

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 5, 2008 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

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

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. All were present.

The order of the agenda was changed to present an accommodation to the Boy Scout troop 67 and the Lutheran church for their 80 years of serving the Catawissa community. Mike Gregorowicz scout master, Larry Wolfe the committee chairperson, Dale Kreisher unit representative and Pastor Gretchen Johanson.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

- Barb Reese made the motion to dispense with the reading and approve the previous month's corrected minutes. Seconded by Linda Kashner. All aye, none opposed.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Mr. Wayne Petro, representative of the Central Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Committee, asked if the Borough would partner with the committee in preserving the Union Cemetery and other historical landmarks. Attorney McDonald offered the service of his office to set up the Central Pennsylvania Historic Preservation with the 501-3C Non Profit status and the by laws at Pro Bono. The organization will also have to look for a volunteer accountant to file all the taxes. Mr. Haney suggested that the organization contact the Monument Company for expert advice on monument repair.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to support the Central Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Committee with a Borough contribution of \$500.00 or less to help preserve the Union Cemetery tombstones. John Sabol seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Mr. Herb Maurer asked the Borough's position on passing the resolution for preserving historic buildings in the borough. Mr. Maurer is not interested in making the homeowners use historic material. He was concerned with them not destroying them. Forest McClintock asked Mr. Maurer to come up with a list of homes for consideration. George Romania stated that public money can not legally be used for preserving these buildings. An ordinance or resolution at this time would be premature.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

- Mr. Haney reported that there were 7 permits issued in the Borough and 19 issues addressed during the month of March.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Jane reported that the Borough received \$1,896.00 from Benecon Insurance.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- The diffuser digester project for the sewer plant will begin this month (May). Sewer Department Superintendent Dale Shobert will be working on the belt press grant project.
- The electric department just started the interior construction of the new pole barn. Mr. McClintock is overseeing the pole project. AMP Ohio placed a meter satellite down by the river. This is for the use of the Borough for monitoring electric usage in the Borough.
- The street department's new employee, William Toomey, is doing well. The department is busy mowing, weed-whacking, and mulching. The Borough will continue utilizing the prisoners. They will be helping paint the lines and curbs in the Borough and other jobs where needed. Forest McClintock thanked the council members for providing food for the prisoners while they were working here.
- The Metzger property is being demolished on 5/7/08, barring any unforeseen circumstances.
- Jane worked one day with Code Enforcement with Mr. Haney.
- Jane, Patrick Sinclair and Mike Lindenmuth have been updating her NIMS exams. All of council needs to be updated on NIMS also. Please stop in Jane's office as the exams are on line and council can take them there. Jane and Mike Lindenmuth also have taken the exam for animal rescue during emergency situations.

WATER AUTHORITY:

- Cindy Bachman asked if there was a new system for the keys sign-out at CARA bathrooms. Jane informed Cindy that the current procedure is when someone is signed up to use the park, they must sign out a key. The sign-out form will state that the signer is responsible for any damage done to the property. George Romania suggested that using motion detectors should be considered. Cindy stated that any of those options will be an improvement.

POLICE:

- Corporal Fronk gave the police report in Sergeant Kopitsky's absence. Corporal Fronk reported that Officer Weisman's tentative date of return is May 19, 2008. The tentative return for Chief Hardin is June 1st.
- Summer tires for both marked cars are on order and should be in sometime this month. (May)
- There were 185 calls for service during the month of April. There has been an increase of theft of gas due to the high gas prices.

- Officer Holtzapple completed school on police reports. Officer Eister completed school on fingerprinting and grafting.
- Law Day for students at Southern Columbia is scheduled for May 8th from 9:00 am thru 2:00 pm at the school.

POLICE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAIRMAN:

- John Sabol had nothing to add to Corporal Fronk's report.

MAYOR:

- Handicap parking applications will be ready for June's meeting.
- On April 14, the Mayor attended the Parks and Recreation meeting. Joe Gaughan is doing a great job organizing the concerts for the summer. Evans Disposal has increased the donation amount from \$250.00 to \$500.00 during the active concert series.
- On April 15, the Mayor and Jane went to Portabella's for a conference about gangs and drugs in your community. These are very informative meetings.
- The Mayor also went to the NIMS meeting.
- Mayor Sinclair would like to see the police report in the paper.
- In June the Mayor will be going with Borough Manager Jane Graham and other council members to the PSAB conference at Seven Springs.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to have the police incident report published in the newspaper on a monthly basis provided there is no cost to the Borough. Seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECREATION CHAIRMAN:

- Plans are almost completed for the Borough wide yard sale on May 24th. Jane and the office personnel will be making up flyers to be distributed. There are already posters displayed in various places in town.
- The committee continues working on the Summer Breeze Concert Series. There will also be a Battle of the Bands held at the CARA park.
- Parks & Recreation Chairman thanked Barbara Prescott for the use of the parking lot behind the Opera House during the Summer Breeze Concert Series.
- The Girl Scouts have asked to begin a community flower and vegetable garden. Eyer Park would be one of the parks for flowers. Bloomsburg had minimal involvement for the garden in the town. Extra vegetables could be donated to the food bank if anyone is interested.
- Patrick Sinclair asked if Uxbridge Ave. (the alley behind the park holding the concert series) could be closed off for the night of the concerts. Parking there would hinder the viewing pleasure of the guests. The last night the Lions would like to do a chicken bar-b-que at the park.
- On Saturday, May 3, 2008 there was a tour from Philadelphia to visit the Quaker Meeting House. They were thrilled with how the Borough and the Garden Club were maintaining the Meeting House. Barb Reese would like to keep in contact

with the Philadelphia Chapter of the Historical Society. She was amazed with the information they had about the Catawissa Quaker Meeting House.

- Barb read a letter from the Royal Canadian Legion in Uxbridge Canada. There will be a 3 day “Rib fest” at Ridge Park in Uxbridge July 18, 19 & 20, 2008. Uxbridge would like to invite anyone wanting to participate so please let them know so plans can be made for accommodations.
- The committee is contacting vendors for the Farmer’s Market this summer.
- “Things We Like” has moved into the Main St. store. The owner said their opening day was the best they ever had.
- The Mayor received a letter from Iowa asking about a strain of onion called the Catawissa Onion. If anyone has any information please let the council know.
- “Kid’s Day” planning is well underway. The Parks and Recreation Committee is meeting again on May 19, 2008 at 4:00 pm at CARA park. This meeting will be for Kids Day plans. The State Police helicopter will not be coming for this event. There is not a safe place for it to land. The mustang will be part of the event. A Civil War re-enactment will also take place. If anyone would like to volunteer or bring food such as fruits or vegetables for the children, please notify someone on council or at the office.

PROPERTY SUPPLY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Forest McClintock had nothing to add to Jane’s report about the new pole barn.

PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN:

- George Romania had nothing to report at the time of the meeting.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Linda Kashner reported that money was moved to another bank with a good money market rate.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Tony McDonald asked for another month because of some confusion in information of the two issues requests from Mr. Gosciminski.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Linda Kashner made the motion to place a “No Parking From Here to Corner” sign on Pine St 20’ from the corner of Pine and 1st. Seconded by Deneen Casey. All aye, none opposed.
- Dottie Linn made the motion to allow Mr. Gosciminski to remove a piece of curbing on the river side of the corner of First and Pine St. pending permission from LTAP. Seconded by Barb Reese. Mr. Haney will supervise the project to make sure directions are followed. All aye, none opposed.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to approve the Catawissa Borough Hose Company to sign a mutual aide agreement with Columbia County pending the approval of the solicitor. Seconded by John Sabol. All aye, none opposed.

- Barb Reese made the motion to consider dumpster days for the residents of Catawissa. This does not have to be put out for bid. Phone quotes will be adequate. Ball park figure for dumpster day is \$4,500.00. This will be available for Catawissa Borough residents only. All aye, none opposed. Jane will have the results of the quotes for June meeting.
- A motion was made by John Sabol to adopt an updated NIMS compliant EOC (Emergency Operation Plan) for the Borough of Catawissa with all updated contact information and resources approved by Columbia County EMA after approval from Tony McDonald. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to allow the Girl Scouts to begin two community gardens. One would be a flower garden possibly at Eyer Park. (The park by the river). The second garden would be a vegetable garden at a lot the borough bought out for the flood. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed. Plots will be determined by water availability and other criteria.

FINANCE:

- Dottie Linn made the motion to pay the bills as written. Seconded by John Sabol. All aye, none opposed.

Deneen Casey asked why there was a PPL bill in the information packet. Jane answered that was for anyone interested in comparing your bill with PPL. The rates are very similar. Jane would pay only about \$10.00 more in Catawissa compared with PPL.

The information about tree trimming was a technique called pollarding. This technique is used by Harry for tree pruning if anyone was interested.

George Romania announced that the June meeting will be the 2nd at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED
SUBMITTED BY
KIMBERLY RHOADES
SECRETARY