

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009 7:00PM AT THE BOROUGH HALL

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: George Romania, John Sabol, Dottie Linn, Barb Reese, Forest McClintock, Deneen Casey, Linda Kashner, Mayor Patrick Sinclair, Borough Manager Jane Graham and Attorney Anthony McDonald. All were present.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Wayne Petro of the Central Pennsylvania Historical Preservation Group updated council about the progress of the Union Cemetery. There is still a lot of work to be done. Dave Booth donated a flag pole for the Union Cemetery. The Historical Preservation Group would like to get together with The Veterans group to decide on the best placement of the flag pole. Harry Young (Light department Superintendent) suggested near E. Main St. because there is a light pole near there that could provide lighting for the flag. The Historical Group was hoping that the 22' flag pole could be installed by Memorial Day which is May 25<sup>th</sup>.
- John Sabol made a motion to place a pole at the Union Cemetery. The group has a pole but they would like permission for the Light Department to dig the hole on the Borough's Property and also to install lighting. The motion was seconded by Forest McClintock. All aye, none opposed. Linda Kashner abstained because she is a member of the group.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to donate the light and the installation of the pole and cost of the electricity to the Central Pennsylvania Historical Preservation Group no other donation provided. Dottie Linn seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed. Linda Kashner abstained because of being a member of the group.
- Pat Hess asked where the Verizon tower is being placed. Council answered that it will go in next to the Borough Barn. Harry Young asked if the contract stated that they would move the transformers and the pad. The council reported that yes the provision was placed in the contract.

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney reported that he had 12 issues, 3 building permits and 3 other dilemmas to handle in the month of March. Mr. Haney also won all 3 court hearings he appeared before.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Local chapter of the PSAB is having a meeting at Portabella's next week.
- Jane received a letter from the County Commissioner confirming that the Borough received all the grants that they applied for this year.

#### MANAGERS' REPORT:

- The Street Department is utilizing Columbia County Prisoners for work release again this year. They are working on mulching. They will not be removing the Union Cemetery wall this week because of rain. If the wall was removed erosion would occur.
- Sewer Department has been working with CET Engineers for the Belt Press bids. A meeting will be held on Tuesday with the interested contractors. After the meeting Dale, Jane and CET Engineers will go to Williamsport to work on the Act 457 grant. The Borough can not get the referendum money until this plan has been implemented. The plans will cost \$30,000 with DEP contributing 50%.
- The Electric Company is still working on the pole bar. The work is progressing slowly because of the lack of time other workers have to help.
- An Eagle Scout has volunteered to build a gazebo for Eyer Park. He will be doing all of the funding and building of the gazebo.
- Girl Scouts are working a Eyer Park. They have asked for some shrubs removed.

#### WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported the annual quality report will be coming out next month. They will be mailed with the bills and the envelope will be marked "Bill Enclosed" so people do not throw them away.
- The flushing of hydrants will be May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- DEP approved the Source Water Protection Plan. The first public meeting will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The brochure is at the printers and will be in the May mailing.
- Linda Kashner asked if the water company would consider auto-pay. Cindy suggested bring up the matter at an Authority meeting.

#### POLICE:

- Chief Mark Hardin reported regarding Penn Dot not allowing mirrors on the roadway.

**POLICE & MEERGENCY RESPONSE CHAIRMAN:**

- Committee Chairman John Sabol reported the police responded to 158 dispatches from the com-center during the month of March.

**MAYOR:**

- Mayor Patrick Sinclair had nothing new to report.

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

- Committee Chairman Barb Reese reported that the Summer Breeze Concert Series planning is well underway. The committee is seeking sponsors.
- Quaker Heritage Days has been changed to Catawissa Heritage Days with a focus on the Quaker Meeting House Heritage. Next meeting Wednesday at 4:30 pm at the Borough Hall.
- Barb read an email from Uxbridge. Plans for the 200 anniversary celebration to be held June 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at the meetinghouse grounds at Uxbridge.
- Kids Day preparations are also underway.

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

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock had nothing new to report. Forest asked about the landlord meeting and if the request regarding registration of tenants. Jane responded that due to litigation regarding this ordinance so we are putting this on hold until judgment is made.

**PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN:**

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

**FINANCE CHAIRMAN:**

- Committee Chairman Linda Kashner reviewed the 2009 budget for the electric company because of running in the red.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Dottie Linn made the motion to adopt the lease for a cell tower at CARA Park pending the approval of other utilities being able to put equipment on the tower. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Barb Reese made the motion to remove the curb at the asphalt area at CARA Park. Dottie Linn seconded the motion. After a discussion Forest McClintock made a motion to table the motion until further information is received. The table motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to write a letter of support from Council to the County Commissioners to state that cutting her commission in tax collecting and potentially turning over all tax collection to the County could leave our municipality with less funds distributed. The motion was seconded by Dottie Linn. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Reese made the motion to remove the shrubs that Clair has suggested needed removed. Deneen Casey seconded the motion. Deneen asked who will be maintaining the flower beds after the Girl Scouts move on? Linda Kashner asked if they were going to plant perennials that come up every year? Jane and Barb will meet with the Girl Scouts again to review what they can and where they can plant flowers.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to table the previous motion until a meeting between Barb, Jane and the Girl Scouts with more information. Deneen Casey seconded the motion to table. After discussion. All aye, none opposed.
- Council discussed the increase of electric rates. After much discussion May 20, 2009 at 6:30 pm at the Fire House was considered as a tentative date. Attorney McDonald reminded the council that at the last public meeting the council promised to keep the citizens informed if there was another electric rate increase. Council asked Jane and Borough Secretary Kim Rhoades to send a mass mailing to inform the public of electric rate increase.
- Forest McClintock made the motion for Chief Hardin to apply for a COPS Grant. This grant will hire a new officer position and pays for the salary and benefits for 3 yrs. The Borough will be responsible for pay and benefits during the 4<sup>th</sup> year. Dottie Linn seconded the motion. After discussion Linda Kashner opposed. All other council members' aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to hire a part-time police officer providing that a policy of uniform reimbursement is in place. Barb Reese seconded the motion. After discussion with Chief Hardin, all aye, none opposed.

#### PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:

- Dottie Linn made the motion to pay the bills. Deneen Casey seconded the motion. After review of the bills, all aye, none opposed.

Deneen Casey made a statement regarding her appreciation of the Police Department. She had an incidence near her home that required a policeman. She was able to go to the police station where a policeman was able to assist her. The cost of the Police Department is worth the peace of mind to the Catawissa residents.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED  
SUBMITTED BY  
KIMBERLY RHOADES  
SECRETARY