

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014~6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council Vice-President Forest McClintock.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Forest McClintock, Connie Benware, Jay Roberts, Gary Steinruck, Joe Benware, Doug Krum, Mayor Frank Jeff Achy, Borough Manager Roger Nuss.
- Scott Keefer and Attorney Anthony McDonald were absent.

READING OF MINUTES:

- **Jay Roberts made the motion** seconded by Joe Benware to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months' meeting. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Lynn Whitten of Community Aid spoke to council about placing clothing donation bins in the Borough.
- **Doug Krum made the motion** to allow the Community Aid organization to place bins in the Borough on a trial basis. Community Aid will pay the Borough \$0.04 per pound of clothing collected. Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye.
- Linda Kashner asked about the status of the grant application submitted by the Borough for the Rails and Trails and the Baseball fields.
- Barb Reese asked about the economic development committee.
- Barb asked about the status of the advertisement for delinquent sewer and electric in the Press Enterprise.
- Harry Young asked about the rate structure for small power.
- Linda Kashner asked if residents and businesses could be updated when a power outage occurs. Harry Young will contact the local radio station with information.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Catawissa Borough Tax Collector, Paula Clark, requested permission to use the Borough Hall for tax collections on Tuesday evenings beginning March 1, 2015.
- **Jay Roberts made the motion** to allow Paula Clark use of the Borough Hall as stated. The motion was seconded by Connie Benware. All aye.
- The Columbia/Montour Boroughs Association Meeting will be held November 13, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Capitol Theater Restaurant.
- Camp Lavigne's Wine Festival fundraiser will be held October 25, 2014. Sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America.
- Sharon Krum asked about the progress on the repairs to the storm drain on Pine Street that was started but has not been finished.

MAYOR:

- Mayor suggested “Trick or Treat” night be held on Thursday, October 30, 2014 from 6-8 p.m. The reason for the early date is due to the high school football game.
- **Doug Krum made the motion** seconded by Connie Benware to set “Trick or Treat” night for Thursday, October 30, 2014 from 6-8 p.m. All aye.

Staff and Authority Reports

MANAGER’S REPORT:

- Manager Roger Nuss read the employees work reports.
- Roger had nothing new to report regarding the Columbia/Montour Flood Committee.
- Roger has distributed information from Steve Beatty of Larson Design Group for consideration as Borough engineers.
- The Office Staff, along with Connie Benware, met with Diversified Technology for a training session.
- A meeting with Tom Tobin of Diversified Technology was also held with Connie, Joe and Roger regarding on line capabilities of the program.
- Gary Steinruck and Roger met with Lori Gordner and Rich Kisner regarding the Senior Center Grant and Waste Water Treatment Plant grant.
- Roger will be attending the Act 32 meeting.
- Roger is contacting PMEA members to discuss their handling of rates, delinquents and other concerns.

WATER:

- Water Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported the department has completed work on Shuman Street.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney asked council to make a decision regarding the need (or no need) for a street light at the site of the condominium structure on South Third Street.
- **Jay Roberts made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum not to place a street light at the condominium sight. All aye.
- Code Enforcement Officer Brian Rhone asked council to donate money for vouchers to spay/neuter the feral cats in the Borough. Mr. Rhone suggested \$500 which would cover 33 (thirty-three) vouchers at \$15.00 per voucher.
- **Gary Steinruck made a motion** seconded by Joe Benware to support \$15 (fifteen dollar) vouchers up to \$500. All aye.
- The Code Office handled 14 (fourteen) investigations, issued 18 (eighteen) warning tickets, spent 4 (four) days in court, supervised the demolition for the flood houses, investigated 2 (two) drug houses. The Office gave the property owners at 531 Mill Street until Tuesday to fix the wall and remove tree.

#### POLICE:

- Chief Laidacker department responded to 150 (one hundred fifty) incidents as recorded by Columbia County Communications.
- Chief Laidacker gave kudos to the officers in his department for the work they have been doing.
- An update regarding the building repairs was given by Chief Laidacker.
- The District Attorney's Office has offered to pay for the "Packet Cluster" system. The Borough will have to pay for the data plan at a Cost of \$40 per tablet.
- During the Drug Take Back day on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 35 lbs of unwanted or expired medication was collected. The Chief was notified that this will be the last Drug Take Back day offered to us. The program is changing its format. Permanent boxes will be available to departments where residents will have 24 hour access to a lobby.
- **Gary Steinruck made the motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to install 2 (two) computer tablets in the police cruisers. The cost to the Borough would be \$40 per tablet per month for the data plan. All aye.

#### Committee Reports

#### PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Forest McClintock congratulated the Police Force for the Borough on a job well done especially regarding the recent drug arrests.

#### UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Connie Benware reported the electric and sewer late notices were mailed on Monday, October 6, 2014. The electric department sent 135 (one hundred thirty-five) letters while the sewer department sent 74 (seventy-four) letters.
- Joe Benware spoke about the meeting with Diversified Technology regarding an upgrade to the billing system that would allow a customer to pay bill on line and other benefits. The cost of the upgrade including training will be \$1,500.
- **Jay Roberts made the motion** seconded by Gary Steinruck to table the decision until next meeting. All aye.

#### PARKS AND RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson Joe Benware and his committee are planning for "Santa Day" held Saturday, December 6, 2014.

#### PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck explained the meeting held with him, Roger, Lori Gordner and Jay Jarrett regarding the Senior Center project. Lori and Jay would like to see a monetary commitment from the borough for upgrades to the Center.
- **Joe Benware made the motion** to commit \$50,000 to the Senior Center Project. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Doug Krum-yes, Joe Benware-yes, Gary Steinruck-yes, Jay Roberts-no, Connie Benware-yes, Forest McClintock-yes. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Roger Nuss spoke regarding the vote from last month regarding John Klinger delinquent tenant bill.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Forest McClintock made a motion** seconded by Joe Benware to designate Roger Nuss as an authorized signature for the Borough bank accounts. All aye.
- Roger explained to council about a complaint from a resident regarding an incident that occurred at 407 N. Fourth Street. Property owner hit a cut off pole that has been there for many years and wanted reimbursed for damages to vehicle. Council chose to do nothing because a stationary object was involved.
- **Gary Steinruck made the motion** seconded by Joe Benware to host a post Halloween Parade meal for the Police Department and volunteers up to \$350. All aye.
- **Joe Benware made the motion** seconded by Connie Benware to hire Lori George as part time administrative assistant at an hourly rate of \$12 per hour. Roll call vote: Doug Krum-yes, Joe Benware-yes, Gary Steinruck-no, Jay Roberts-yes, Connie Benware-yes, Forest McClintock-yes. Motion passes.
- **Connie Benware made the motion** seconded by Gary Steinruck to change the hours of operation for the Borough Office to remain open during the noon hour. All aye.

FINANCE:

- Joe Benware made the motion seconded by Connie Benware to accept the payment of the bills as written. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests spoke at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Jay Roberts made the motion seconded by Joe Benware to adjourn. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:  
Kimberly Rhoades  
Secretary