

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2009 7:00 pm

**CALL TO ORDER:**

- The meeting was called to order by council President George Romania. Present were: George Romania, Deneen Casey, Barb Reese, Forest McClintock, Linda Kashner, Borough Manager Jane Graham, Atty. Anthony McDonald. Absent were: Dottie Linn, John Sabol, and Mayor Patrick Sinclair.
- The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

- Linda Kashner made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months meeting. Deneen Casey seconded the motion. Linda Kashner corrected under the heading of Manager's Report the name Nick should be changed to Mick. This is the only change of the minutes. All aye, none opposed.

**GUESTS TO BE HEARD:**

- Janice Longenberger, the President of the Halloween Parade Committee asked council for permission to change the rain date for the Parade from Monday evening to Sunday evening. Tony Kopitsky made a note of this for the police report to deal with the permits. Council offered the band shell at Wolfgang park for the judging of the children's costuming. Council agreed that the change of rain date is a good idea. No vote was needed from the council because the Halloween Parade is not a Council function.
- Dr. Stuart Hartman was not available to address Council.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:**

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney had nothing to report.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Correspondence was read during Manager's Report.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- Catawissa Borough received a grant for the sewer plant in the amount of \$14,324 for a new raw sewage pump.
- The Borough also received a \$6,000 grant to replace the Union Cemetery wall. Work on the wall can begin now. The Borough will have to remove the slate.
- The Electric Department had a company come in to test the wires for leaks. This is done every other year. It test for energy leakage along the wires and

transformers. The needed repairs were completed the next day. Of all the wires in the Borough there were only 3 hot spots. This is a very well maintained system.

- Bill Toomey has been deployed to Afghanistan. He is in Georgia now and will be heading overseas in a few weeks. If anyone would like his email address please contact the Borough Office and someone will provide it to you. He will be returning in a little over a year.
- Clair completed a Road Master seminar for Traffic Calming. Jane and Street Department Superintendent are working on a grant to pave Creek Road. The asking price for the grant is \$20,000.
- Forest McClintock asked if the grant for the Union Cemetery was for landscaping only or if it covered any other areas of the Cemetery. Jane responded that the grant was for landscaping only and the curb needed should only cost a few hundred dollars.
- Council will advertise for bids for the slate at the Cemetery. Also prisoners will be needed to help clean up the creek bed. The fallen logs that council was concerned about last year have grown in volume. More logs have added to the danger and need to be removed.

#### WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman was not in attendance to submit a report.

#### POLICE:

- Sergeant Anthony Kopitsky filling in for Chief Hardin reported that the Borough Police responded to 98 calls during the month of February. This number is down from previous months due to the extreme cold weather.
- Chief Mark Hardin is tentatively due to return on March 16. Pending doctor's approval. Because of the shortage of officers overtime for the Police department has occurred.
- Last month the Chief was directed to research the possibility of a convex mirror on the corner of Merceron and 487. PennDot regulations do not allow mirrors at intersections. This information was emailed to Mark by Mr. Yakup of PennDot.

#### COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECREATION

##### CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Barb Reese informed everyone that the community Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, May 23, 2009 from 8am-3pm anyone wishing to register to be marked on the yard sale map should call the Borough Office during regular business hours.
- "Kid's Day in the Park" will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2009 beginning at 10am until 2pm
- Summer Breeze Concert Series will begin on June 9, 2009.

- The first meeting for Quaker Heritage Day was a success thanks to the garden club. Quaker Heritage Days festival will be held on September 12, 9am – 3pm. Barb asked the Police department if South St. and S. Fourth St. could be closed for the day of the festival. S. Fourth would be closed near Shuman St. to avoid conflict with the Fire company operation. The next meeting of the committee will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 if anyone would like to attend.
- Jane, Barb and Clair are to meet with the Girl Scouts regarding the planting of Eyer Park and the planning of the Community Garden. The meeting will be held on March 27.

#### PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman George Romania informed council that an employee handbook is being worked on by Bob Sabatini. This handbook would in no way negate the employee contract. It is just to clarify some items and situations.

#### FINANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner had nothing new to report at meeting time.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to adopt the written policy recommended by the Personnel Committee regarding the handling of grievances within the Union and within the current structure for the Non-Uniform Employees. Deneen Casey seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Reese made the motion to utilize one fuel card as the gas card of the Borough that requires mileage input at the time of fill up. This is the Wright's fleet card. The motion was seconded by Linda Kashner. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to utilize the State mandated Records and Retention Schedule by having files 5 years old or older shredded. A truck will come to the borough Office and shred the records on site. The motion was seconded by Barb Reese. All aye, none opposed.
- Jane Graham announced that Sewer Department employee Johnathan Traugh and his wife Ann gave birth to a baby boy Cameron Francis Traugh on Friday, February 27 at 6:30pm. Everyone is healthy and doing well.

#### PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to pay the bills. Seconded by Linda Kashner. All aye, none opposed.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED:

SUBMITTED BY  
Kimberly Rhoades  
Secretary