

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2008 7:00 PM

CALL TO 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. All were present.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Dottie Linn made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous month's meeting.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Mr. Tom Runge, Locust Township Supervisor, asked the council for an update regarding the complaints against Southside Ambulance not responding to emergency calls. Jane Graham read correspondence from Susquehanna Emergency Health Services asking for more information from the Southside Ambulance Service and offering help with the situation. Harold Kitchen, Southside Ambulance President, explained that the State is putting so many restrictions on the Ambulance Service that it is difficult to get volunteers qualified and able to make calls. Forest McClintock asked if the Borough is responsible for the Ambulance Service? George Romania explained that the Ambulance is a separate entity and the Borough is only responsible for paying the Worker's Compensation Insurance. Jeremy Faringer, Locust Township supervisor, said members of the Southside Ambulance have voiced their concern that they are billed for services from the responding ambulance because of the failure of Southside Ambulance to respond to calls. Chief Hardin also expressed his concern. George Romania asked, those in attendance, what the

Borough could do to help the situation? No one was able to give a remedy to the Southside Ambulance problem. Harold Kitchen and Tom Runge will meet to see if a solution can be worked out and report back to council in January.

- Wayne Kashner asked council to appoint Tom Long to the Zoning Hearing Board for a 3 year term.
- Deneen Casey made the motion to appoint Tom Long to the zoning Hearing Board for a 3 year term. Seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney had nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Manager Jane Graham read a thank you letter from the Halloween Parade Committee thanking the Borough Council, Borough Workers, and the Borough Police for helping make the 101 annual Halloween Parade a success.

MANAGERS REPORT:

- Jane Graham reported that the Christmas lights have been hung and she has gotten many compliments about how nice they look. Also the Christmas tree donated by Robert Maciejewski.
- Limbs and brush are still being collected by the Borough workers. Residents needing either limbs or brush picked up should call the Borough Office.
- Recycling has changed to drop off beginning in January. Jane has been in contact with Kristin Baver of the Press Enterprise with details and drop off times. Drop off recycling will begin the first or second week in January.

SOLICITOR:

- Attorney Anthony McDonald presented council with Resolution 2008-03. This Resolution states that the Catawissa Borough will vacate the portion of Berger Ave behind the Catawissa First Church from the west to the east borders that parallel the church.

- Forest McClintock made the motion to adopt Resolution 2008-03 and vacate the part of Berger Ave. cited in the resolution. The motion was seconded by Linda Kashner. Barb Reese abstained due to conflict of interest (on file). All aye, none opposed.
- Atty. McDonald reviewed the Benecon Health Care contract and believes the Borough is bound by the terms and length of the contract.

WATER:

- Cindy Bachman was not present to give a report.

POLICE:

- Chief Mark Hardin had nothing new to report at meeting time.

POLICE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman John Sabol reported the police responded to 126 calls during the month of November.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Patrick Sinclair was approached by a Borough resident with an idea regarding the bricks that were removed from the street during the paving project. The resident thought a memorial wall or other structure made from the bricks would be a nice idea. Jane Graham and other members of council thought the bricks would be too brittle to safely build a structure from the used bricks but if the resident would like to use them for a personal project she/he could retrieve them from Rohrbach's Farm at any time.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECREATION CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Barb Reese reported to council the various committees have been meeting. The committee has decided to forgo the Railroad Festival till 2010. The Heritage Day which is the Quaker Meeting House festival will be moved from May to September so there will be more time to plan for the event.
- Jane looked into renting or borrowing the DVD projector from the Bloomsburg University but they will only allow students to use the projector for educational projects. The committee will research alternatives, such as renting, and report back to council at a future meeting.

PROPERTY, SUPPLY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock reported that the heating system for the new borough barn will have to wait until more progress is made on the inside. When the walls and other construction are complete the heating system can be installed.

PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman George Romania had nothing new to report at this time.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Linda Kashner reported that the 2009 budget is ready for adoption. There was \$10,000 cut from the budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to adopt the 2009 budget. The motion was seconded by Linda Kashner. Linda made the comment that the income is down this year. George Romania asked what cuts were made. Forest stated that cuts were made from the street budget and income from the cell tower and the reduction of the recycling cost and CD interest. All aye, none opposed.
- Council discussed the adoption of a formal policy that tenants not be allowed to exceed \$300 in delinquent electric bills. Landlords are responsible for any remaining bills from tenants so they would like to see a limit imposed. The committee will bring the proposal to the landlords for their input and report back to council.

- George Romania announced to the audience there was an executive session prior to the official meeting to discuss a possible contract with Catawissa Township and the Borough Police Department.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to consider entering into a contract with Catawissa Township for the Police protection. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. After discussion Forest rescinded the motion. The motion was rescinded until the Police Committee has a chance to review the terms and to meet with Catawissa Township Supervisors. The Police Committee will report their findings to council when they have a recommendation. The motion was tabled.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to renew the rental agreement between the Borough and the Area Agency on Aging for the use of the Senior Center. The motion was seconded by Barb Reese. The Senior Center has changed their hours and will be closed on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Also a programmable thermostat will be installed in the Senior Center and other Borough Offices. All aye, none opposed.

FINANCE:

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

Council President George Romania addressed the audience regarding the statements made in the newspaper. If you are going to write in the paper please get the facts correct or call the Borough Office for clarification. Garbage journalism is harmful to the community and not true. Deneen Casey stated that you must take things as a positive instead of a negative.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Deneen Casey made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Forest McClintock. All aye, none opposed. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,

Kimberly Rhoades

Secretary

