borough Manager Jane Graham, and Atty. Anthony McDonald. Absent was John Sabol.

Council President George Romania announced there was an executive session at 6:30 pm to discuss legal matters.

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

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

**GUESTS TO BE HEARD:**

- Barb Savage pointed out some typing corrections to the previous month's minutes. She questioned the legality of the minutes with typing errors. Atty. McDonald stated that typing errors do not change the legality of the minutes. George Romania requested the residents submit information to be corrected and council will consider any necessary changes.
- Jen Shoup expressed that she was not happy with the handling of a complaint she had made about the street sweeping job. She said she felt that she and her family were treated unfairly. Jen also questioned the solicitor as to how long it takes him to respond to something having to do with Borough business. Atty. McDonald asked for specifics. Jen stated that Atty. McDonald received a letter dated Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> from Atty. Hummel. Jen asked, "Can you tell us how long it took you to respond to that letter?" Atty. McDonald stated that he could not answer that question. Jen asked other legal questions that Atty. McDonald was not legally required to answer. Council person Deneen Casey asked where the street sweeper comes from. The answer was Bloomsburg. Deneen then asked, "Who drives the street sweeper?" The answer given was a Bloomsburg worker brings it over. Deneen asked "Are they followed by anyone while they are sweeping the streets?" The answer was yes, the police follow the street sweeper. Forest McClintock remarked that he heard that Street Superintendent Clair Kingston was accused of driving the street sweeper in regards to this incident. Jen Shoup denied this. Forest asked Jane what happened. Jane said that the neighbor was yelling at Bob and saying that Clair was driving and leaving cinders in front of the residence.

- Irvin Shoup Sr. asked if the Borough could separate the fire hydrant system from the town water supply explaining that his wife was washing her white uniform when the fire company tapped into the hydrant system making the water and her uniform muddy. George Romania stated that is a Water Authority issue and Mr. Shoup would have to go to a meeting of the Water Authority to address that concern.
- Jeff Achy asked if there was an ordinance about people walking dogs and not cleaning up after them. He said he doesn't mind in the grass, but this was right on the sidewalk. He also inquired if the Borough is going to do anything about the potholes and ruts on Quinn Avenue. Jane responded that Quinn Ave. is on the list for repair this season.
- Pat Hess questioned the \$8,000 engineering costs for the renovation of the upstairs of the Borough Hall.
- Audrey Breech questioned receiving a warning about leaving her trash out. Mr. Haney explained that the Borough has adopted the Building Maintenance Code of 2000. This code states that trash must be in an approved container with a lid instead of plastic bags. Mr. Haney added that this helps to cut down on the animals getting into peoples' trash. Catawissa has a lot of skunks, rodents and cats that roam the town and are a problem for residents when they put the household garbage out for pickup. Containers will help with this problem. Haney said the tag put on Ms. Breech's door was meant only as a reminder. It was not a citation.
- Sharon Krum addressed the fact that when residents put garbage out in containers with lids the garbage man does not put the lid back on the container then the wind blows them around and they are lost. Mr. Haney stated that he could not do anything about that except recommend getting something to tether the lid to the container.
- Barb Savage asked about the progress with the pension plan and with the CD rates. Jane responded that we have called all the banks in the phone book for CD rates and we are waiting for one more quote for the pension plan.
- Mr. Achy informed the council that the Porta Potties are not new but used. Mr. Romania stated that council was aware of this but thanked Mr. Achy for the information.

#### **CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:**

- Code enforcement officer James Haney reported that there were 6 permits issued during the month of March and 12 complaints responded to in the Borough.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- The Columbia County PSAB meeting is being held Tuesday, April 15, at Portabella's Restaurant. If anyone would like to go please contact Jane. This is a continuation of the previous meeting.
- The close out of the 2006 flood paperwork has come through. The Borough received \$2,368.07 for administrative fees. Jane asked council to consider moving this money to the sewer account because of their need.

- The Little League asked council to have some trees removed next to the concession stand at the ball field.

#### **MANAGERS REPORT:**

- The electric company is continuing trimming trees around the creek bed. The meters were read at the normally scheduled time. Concrete has been poured at the new pole barn. It is now ready for the interior work.
- The Street Department laid mulch at all the parks, repainted the memorial at the Union Cemetery, repaired and repainted all the dugouts at the ball field. This work was done with the help of the prisoners from Columbia County Prison.
- The pump blew out at the sewer plant. The pumps ran constantly because of the flooding here a few weeks ago. This is one of the reasons Jane would like to transfer the flood money received from PEMA to the sewer account.
- Thanks were given to Catawissa Bottling, Linda Kashner, Barb Reese and Dottie Linn for providing food for the prisoners while they were working with the Borough.
- The annual PSAB conference is coming in June. If members of council would like to participate they are asked to inform Jane or Kim.
- The ADA ramps tabled from last meeting were researched. Penn DOT said no plans were in place to make the ramps mandatory at a later date. Penn DOT feels their offer relieves them of liability claiming that if the borough does not participate and someone gets hurt it will be the borough's fault not Penn DOT's.
- Barb Reese made a motion to move the \$2,368.07 to the sewer account. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.

#### **WATER:**

- Kim Rhoades reported for Cindy Bachman that the water authority will be flushing hydrants May 5, 2008.
- Herb Maurer of the Water Authority Board stated that the water authority has no say or control over the Fire Company. When the Fire Company taps into the hydrant they are supposed to inform the Water Company. Mr. Maurer asked: "With all the dry hydrants in the area why do they have to tap into the water's hydrants?" Mike Lindenmuth, the EMC for the Borough, who is also a fire fighter, answered that by law if there is a fire the fire company must utilize the nearest water source. The communication center is notified when the fire company has to use a hydrant. Communications is to call the Water Company.

#### **POLICE:**

- Sergeant Kopitsky reported that Chief Mark Hardin is progressing from surgery well but slowly. He hopes to be back to work by the end of May. Also Officer Weisman will be cleared for active duty by the end of April or the beginning of May.
- The new officers have been cleared to work alone. Tony asked that people be patient with them until they get to know the residents.
- Tony Kopitsky is working with the Lutheran Church regarding the parking problem. Some of the congregation was parked 4 cars wide in front of the church

on the corner of Church St. and E. Main. Tony is checking with George Cunningham to see if the Borough painting parking lines is past practice. .

**POLICE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAIRMAN:**

- Due to John Sabol's absence there was no Police report.

**MAYOR:**

- Mayor Patrick Sinclair introduced to council 2 handicap parking policies. The only difference between the two policies is one requires a \$25.00 fee. If you have a handicap placard you may come into the Borough Hall to fill out a form. Council still has the decision to accept or deny the application.
- The Senior Citizen Center has a loading zone in front of the property. In the future converting the back lot into a parking area may be an option. For this, the blue lines would be repainted orange and extended the length of the building. Dottie Linn made the motion seconded by Forest McClintock to adopt the handicap parking policy with the \$25.00 fee if the spot is approved. Copies of the policy can be obtained at the Borough Hall.

**EMC:**

- Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Lindenmuth announced that he has been in contact with both David Millard and John Gordner's office regarding the grant for the replacement of the fire siren. As of now we have been denied for the grant in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round and await the 3<sup>rd</sup> round coming in June or July.
- Mike recommended a plug be placed in the traffic signal box in case of a power outage. This plug is for a generator to run the lights when the power goes out so that emergency services can do their jobs where needed and it will be safer for the workers and the public. The cost of this plug is \$1,300.00 and will only be used for the light at the five points intersection.

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

- Barb Reese informed the council and attendees that there will be a borough wide yard sale May 24, 2008. Residents wanting to participate will register at no cost at the Borough Hall. The Borough will provide yard sale goers with a map showing all the yard sale sites.
- "Kids Day in the Park" June 14<sup>th</sup> plans are just flying along. The YMCA will provide a moonwalk for free just for allowing them to put up a table for their organization.
- The Concert in the Park series plans are coming along well. Joe Gaughan has been doing a fantastic job with booking the entertainment. Due to our low budget some of the bands are playing as a favor. Starting June 17 the series will run through August 5<sup>th</sup>. It will be every Tuesday starting at 6:00 pm. The starting act will be geared to entertain young children. Beginning at 7:00 the adult bands will begin. A battle of the bands for the young adults is also being planned for this summer. This event will begin June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the CARA park band pavilion. The second round of Battle of the Bands will take place on July 18<sup>th</sup> at

6:00 pm. The finals for this event will be held August 15<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:30 pm. The winner of "Battle of the Bands" has been invited to play at Quaker Steak and Lube for their final bike night. Fliers will be placed in all the local high schools to generate interest.

- The Parks committee is hoping to have the Quaker Meeting House open one Sunday a Month beginning in June. The garden club will be planting bulbs around the grounds. The Borough thanks them for the beautification.
- The Farmers Market will be open again. The committee has placed in the Southside Beat the invitation to farmers to contact the Borough if they are interested to participate.
- SEDA COG was at the Borough Hall on Thursday for the Riverside Revitalization. The committee hopes to have another meeting before SEDA COG comes back again. Anyone interested is invited to attend.
- Parks and Recreations next meeting is Monday, April 14, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Borough Office. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.
- Patrick Sinclair invited any and all residents to come to the SEDA COG meetings explaining that the more involvement there is the better for the community.
- The question was asked of Barb Reese what and whom will be at the "Kids Day". The answer was: The festivities will include State Police with their helicopter, mustang car, horses as well as other things. The local police will be fingerprinting, the fire company will be in attendance, the VFW will be handing out bike helmets, there will be a balloon artist, Geisinger will be there to promote children's health, and students from the University will be there to do face painting and other activities. This event is geared for children from toddler to age 12.

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

- The new borough barn's concrete has been poured.
- There is an issue with the Senior Center. They are asking for the borough to fix the foyer floor. The Center received a grant to do the work for them without the knowledge of the Borough. Forest stated he does not feel it is the Borough's responsibility to fix the problem; it is the job of the contractor hired to do the job in the first place.

#### **PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN:**

- George Romania informed council that the committee conducted interviews on Thursday for the part time Street laborer. The candidate the committee is recommending has recently come home from building roads in Iraq.

#### **FINANCE CHAIRMAN:**

- Linda Kashner informed the council that in July Columbia County Farmers Bank and First Columbia National Bank will be merging. That will mean that one bank will have all the Borough's funds. The recommendation is to put some money in other banks so that the money will be more diversified. Jane is checking the rates of all the banks in the phone book.

- Barb Reese made the motion seconded by Forest McClintock to move monies in to the highest rate available. Deneen Casey asked what the terms we are looking at. Linda answered that we are looking for no longer than a year. All aye, none opposed.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- An ordinance must be in place by August concerning the Flood Mitigation Plan. Tony is researching the program to make sure there is no monetary obligation to the Borough. He will have more information at the May meeting for council's review.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to use reserve money to install ADA ramps when Penn Dot paves RT. 42. This will cost approx. \$23,700.00. After discussion, all aye, none opposed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Forest McClintock made the motion to provide fire retardant clothing for linemen at a cost of \$14.75 per employee per week. This will be for Harry and Bob only. The street and sewer do not need this type of clothing. Dottie Linn seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Reese made the motion to purchase three 'Porta Potties' for use at the parks in the Borough. The cost for use of the 'Porta Potties' is approx. \$200.00 each. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Dottie Linn made the motion to table the vote on a resolution by PMPA to join the organization. This is similar to PMEA with the ability to join with other Borough in the production of Power and purchase of bulk wholesale energy. There is no cost. The motion was seconded by Forest McClintock. The discussion was to have Tony review the contract to look for possible hidden costs. All aye, none opposed.
- A motion was made by Forest McClintock to remove three trees from the little league field that may damage the concession stand to be replaced with trees or flowering shrubs. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Reese made the motion to take \$1,000 from the public safety budget and \$350.00 from the closeout of the PEMA flood return to install a generator plug to the traffic signal at the 5 points intersection in case of power outages. The motion was seconded by Linda Kashner. All aye, none opposed.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner to put removable basketball hoops at the asphalt slab at CARA park. Seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to hire William Toomey as the part time street laborer for 32 hours per week and \$13.00 per hour with no benefits. Dottie Linn seconded the motion. Deneen Casey asked if he would be able to join the union. George Romania explained that he would not be eligible to join the union nor eligible for benefits. Overtime would be anything over 40 hours. Clair would decide if Mr. Toomey goes home or stays. All aye, none opposed.

#### **FINANCE:**

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

MEETING ADJOURNED  
SUBMITTED BY  
KIMBERLY RHOADES  
SECRETARY