

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2013 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President Scott Keefer.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Scott Keefer, Barb Reese, Linda Kashner, Gary Steinruck, Forest McClintock, Tim Benner, Manager Chris Moonis, Attorney Anthony McDonald.
- Mayor Achy was absent.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

- Barb Reese made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous month's meeting. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. Chief Kopitsky made a correction regarding the police cruiser. The minutes state a 2013 PPI and they should state a 2014 PPI as the new police cruiser. The motion was amended to reflect this change and all voted aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests spoke at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Barb Reese made the motion to permit the Catawissa Fire Company to mail fund-raising flyers to borough residents. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye.
- A check for \$1,000 was received from the Catawissa VFW Home Association Harman & Allen Post #8306 to offset the cost of heating the Senior Center.
- The Columbia/Montour Boroughs Association Meeting will be held Thursday, November 14, 2013 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Capitol Restaurant.
- Barb Reese asked that a thank you letter be sent to the VFW for the donation and Linda Kashner asked that the fuel company be notified to fill the tanks at the Senior Center before the end of the year.

MAYOR:

- In Mayor Achy's absence Manager Chris Moonis asked that "Trick or Treat" night be held on Thursday, October 31, 2013 during the hours of 6-8 p.m.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to allow "Trick or Treat" night to be held on Thursday, October 31, 2013 during the hours of 6-8 p.m. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye.

Staff and Authority Reports

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Borough Manager Chris Moonis gave a summary report of the non-uniform employees work for the month of September.
- The sewer plant electric system is being relocated and the staff is working with Peter's Consultants to mitigate the plant for future flooding. Chris has applied for a grant with

Columbia County for \$500,000 that will help offset the \$700,000 cost of the mitigation project. The electric will have to be moved to the second floor of the building.

- Forest McClintock asked about flood insurance for the sewer plant.
- Chris asked Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Lindenmuth to speak about the request for an emergency siren test.
- Mr. Lindenmuth explained that the emergency siren has not been tested in many years. The recommendation from disaster drill training that there will be a 3 (three) minute blast that will not fluctuate in sound like the siren does for a fire. The test would take place on Saturday, October 12, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. The announcement will be posted to all possible media centers.
- Chris updated Council on the progress of the Flood Buy-Out Program.
- The 2012 final audit is available for the public and Council. There were no findings in the audit and the observations have been reduced from 9 (nine) down to 3 (three).
- A video of the culvert the Borough has inspected is ready for review. There is a tree trunk wedged in the culvert about 90 (ninety) feet upstream from the Opera House. Chris has contacted Northeast Tree Service to quote a price for entering the culvert to clear the debris. The quote has been submitted in the amount of \$425 (four hundred twenty-five dollars). Mr. Moonis would like council to consider accepting this quote and have a professional clear the debris from the culvert.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to accept the quoted price from Northeast Tree Service in the amount of \$425 (four hundred twenty-five) to clear the debris from the culvert. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye. Chris Moonis explained that after the debris is removed more of the culvert will be examined. The blockage prevented the camera access to the Opera House where there is a 90 degree angle that will need a different access point. The culvert itself is in very good shape for being at least 200 (two hundred) years of age.
- The finance committee will be meeting this week to continue work on the 2014 budget.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman announced that the repairs to the water main are complete between Church Street and Sandt Avenue on Shuman Street. The rest of the Shuman Street repairs will be completed next year.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney was not in attendance to give a report.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Anthony Kopitsky reported that during the month of September the police responded to 188 (one hundred eighty-eight) activity reports as recorded by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- Chief Kopitsky stated that all the police vehicles are working fine. The 2014 vehicle had a flat tire that needed replaced.
- No training of officers had been scheduled for September.
- Officer Bradley Smith resigned from the police force with his last day of work being Sunday, October 6, 2013. Chief Kopitsky has not yet received a formal letter of resignation.
- The permits for the Halloween Parade have been approved and the parade is being held Saturday, October 26, 2013. The roads leading into Catawissa will be shut down at 6:00 p.m. with a detour in place.

- The 7th DEA National Drug Take Back day will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2013. The Catawissa Borough Police Department is registered and will be participating with Montour Township, Catawissa Township and Catawissa Borough.
- Chief Kopitsky has contacted Alfredo Clemente, Vito's Pizza to do the catering after the Parade for the volunteers who assist us with the traffic control.
- The department has been approached by Montour Township Police Chief Terry Eckart who is willing to take over the speed trailer and bear the costs of repairs. Since it was all grant money, we will not be out anything except the trade in value if he trades it in or upgrades it. The suggestion from Chief Kopitsky to council would be to transfer ownership and title to Montour Township with the stipulation that it be available for our use a couple of times a year as needed or requested in writing.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to trade the speed trailer to Montour Township with the stipulation that it be made available for our use two to three time per year. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye.
- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman announced that the Water Authority will be sending out postcards to residents with information about the Drug Take Back Program date.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock informed council that the committee met to review the applications for Police Chief and will begin to interview the 8 (eight) most promising candidates on Tuesday, October 8, 2013. Forest also asked to begin looking at people to fill the vacancy left by Officer Smith.
- Tony McDonald asked if the people the committee will be interviewing are from the area. Forest explained that there are both interdepartmental and non-interdepartmental.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported that 151 (one hundred fifty-one) electric late notices and 66 (sixty-six) sewer late notices were sent. Last month, 4 (four) meters were pulled for non-payment and all those meters were reinstalled. This is the last month the borough will be pulling meters due to impending cold weather conditions. Linda also reported that a few of the delinquent accounts that were filed to the District Justice have been paid.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Co-Chairperson Barb Reese reported "Santa Day" preparations are progressing.
- Tony McDonald offered his firm to be a sponsor for "Santa Day".

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese reported that the committee met with Fred Gaffney of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce and received many valuable ideas for the Borough's 10 (ten) year plan.

PROPERTY BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Gary Steinruck reported the maintenance for the windows at the Senior Center is underway. There were no bids for the major window project at the Senior Center. The committee will have to confer with Lori Gordner to determine the next course of action.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Scott Keefer announced there will be an Executive Session on Monday, October 14, 2013 beginning at 5:45 p.m. to discuss Personnel and/or Legal matters.
- There will be a Special Borough Council Meeting on Monday, October 14, 2013 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the hopes of hiring a Police Chief

UNION NEGOTIATION:

- Committee Chairman Scott Keefer stated that no progress has been made at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- There was no unfinished business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Gary Steinruck made the motion to direct the Borough Manager to research AMP's Efficiency Smart program. After completion, recommendations can be made regarding Catawissa's participation. Tim Benner seconded the motion. Chris explained the program to council. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to adopt a resolution eliminating police officers contributions to the police pension plan for the year 2014. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. Linda Kashner questioned if the new Police Chief contract could require a contribution.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to table the adoption of a resolution eliminating police officers contributions to the police pension plan for the year 2014. Linda Kashner seconded the motion to table. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to purchase an 8 ft. stainless steel salt spreader with 1/7 CU yard Hopper from Watson Diesel, Inc. (Canton, PA) in the amount of \$4,739 plus a \$150 installation fee for the street department truck. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. Linda Kashner asked if this would come out of Liquid Fuels. Chris Moonis explained that he would have to look at the guide lines for Liquid Fuels but he does not feel it would be approved for liquid fuels money. Scott Keefer explained that the borough has only one salt spreader at this time. Roll Call vote: Tim Benner-no, Forest McClintock-yes, Gary Steinruck-yes, Linda Kashner-no, Barb Reese-yes, Scott Keefer-yes. Motions passed.
- The public safety committee, with the borough manager, will be working on a policy regarding the operating procedures for snow and/or ice removal.

FINANCE:

- Tim Benner made the motion to accept the payment of bills as written. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests spoke at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to adjourn. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Kimberly Rhoades

Secretary