

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2008 7:00 PM

**CALL OR ORDER:**

- The meeting was called to order by Council President George Romania.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

**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, Atty. Anthony McDonald. No one was absent.

**READING OF MINUTES:**

- Dottie Linn made the motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the previous months meeting. The motion was seconded by John Sabol. All aye, none apposed.

**GUESTS TO BE HEARD:**

- Wayne Petro of the Central Pennsylvania Historical Preservations updated council on the progress of the restoration of the Union Cemetery. Wayne thanked the Borough, Doug from Catawissa Hardware, and Mr. McDonald for all their efforts. Anyone wishing to volunteer with the Central Pennsylvania Historical Preservations should come to the meeting Thursday, November 13, 2008 7:00 pm at the Borough Hall.
- Deneen Casey thanked Wayne for working in the Borough to make things better.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:**

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney reported he issued 7 permits and dealt with 12 issues for the Borough.
- The Coastal Mart on the corner of Main St. is progressing. The tanks need to be inspected and new pumps need to be installed. Also Mr. Haney is discussing the replacement of the sidewalks with the new owners.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Borough Manager Jane Graham read correspondence from Melick regarding the program PPL is advertising about giving companies that are working on going green a discount in their electric rates. Melick's was asking if the Borough would also implement this program. Mayor Patrick Sinclair informed council that Melick's Aquafeed did not support the Borough when asked to donate for the summer programs at the Borough.
- Council instructed Jane to ask Melick's to come to the next council meeting to explain their position to council.
- Lacey Engineering is interested in conducting a wind study for the Borough.
- The local chapter of the PSAB is meeting at Portabella on November 19. If anyone would like to attend.

**MANAGERS REPORT:**

- Jane received the quotes for the heating system for the new pole barn. Building Committee

Chairman Forest and Harry Young Light Department Superintendent will look them over for the best deal.

- The sewer plant is ready to begin the bidding for the belt press. CET Engineers will draw up the specs for the project. The referendum passed at the November 4<sup>th</sup> election could possibly provide grant money for updating the sewer plant. CET, Dale Shobert, and Jane will look into the possibility.
- The Street department has received the new truck. The old one was sold for fair market value to Locust Township.
- During the Parks and Recreation meeting Mayor Patrick Sinclair donated his mayoral paycheck to the concert series and other Borough events. Because of this selfless act Jane has nominated Mayor Sinclair for the Distinguished Service Award.
- Linda Kashner asked for an update on the Verizon cell phone tower. Jane informed Linda and the rest of council, a lease agreement is being written by Verizon for review. When the agreement is delivered Jane and George will review it and make a recommendation to council.

#### WATER:

- Cindy Bachman reminded council that the Water Authority owns some ground by the State Game Lands that may be considered for the wind study.
- There was a Source Water Protection Committee meeting early in the month. Things are progressing well. The committee is providing a pamphlets that will explain the plan for the committees purpose. The next meeting of the Source Water Protection Committee will be held November 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Borough Hall.

#### POLICE:

- The Catawissa Halloween Parade went well even though there was not a large turn out because of the poor weather.

#### POLICE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAIRMAN:

- Chairman John Sabol reported that the police responded to 150 calls during the month of October.

#### Mayor:

- Mayor Sinclair is working on reorganizing the Catawissa Youth Group to help Sr. Citizens during the winter season. The youth would help shovel sidewalks and do small errands for home bound residents.

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

- Chairman Barb Reese reported to council that the Parks and Recreation committee is working on the Summer Breeze Concert Series for next year. The committee is also working on the Battle of the Bands for the 2009 summer season. The Summer Breeze Concert Series will begin around June 16 and continue thru August 11<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be a Borough wide yard sale Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 8am-3pm.
- The committee is planning a Quaker Heritage Festival at the Quaker Meeting House Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.

- “Kid’s Day” will be in June at CARA Park. June 13<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm.
- The committee would also like to organize a “Senior Citizens Day” at CARA Park. This event would be held on July 15<sup>th</sup> with lunch provided.
- Another event the committee is considering is “Railroad Heritage Day”. This event will be in September 12<sup>th</sup>. Time to be announced.
- Each of these events has a separate committee. If anyone is interested in volunteering please see Barb Reese and she will direct you to the correct committee chairman.
- Someone has volunteered the use of DVD movies (family friendly) and popcorn to the Borough. What the Borough needs is a DVD projector and a place to show the movies. If anyone has any information please contact Barb Reese. This would be free to the Borough residents during the winter months.

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

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock and Light Superintendent Harry Young will go over the bids for the heating system for the new pole barn and report back to council regarding the best bid received.

#### PERSONNEL CHARIMAN:

- Committee Chairman George Romania had no personnel report at this time.

#### FINANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner explained the budget information from the council packets. Linda also reminded council that the Borough is operating on 2006 rates with 2009 increases.
- The Finance committee is looking at new Health Care providers and would like to have a meeting with the employees to discuss the new insurance plans.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Dottie Linn made the motion to accept the 4 year police contract. Seconded by Deneen Casey.
- George Romania informed the public about the executive session held one hour before the official council meeting to discuss the police contract.
- Roll Call vote for accepting the 4 year police contract: Linda Kashner-no, Forest McClintock-no, Deneen Casey-yes, Barb Reese-no, Dottie Linn-yes, John Sabol-yes, George Romania-yes. Majority rules motion passed.
- Barb Reese made the motion to accept the 2009 budget. Seconded by Linda Kashner. Forest McClintock asked for another meeting with the Finance committee to discuss more cut backs.
- Barb Reese rescinded her motion.
- The motion was tabled until next month’s council meeting.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to accept the bid from Evans Disposal for drop off recycling services. Seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed. This will be \$225 per haul as opposed to \$2.25 per household per month. The lockable containers will be placed at the Borough Barn. The containers will be unlocked during Borough business hours. After hours will be determined at a later date. The Borough will provide service for the residents not able to drop off

their recycling. The Borough can run this drop off service on a trial basis. If there are too many problems it can be canceled with no penalty. The drop off program will begin in January.

- John Sabol made the motion to adopt a resolution that formally eliminates a contribution for the Uniform Employees pension plan. Seconded by Dottie Linn. Forest McClintock asked for an explanation of this motion. George explained that as of this time the plan is fully funded so there is no need to put money into the plan. This may change in other years but for now there is no funding needed. All aye, none opposed.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to hire Northeast tree service (Don Brown's son) for the use of the bucket truck to replace the fire siren. Dottie Linn seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed. Harry Young stated that he was not told when the siren was coming in and what the Borough wanted him to do to install or prepare for installation. Borough Manager Jane Graham informed Mr. Young the siren was not delivered yet but would be soon and Mr. Young did not have to do anything in preparation, Keystone is going to do the installation.
- Barb Reese made the motion to hold the Christmas decorating contest again this December. First prize will be \$100 off of the winner's electric bill. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. Dottie Linn made a motion to award \$50 for second place. Seconded by Forest McClintock. All aye, none opposed. Just for clarification the judge for this contest will be someone from out of town. A suggestion for registration of participants was made by Barb Reese and Linda Kashner.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to increase the sewer rates from \$25 to \$28 an increase of \$3. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. Forest McClintock asked if the Borough should make the Sewer and Authority for the Borough. Council explained to Mr. McClintock that this was not a good idea at this time. All aye, none opposed.

Forest asked about the outcome of the Landlord meeting. Linda and others explained that another meeting was needed with the landlords and a sub-committee. The sub committee would bring suggestions to council after the meeting takes place.

Jim Haney asked council if he could be part of the committee regarding the wind study. Council gave permission.

Stuart Hartman asked if for the next landlord meeting there could be an agenda. The meeting time, day and place will be advertised in Southside Beat.

#### FINANCE:

- Forest McClintock made the motion for payment of the bills. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.

#### ADJOURN:

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

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by,

Kimberly Rhoades  
Secretary